

164 – The Father’s operating room

Barbara shared the praise report of all that she and the sisters enjoyed in the Father’s presence last Saturday evening, on the first Girl’s Night Out conducted by Skype video conferencing, thanks to Laura, the audio of which was recorded on the Jammie Church conference calling line, thanks to Barbara. I believe that what y’all experienced on Saturday may be a pattern for what will follow in months and years to come. In a digital era, geographical distance is virtually erased by instantaneous gathering electronically.

When Barbara shared the miracles that are a part of all your lives and ours today, the Lord quickened the realization in me that He has and is accomplishing the Scriptures IN your lives and ours. Let me say it this way: You are *becoming* the Father’s word. You aren’t just living *BY* it, it *lives in* you as surely as *He* lives in you. He is knitting His word into the fabric of your character as you are dying to yourselves and living to and IN the Lord Yeshua. You are fulfilling the Scriptures that we studied last week in **Ephesians 4:22-24**. Read this again with me, but as you do, take it in as a testimony of what you have done and are doing, as much as what the Father has done in you and for you.

Ephesians 4:22-24

***Put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,
23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,
24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.***

Doesn’t this mean more to you today than it did even a week ago? Not because you weren’t engaged in the process last week, but the recognition of it, I pray, dawned on you or became more real to you during your time

together with Barbara on Saturday evening during the “Girl’s Night Out” video conference.

Now, look with me at Ephesians 4 from verse 1 through to verse 25, and as we go through this together, Let’s take it in like drinking at a well of living water, because that is exactly what we’re doing. I’m going to be the Apostle Paul, figuratively, and I’m addressing you with what the Father has to say to you:

Ephesians 4:1-25

1 I am entreating you, then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, [you are fulfilling this Scripture today, I believe. Not that anyone is completed in his or her process, but you are walking today WORTHILY of the calling with which you were called]

2 with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit with [actually, IN] the tie of [the] peace:

First, This is not just peace in the way that people in old humanity refer to peace: that peace is fleeting and full of negotiation and effort to achieve, if it ever is, let alone sustain. This is THE peace – it is the profound relief and ease that permeates our souls when we know that we know that we know, by experience and obvious evidence throughout our characters and our lives, that we are inhabiting the presence of YaHoVeH and we are enrapt in our Father’s love and affection. This is the peace that passes all understanding, at least as human beings can experience it; we are experiencing it NOW, because it is part of the new humanity that Paul hasn’t even gotten to yet in this text.

Next, the “**unity of the spirit**” is obtained “**IN the tie of the peace.**” Look at what is in the word, “**tie**”: “*that which binds together, a band, bond; of ligaments by which the members of the human body are united together.*”

Keep this last part in mind, because of its connection to where we will study shortly. This is HUGE when we connect these dots!

4 one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with [actually, IN] one expectation of your [the] calling;
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all, [the One] Who is over all and through all and in all.

Can you see how this *describes* this ecclesia – our unique and interesting family of YaHoVeH? Like Barbara said on Saturday night, “We’re stuck with each other!” Look at it again. The Father is achieving this IN us individually and as a body.

7 Now to each one of us was given [the] grace in accord with the measure of the gratuity of Christ.

“**The measure of [the] grace**” is unlimited here – it is superabounding, as Paul says elsewhere – because “**the gratuity**” – the ‘give-Gush’ – “**of the Messiah**” is the standard. It’s so important to realize that “**THE grace**,” or joyful favor, like “**THE peace**,” is not of man, but OF the Father; it is HIS unique and altogether *unqualified* and *superabounding* grace.

8 Wherefore He is saying, Ascending on high, He captures captivity And gives gifts to mankind. [and what gifts they are, Amen?]

9 Now the 'He ascended,' what is it except that He first descended also into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He [the One] Who descends is the Same [One] Who ascends also, up over all who are of the heavens, that He should be completing [the] all.

I’m going to read this next section using the grammar marks in the CLNT, because it’s actually more powerful. This section describes what has happened to us because we are and have remained a family of God, unable to divorce ourselves from one another, even though at times one or more of us has been cast, either figuratively or even literally, into outer darkness.

Clearly, this family is the Father’s, and His love is not for the fainthearted or “**double-souled**,” as James calls it. If someone is not dead certain

11 And the same One gives [the] ... apostles, yet [the] ... prophets, yet [the] evangelists, yet [the] pastors and teachers,
12 toward the adjusting of the saints [into] the work of dispensing, [into] ... [building] of the body of the Messiah,
13 unto the end that we should [that is,] all [of us] attain to the unity of the faith and of the realization of the son of YaHoVeH, [in]to a mature man, [in]to the measure of the stature of the complement of the Messiah,
14 that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of [the] teaching, [into] human caprice, [into] craftiness with a view to[ward] the systematizing of the deception.
15 Now, being true, in love [this is agape, which stops at nothing short of totally fulfilling the Father's purpose in and through your life and mine] we should be [growing the] **all into Him, Who is the Head -- Christ --**
16 out of Whom the entire body, being **articulated together and united through every assimilation of the supply**, in accord [in agreement] with the operation in measure of each one's part, is making for the growth of the body, [into] ... building of itself in love.

Every time I have read “**every assimilation of the supply**,” I have asked the Father what it means. This time, I saw it, at least, to the degree I am capable of today: we are talking about the *body* of the Messiah, and we are working with the analogy of the *human* body to describe the reality of *His* body. “**Every assimilation of the supply**” refers to the action of your own body's cells as they assimilate in every way the supply of oxygen and nutrients through your blood. Some cells absorb directly: they have tiny capillary beds that reach into every cell within every tissue; other cells – ligaments, for example – assimilate indirectly, through osmosis from tiny vessels that are close but that do not penetrate the tissue. This is “**every assimilation of the supply**.” Now, the life of Yeshua the Messiah that is in His blood, which was entirely transformed in resurrection and then even more so in His ascension into the

glorified body; that blood: the blood of the New covenant that Yeshua symbolized at the last supper, is in us through faith today and will be wholly expressed as we are changed and rise to meet Him in clouds, according to 1 Thessalonians 4.

When we recognize the analogy, then verses 15-16 become profoundly applicable to who we are and where we are in HIM today. Let's read it again once more, now, with a new understanding:

15 Now, being true, in [agape] love we should be [growing the] all into Him, Who is the Head -- Christ --

16 out of Whom the entire body, being articulated together and united through every assimilation of the supply, in accord [in agreement] with the operation in measure of each one's part, is making for the growth of the body, [into] ... building of itself in love.

Let's go on now . . .

17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity [perverseness, depravity, or frailty] of their mind,

18 their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts,

19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation.

20 Now you did not thus learn Christ, [Praise the Lord!]

21 since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus),

This is Paul being bold here, saying, "You are hearing not me but Him; I am not teaching you, He is!" As much as the Lord taught Paul, He taught the ecclesias to which He sent Paul, so Paul is entirely comfortable saying, "You are hearing Him and He is teaching you." It seems to me that we are not overreaching to say the same thing today. We gather every week as an ecclesia to bathe in the word of God. Who else is teaching us

if not the Messiah Himself. If it is another, then we should stop now; but it is not another, and you and I have only to look at the signs, wonders, and miracles in our lives for any evidence we might need. Also, compare who you are, what you know, and what your life looks like today, to anyone in the world around you, outside of the ecclesia, and you'll see Paul's description of what they look like. You can't find yourself in the world anywhere, and if you and I were EVER in the midst of all that futility, we are no longer. Praise His holy name!

Now look at what we have been taught:

22 to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,
23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,
24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.
25 Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, for we are members of one another.

There you have it: a sort of a “*state of the union*,” an assessment that suddenly has become a rich of revelation and wondrous proclamation of blessing over us by our Father and by the Lord together.

Now continue with me into a wonderful section of Hebrews that ties into all this imagery of the body, the articulating together of its members, and the assimilation of the supply that we just studied:

Hebrews 4:12-23

12 For the word of God is living and operative and keen above any two-edged sword [actually, the Greek reads, “**keener than every two-edged sword**”], **and penetrating up to the parting of soul and spirit, both of** [or “**besides**”] **the articulations and marrow, and is a judge of the sentiments and thoughts of the heart.**

13 And there is not a creature which is not apparent in its sight. Now all is naked and bare to the eyes of Him to[ward] Whom we are accountable.

It is the Father's word which is "**living and operative**" in you and me today, I'm declaring. Not that His work is completed, but that the extraordinarily sharp instrument of His word, which carries His name, is exactly what we have bathed in, poured over and examined throughout our 36 months of Light Up the Scriptures. Couple that with His word that has been spoken into each one of your lives since our association, and you can readily see His surgical parting of soul and spirit, articulations and marrow. Nothing in your life or mine has been hidden from Him, nor will it ever be, bless Him; the Father has formed and is forming the Body of the Messiah in its purity and holiness out of impurity and unholiness. Only the Father could accomplish this; He alone is qualified to build the Lord's body. I have a vision of the Father forming the Messiah's spiritual body like He formed Eve from Adam's body. He put Yeshua to sleep in the grave, and when He resurrected the Lord, He began to pick out bone from His bone and flesh from His flesh, knitting it all together to form the complement of the One completing the all in all. *"It's not good for the Messiah to be alone,"* I hear the Father saying. *"Let Us find Him a help-mate, His complement."* Yeshua becomes the *"firstborn among many brethren and sisteren,"* as Paul wrote.

Well, here we are, brothers and sisters: we are members of the Body of our Lord Yeshua, each with his or her own calling – his or her own special role to play in the Father's unfolding purpose of the eons, each participating in the Messiah's measure of the Father's grace, which is superabounding. In exchange for His life, Yeshua was exalted above every name that is named and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Is there someone else you would rather be like, someone else you would rather emulate? Obviously not, because we are gathered together again to sit with Him at the Father's throne to recount the goodness of almighty YaHoVeH Elohim throughout human history and in each of our lives.

You and I are the result of the Father's living and operative word. That word, is knit into the fabric of your character; it has changed your nature from old to new humanity, it has rejuvenated, and continues to *be* rejuvenating your mind. The Father's word is what you are becoming daily as you carry out your own salvation, ceasing all murmuring and reasonings; it enables you to be ambitious to be quiet, to be engaged in your own affairs, to work with your hands, to have a pattern of sound words which you hear from Him, because, "***Surely,***" Paul wrote, "***Him you hear and by Him were taught.***"

As each of you – as each of us – has submitted to the Father's discipline and also His scourging that we have discussed before, and remained faithful, meek, humble in the heart, and teachable, just like Yeshua was, we live not only in the Father's blessing, but we become His delight.

Let's look at the whole 4th chapter of Hebrews together, because it contains some important principles for us to take forward.

Hebrews 4

1 We may be afraid then, lest at some time, a promise being left of entering into His stopping, anyone of you may be seeming to be deficient.

Other versions translate "***His stopping***" as "***His rest.***" This text refers back to the children of Israel who would have entered into "***His stopping***" when they entered the Promised Land; for them, that was "***His stopping***" and theirs. No one would want to be left out of that, would they? Ah, but an entire generation was left out, and we'll discover why in a moment. The more important point here is in the first and last parts of Hebrews 4:1:

We may be afraid then, lest at some time, anyone of you may be seeming to be deficient.

May it not becoming to that, I say. Not for you and me; we've come too far. We can't even THINK of going back!

2 For we also have been evangelized, even as those also. But the word heard does not benefit those hearers, not having been blended together with faith in those who hear.

You have blended with your faith, that which you have also heard – and your life today is the *fruit* of your blending. You did not hear only, but believed what you heard, which was the word of YaHoVeH, and took it into yourself and made it your own, and now it's a part of you, living and operating right now.

3 Then we who believe are entering into the stopping, according as He has declared, "As I swear in My indignation, 'If they shall be entering into My stopping-!'" although the works occur from the disruption of the world.

4 For He has declared somewhere concerning the seventh thus: And God stops "on the seventh day from all His works."

5 And in this again, "If they shall be entering into My stopping-!"

6 Since, then, it is left for some to be entering into it, and those to whom the evangel was formerly brought did not enter because of stubbornness,

The author of Hebrews is equating “*My stopping*” with the Sabbath, and in verse 6 we discover why an entire generation failed to enter into “*My stopping*.” It was stubbornness. You have not been stubborn, or at least you have not remained in stubbornness at any time. Rather, whenever stubbornness was manifest, you received correction. Sometimes that may have taken longer or shorter, depending on your progress along the path of dying to yourself; nevertheless, you are still on this line tonight. Others whom we have known and with whom we walked for a season, are no longer with us; they made a decision for stubbornness; they refused the discipline of the Lord; and the Father lets them go on their own way, in the vanity of their minds and the callousness of their hearts, according to the Scriptures.

Everyone is living out the Scriptures, some to one side and some to the other side of them, but whether we like or not, or believe it or not, we are all living

out the word of God because it is truth, and it is living and operative. There's no escape, but there is enmity or harmony. How much better is harmony, I ask you? I know you can answer, because you have also known enmity and have turned from it, never to revisit it. That's why you can enter into "His stopping," while others will wait in their stubbornness and striving and dying in their old humanity.

7 He is again specifying a certain day, "Today"-saying in David after so much time, according as has been declared before, "Today, if ever His voice you should be hearing, You should not be hardening your hearts."

8 For if Joshua causes them to stop, He would not have spoken concerning another day after these things.

9 Consequently a sabbatism is left for the people of God.

What a great word, "**sabbatism**." It's not THE Sabbath, but it is "*a period of cessation*," according to the CLNT's Keyword Concordance. I read Thayer's lexicon, but his definition was so religious that I left it out. Let me give you my take on it, and I know I'm out on my own here, but it's not the first time, certainly: the definition is found in the next two verses; but keep in mind that YaHoVeH considers the Sabbath as holy, and I believe that this idea of "sabbatism" is also something holy.

10 For he who is entering into His stopping, he also stops from his works even as God from His own.

11 We should be endeavoring, then, to be entering into that stopping, lest anyone should be falling into the same example of stubbornness.

Sabbatism is entering into **His stopping**; it is where His peace, His presence, and His pleasure dwells both within and without you.

12 For the word of God is living and operative, and keen above any two-edged sword, and penetrating up to the parting of soul and spirit, both of the articulations and marrow, and is a judge of the sentiments and thoughts of the heart.

13 And there is not a creature which is not apparent in its sight. Now all is naked and bare to the eyes of Him to Whom we are accountable.

14 Having, then, a great Chief Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Yeshua, the Son of YaHoVeH, we may be holding to the avowal.
15 For we have not a Chief Priest not able to sympathize with our infirmities, but One Who has been tried in all respects like us, apart from sin.

Here's the best part of the whole study tonight:

16 We may be coming, then, with boldness to the throne of [the] grace, that we may be obtaining mercy and finding grace [into] opportune help.

What I really want to proclaim and declare tonight over all of us is that we have reached what I believe is a landmark in our journey, like a continental divide. Everything on the side we climbed up slides toward the east, and everything ahead of us slides to the west. We will not climb that mountain – or those mountains – again. A kind of climax occurred during last week's Light Up the Scriptures and we reached a peak higher than any other we have seen to date. We looked down over all the hills and valleys and rocky places we have traveled, called old humanity; that's where we died with the Lord. We have turned our faces, certainly, immutably, and unreservedly toward the promised land that lies before us, called new humanity, where we live IN the Messiah, as fully functioning members of His Body, as His articulations and His marrow, enjoying the assimilation of the supply in and by and through the Spirit of the living Elohim which vivifies *our* spirits.

Just look at all the miracles that have occurred in each of your lives over the past weekend alone; you could not have imagined them the week before. That landmark is as significant in our lives as the resurrection of Yeshua was in His life. That event marked His transformation from embodying the old humanity to embodying the new humanity. He put it on display for all of us since. Here we are today, living in our new humanity and I'm saying to you that you have forever left the old humanity behind and you'll never pick it up

again. The old is behind us and we will leave it behind us and we will not return to it. We will not even look behind us or ponder the things of the past, and we are stretching out in front, pursuing the prize of the calling above in the Messiah Yeshua, for the new has come, in our lives as surely as it came in His, by the same joyful favor that the Father lavishes on Yeshua.

So Father, we come boldly to the throne of Your grace, and we come with songs of praise in our hearts and on our lips, for You are our Father and we are Your sons and daughters who love You because our hearts and spirits are full of *Your* love for *us*! Father, Your faithfulness, goodness and kindness to us is beyond human language. David wrote dozens, maybe hundreds of Psalms out of the overflow of his gratitude for all You are and all You did in His life. O Father, how grateful we are to speak and sing to You out of the language of our spirit that IS beyond human minds. Lord, we sing to You also, in our hearts and with our voices, for You are now where we will also be in That Day. Thank You for making the way for us to put off our old humanity and join You in putting on our new humanity.

We enter Your stopping, today, Father. No more wandering in the wilderness; we have left our former lives for dead in the desert, and the lives we live today we live IN the Messiah Yeshua and to and for You. Not our will, Father, but Yours be done, in and through our lives, unto the return of the Lord in Glory. AMEN