

## 157 - Ambition, God Style

Major developments have occurred in all everyone's life over the past several weeks and months, and I want to share with you that Barbara's and my life is no exception. We thought we were headed toward my imminent departure -- in fact, we have though that for more than four years. Four years ago at this time, Barbara was packing up the house in New Hampshire, while I was busy writing the books that as of this week, have all been re-written, revise, and re-designed, all from a fresh perspective.

Barbara returned last night from her third trip in as many weeks, and we received fresh revelation about what the Lord is doing, where He is taking us in His calling, and what the last five years has been about for us and what the last two or three for some of you have been about.

Since I began going back through and rewriting *You Think YOU Have it Tough*, the Father has been not just showing me, but working it out IN me the realization and the actualization of what we looked at last week, which was identifying with Yeshua in His death, because until that is accomplished, we cannot live in Him. As I wrote the chapter titled, "*The Lesson*," I realized what the Father has accomplished in me since He gave the prophetic word that Barbara and I shared with you in October 2012.

Let me read it to you, and I ask you just to be with this, because there is something in this for you:

October 12, 2008

You don't need to be concerned about moving to Dallas.  
Mine is a journey that will continue beyond.

**Will you be content to play your part in the unfolding saga?**

God will protect you. He will protect your heart.

You are playing your part so very well, but He knows how -- how to protect you -- your heart -- your very being.

Allow Him to hold you close during this time and know all is well -- the Father is well pleased with your service to Him -- to His children and most especially to this daughter He sent your way -- to be loved -- to know Him through you and to be enriched by all He is in you. You have done quite well -- precious -- most highly favored son of the King -- Most High God.

Your heart -- your heart can't do it.

It's too pure – it's too fragile for what will be required.

All you're being asked to do is birth the book and then you will reap your reward – with all restored – all at peace – all at rest – one with your God. Journey ended – job well done – enter now thy rest.

You fought the good fight – you won the race – enter now thy rest.

Your Father is well pleased – You are the one He chose who would say, “Yes.”

He watches over you with love.

Since October 12, 2008, Barbara and I have lived never knowing when I would breathe my last; never knowing if I would wake up the next morning. We shared all that with you last October – 4 years after the Father gave the word I just read to you.

Last night, it became clear to Barbara and me that the Father's purpose wasn't to take me out of the world, but to take the *world* out of *me*! He has invested, and is investing, His purpose in my life to enable me to do what I spoke to Barbara about in August 2007: “*I don't know what you do, but I know it's important and I'd like to support it however I can.*” I also said, “*I don't even know what I'm talking about right now, but there it is.*”

Over the past few weeks, the Father has been showing me that He has taken the world out of *me*, so that I am capable of fulfilling my purpose, and I am no longer looking at dying tomorrow. Now, I may *well* die tomorrow – there are no guarantees for any one; the Father alone knows the number of my days and yours. I am not looking at dying tomorrow because I have already died to everything I know of, so far, that would motivate any “NORMAL” person to stay in this world: success, recognition, “***the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and the ostentation of living***” (1 John 2:16). The Father has steadily chipped away at the parts of my character that were part of Adam's disobedience – the nature of ***the sa-tan***, really – and has been developing Yeshua's character in me of total obedience and sacrifice.

The direction that the Father has been taking Barbara in the past months, climaxing during this latest trip, has been compelling her to speak for Him, whatever that looks like, to whomever He directs, and wherever it needs to happen. He has confirmed with signs and miracles every step she has taken. The good news is that she does not have to wait until I'm dead to move forward into all that He's called her to do! I'm *already* dead to my ambitions and desires that were literally opposed to His will and purpose for my life.

So, as of last night, Barbara and I are moving forward together toward everything the Father has in store. My place is to do what He put in my spirit to do in August 2007, which was to

support her ministry. I'm just now capable of doing that, and He used the word that Barbara and I understood to mean my physical death to effect the more important death to myself. I am only now, in these past few weeks, realizing what that means and what it looks like inside my own skin.

So, how does all this relate to you? What does it mean, perhaps, for your life today?

What the Father has effected and is yet effecting in our lives -- Barbara's and mine -- He is effecting in yours too. He brought you into His council last October, in a uniquely intimate way. He required us to share His revelation to us with you, because for you to relate to Him fully, He has had to bring *your* circumstances, relationships, and especially the deep and even hidden areas of your character into His inescapable light. The Father has brought Barbara and me through His refining fire and that's where he has **you** today. The life you once knew is long gone, but not because you made mistakes or missed God; anytime we think that, we've reached the wrong conclusion. No, your life right now is exactly where the Father knew it would be before the eons themselves were formed. He is **inviting** you to die to yourself just as He **insisted** on it for me. You can't MAKE that happen -- no one knows HOW to die. For me, He persuaded Barbara and me that it was literal, physical death -- and it still could be, any time He chooses. The *effect*, however, has been to bring Barbara's life and mine into laser focus, on task, on purpose, every minute of every day for what He wants done with our time, our money (which has been the support you provide, and we bless you for that daily), and what He wants done with our lives -- the breaths we inhale and exhale every day. He holds them all! He knows their number. He has me right where He wants me: behind the scenes, a silent producer of goods and services, by His inspiration and leading, which will be ready and waiting for the hungry millions to whom He will send Barbara and whom He will send to connect with *Him* through her books, sites, events -- you name it and it'll be there.

The point of all the Father's operations is for us to *know* Him and to become like his begotten son, Yeshua. Just as surely as He had to die, so do we, and just as surely as the Father vivified Him -- that is, made Him alive -- He will do that for us. Death comes first, and there are no shortcuts...you just have to go through it if you will.

To the degree that you can be aware of it and appreciate it, You are each experiencing the Father's sovereign operation in your life right now -- and you have been for some time now -- to refine you into His daughter or son, who is surrendered to the dying process in Yeshua, so that you can LIVE in Him and He in you. The Father is calling you out of the world and He is removing the world *from* you, to the degree that you will die to yourself and live only **to** Him and **for** His purpose.

Think about this: Yeshua said, ***“If anyone should be loving Me, he will be keeping My word, and My Father will be loving him, and We shall be coming to him and making an abode with him”*** (John 14:23). The challenge for us is that having an abode ***suitable*** for the Father and the Son, means that what’s inside us has to be compatible with them. Loving Yeshua -- ***really*** loving Him -- He defined as keeping His ***word*** -- notice, not His “words,” but His ***“word.”*** Keeping Yeshua’s word is the evidence that we are loving Him. Next comes the experience of the Father’s love personally, which no one else but you knows because it is your private, intimate relationship with Him that no one else shares. THEN the Father and the Lord come to you -- together -- and ***“make an abode”*** -- a home -- with you...just you. No one else shares that; it’s yours and yours alone.

Light and darkness cannot exist in the same place at the same time, so, to the degree that there is any darkness in us the Father arranges our lives so that we can take one of two paths. Either we become like many Christians, which is in name only, or we identify ourselves so inextricably with the Lord that we literally give up our lives; die with Him; and submit to the process, called vivifying in the Scriptures, meaning “making alive,” so that when the Father looks at us, we look like Yeshua. We become like Him literally in our behavior, but more importantly, in our thoughts, our habits, and our speech...every area is subject to the Refiner’s fire, so long as we will allow it and not run from it, or hide from it, or try to shorten it.

Last week, we looked at Hebrews 11:8-10, in which we saw that Abraham ***obeyed, sojourned,*** and ***waited*** for YaHoVeH’s word to come to pass. We also looked at Paul’s instruction to the Thessalonians:

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

***9 Now, concerning brotherly fondness, we have no need to be writing to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to be loving one another,***  
***10 for you are doing it also to all the brethren who are in the whole of Macedonia. Now we are entreating you, brethren, to be superabounding yet more,***  
***11 and that you be ambitious to be quiet, and to be engaged in your own affairs, and to be working with your hands, according as we charge you,***  
***12 that you may be walking respectably toward those outside and you may have need of nothing.***

I want to get to verse 11, but we need to look at the two verses ahead of it briefly:

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

***9 Now, concerning brotherly fondness, we have no need to be writing to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to be loving one another,***

First, notice that Paul addresses two aspects of love in the verse 9: **Brotherly fondness** -- *phile-o*, in Greek -- and **loving one another**, using a form of the word, *agape*. These are not the same, as you know from our previous studies, but it would be easy to run them together here.

These verses apply to us tonight, I believe, as an ecclesia of YaHoVeH; people who are called OUT -- who are set apart -- according to His purpose. The Thessalonians -- and we, by extension -- acted toward one another with brotherly fondness; likewise we are, as Paul says, "**taught by YaHoVeH**" to **be loving one another**; that is, holding one another accountable to find and fulfill the purpose for which we were created. We can't do it FOR one another, but we CAN hold up the standard, in so far as we are living according to it ourselves.

Notice, also, that the Father is the One Who taught us about loving one another. Now, my take on this is that the Father's teaching IS His leading; meaning that when we are **loving one another** by His definition, we are doing so in obedience to His direction.

If you looked from outside Heaven's View at a map of say, the last two years of our relationship as a family of God, you would see lots of sudden stops, starts, sharp turns and even 180's. When I think of the many twists and turns we have taken together over this time, it looks like a storyboard for a Hollywood stunt driver! When you look at it from Heaven's view, however, which the world's view opposes as crazy, stupid, senseless, and foolish, we see total purpose and order, because hearkening to the Father's voice is life to us, and everything else is **sa-tan** -- it is adversarial to and opposes the Father's word and purpose.

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:10**

**10 for you are doing it also to all the brethren who are in the whole of Macedonia.  
Now we are entreating you, brethren, to be superabounding yet more,**

This is how Barbara and I act toward everyone! We are constrained and compelled to go where the Father sends, and say what He gives us whenever He does it. It doesn't matter whom we speak to or what it costs us; we just do it...Period. And Paul **urges** us to do it even more -- love as YaHoVeH loves, stopping at nothing short of being in the service of His purpose toward everyone. This is where we are right now in our relationship together. Praise the Lord that we can still get together for **Light Up the Scriptures** and do kind of a check up on where we are, what's up, and how we're doing. I know it may seem a bit one-sided -- again, according to the world's view -- because I'm doing all the talking. My accountability to the ecclesia, however, so long as the Father provides and directs, is to

report to you where we are along our journey and what we need to hear at any given point in our walk with Him, as His family and as individual sons and daughters.

Let's go on now, to **1 Thessalonians 4:11** --

**11 and that you be ambitious to be quiet, and to be engaged in your own affairs, and to be working with your hands, according as we charge you,**

This verse came alive to me this week in a big way. I kept saying to Barbara, *"This is where we all are right now! The Father is REQUIRING it of each of us!"* As usual, I must apply it to myself first. In my former life, I was ambitious to make a lot of noise -- to be seen and heard, to be recognized and even admired. I was the polar OPPOSITE of being ambitious to be quiet. Look at the rest of the world and you'll see how prevalent it is when someone thinks about or speaks about ambition; the idea of applying it to being quiet would never occur to him or her unless that person was some kind of ascetic monk or monk-ette.

What does it mean, then to **"be ambitious to be quiet"**?

Ambitious means *"strive earnestly, make it one's aim."* Isn't it odd that being quiet is the thing the Apostle, on the Father's behalf, urges us to strive for, to make our aim. This may mean more to me than to you, but it so helps me to see that what the Father values from me is not my voice, but my silence. Quiet is *"to say nothing; to hold one's peace."* It also means to *"rest, or cease from labour."*

This is so important in Barbara's and my life together right now, because she is so the one whom the Father is calling out to speak for Him; at the same time, He is calling me to do the opposite in supporting her, so that at no time will there be any distraction from His voice flowing through her. I come back again to His accomplishing my death that we thought was going to be physical, but which the Father knew was dying to any thought or even desire to be "out there," or "on stage," and to be "known" by people rather than known, recognized, and approved of only by Him. How foolish I was before, and how freed I am today.

I am persuaded that had I *resisted* His efforts to bring me through my dying in the way He envisioned it, He *could* have taken me out literally, physically, at any time, because the fulfillment of His purpose is paramount and no individual will stand in its way. More immediately, He's not going stand for anyone being an impediment to His operations through Barbara. I was expendable before, and I still am. It appears, however, that the Father has worked my *"stuff"* out of me sufficiently to be able to serve and not to usurp Barbara's position and her calling. I'll be the silent supporter and producer -- and I feel certain that there will be someone else to serve as well, in a different capacity, because the support role is too large, frankly, for one person to handle it all.

### ***“be engaged in your own affairs”***

The Father has insisted that we circle our wagons to focus on what He’s calling us to do and leave everyone else to Him. This is why we don’t take many phone calls and make even fewer. This is sometimes the hardest aspect of relationships to give up. The truth is, however, that being involved in anyone else’s business distracts you from taking care of your own. I’m speaking from long experience here; I wasted years be engaged practically everywhere but in my own affairs. It is impossible to be quiet when you are engaged in someone else’s business; the two aspects simply cannot co-exist.

**“Engage”** is continual, habitual action. In other words, *“Make your own affairs, your own business your continual habitual action.”* This instruction from the Apostle is to you and you alone.

### ***“and to be working with your hands”***

This is a simple instruction to be occupied productively. Paul made tents – some say he made telits – in any case, he kept himself occupied when his need exceeded his income from the ecclesias, or when he needed to demonstrate that he was in no way dependent on or beholden to any man or group.

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:12**

***12 that you may be walking respectably toward those outside and you may have need of nothing.***

We could read this verse it, **“so that.”** Paul tells us WHY; he gives us two reasons to be ambitious to be quiet, focus continually and habitually on our own business; and to be occupied productively.

1. First, there’s a world out there to which you may appear as the only example of the Father and the Son. **“Walking respectably”** is how you appear to others, not how others may act toward you. I’m ashamed to tell you that I have not always done this. I’m certain that I’ve acted foolishly at times; brashly perhaps, ungracious, presumptuous, or hasty, so that others outside of the ecclesia might not have considered my walk respectable. I may have appeared to some at times a poor reflection of the Father and the Lord. If I’ve ever acted in any of those ways toward YOU, I ask you to forgive me and certainly not to hold it against the Father or the Lord.

2. The second reason is that we “**may have need of nothing.**” This is not financial, as I read it, but concerns our sense of worth, fulfillment, or satisfaction in who we are and what we are contributing to the Father’s purpose of the eons.

Let me give you a very recent example, which, on the surface, may seem like such a small – almost inconsequential thing:

Today, the first copies of the book, **Go GOD!** arrived. We’ll be signing them and getting them ready to mail tomorrow. This was a monumental task to completely revise, re-write much of and add to the book, and it really bears little resemblance to the old one. You helped make that possible by reading it through and sending us your comments and corrections. I know I’ve said it before, but I can’t find the words that can convey how grateful we were for the critical catches in little punctuation marks, or areas that needed to be clarified. Your efforts were so much more important than you know to making this finished book presentable as an approach present to the Father, and to the world from Him. I believe that when you hold this book in your hands, signed just for you, and as you read it for the sheer enjoyment of it, the Father will impart His gratitude to you and you will feel well up from deep inside you that most wonderful sense of accomplishment.

You worked on **Go God!** as unto the Lord; you knew there was no reward, other than the joy of serving; and I pray it was that for you. I pray too that when you see what launches from Texas to the world is something you had a part in birthing. A part of you is in what the Father is sending Barbara out to deliver to the world in a way it has never seen before.