

## 92 – Learn to read God's fingerprints, watch for His landmarks, and follow His footprints

There is so much activity in the Spirit right now – it's been going on for several weeks, as you've witnessed if you've been following our studies since mid to late December, and since we began meeting on Sunday mornings at "Jammie Church." For anyone not familiar with Jammie Church, just go to the web page at [JammieChurch.com](http://JammieChurch.com).

About 90 minutes ago, I found myself asking the Lord, for the umpteenth time since yesterday, when I prepared for this study, "Why this?" What is this You're doing?" Why does this have such an urgency behind it?" People are making determinations – ones that they won't be able to reverse, I believe. Some are deciding out of wisdom and discernment, and some out of foolish stubbornness and willful ignorance (if there is such a thing).

It's difficult to explain, but I have felt such an imperative in my spirit to point to what I call landmarks – God's fingerprints, if you will, because His fingerprints are everywhere – they WERE everywhere when Jesus, "Yeshua," was born, and almost everyone missed them, or let them become smudged and obscured. The religious tried to erase the few they could see – if indeed they saw them at all.

So, 90 minutes ago, the Lord reminded me that today is 4-year anniversary of when He spoke to me for the first time in well over 20 years, and that I recognized His voice instantly. Someone asked last week, at the end of our study, "How do you know it's God's voice speaking?" All I can say is, You will. I did. He said only two words, "Say Yes." As instantly as I recognized His voice, I also knew exactly what He was talking about – or I should say Whom. I asked Him in turn, "Say Yes?" I was seeking clarification. He gave only this: **"Say Yes. Say yes to this, 'cause it's not comin' around again."** I wrote this story in the book, *GO GOD*, and traced the events and impressions that followed, so as to mark a trail that anyone could follow. Because we do not have 20 years not to hear from God, let alone 2,000 years.

So, I'm addressing the body of Christ tonight: "Time is short...Do not think that you have all the time in the world. That is pure arrogance and it'll dull your senses from being able to hear God's voice and follow His fingerprints – His landmarks. I believe that the Father is eager for His sons and daughters – those who are called by His name, who are in Christ today, or who will come to Him before His return – to KNOW Him intimately...in such power and awe that no other voice will hold our interest. We cannot afford to be casual – we cannot any longer treat our lives as business as usual, thinking we'll wait

until tomorrow to get it right. Consider the very real possibility that you have no tomorrow – there really IS no guarantee you'll make it through this study, let alone wake up in the morning.

It is almost unheard of for me to prepare a day early for our studies. As you know, I'm often still writing and researching when we get on this line. At 1:00am this morning, this study was completed, and The Lord gave me a day off to play outside with Him...in the air and the sun and the wind. I was in the middle of my favorite disc golf course, worshiping Him loudly, singing and yelling into the creation and into the heavens, "You are the Lord and There is no other!" and shouting in tongues at the top of my voice, just letting it rip...and it was glorious, and I knew that He was giving me this time just to be with Him.

And in all of that revelry and delight, I could hear His eagerness, His earnest desire for His sons and daughters to know Him, to see Him, to hear Him in every detail of their lives – and to recognize Him, to greet Him, to Give Him honor and worship and praise, for He is the Lord and there is not other, and He has carefully crafted – lovingly woven – every stitch in the fabric of your life. The Father longs for you to know the vastness of His love. Paul described it and we've read it together before. We cannot lose sight of Him...we cannot AFFORD to lose sight and sound of Him. We must hear and heed Him. We must, because in this new land, we have spiritual authority to conquer the giants, but we dare not treat it – or Him – casually. I hear the clock ticking. I know that Paul and the other apostles fully expected the Lord to return during their lifetimes, and I've heard someone say "time is short" since 1972 for 40 years. In fact, 40 years ago Thursday, marks the beginning of my meticulous study of His word. 40 years, 4 years – it is a new season indeed, which calls to mind all the lessons learned and points to the return of the Lord of Glory. Jesus said, watch and wait with me. Paul said, be alert and don't be taken by surprise. How will we do that? By learning to look for and pay attention to God's fingerprints – His landmarks – that mark His presence and His leading.

At Scripture Doc Dot Com, there are now 25 blog posts, and dozens of comments from people mostly from countries outside North America. This one is my favorite, because it captures, in 9 words, the urgency I hear in my spirit:

For the love of God, keep writing these articles.

The comments on that site are fingerprints – God's own fingerprints on the hearts and in the minds of folks who took time to write – and who knows how many more who didn't.

I want to begin tonight by looking at **Ephesians 1**, to inspire all of us to look for – to pay attention to -- the fingerprints of God – the undeniable landmarks of His operations in all

our lives today. There's a line in Barbara's second book, which is being written now – Volume 2 of **GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT** – the working subtitle of which is, “**from the whorehouse to the White House.**”

It goes like this: “***I’m going to show you what you need to see, so when I do what I do, you’ll know why I did what I did.***” Let me give you that again, and write it down, because I believe you’ll find it helpful in days to come.

Now, let’s look at the Father’s fingerprints – His landmarks together so that when He does what He does, We’ll know why He did what He did.

### **Ephesians 1**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **through the will of God**, to all the saints who are also believers in Christ Jesus:

Stop right here and look at Paul’s declaration: he is “**an Apostle**” (a “commissioner” – “a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders”) “**through the will of God**”; that is Paul’s designation as a delegate and a messenger – one who was sent forth with orders” – held his the office of Apostle through, or by, the agency of God’s sovereign will. Paul had nothing to do with choosing his commission, except that he acknowledged it, he accepted it, and he acted in total agreement with it from the time Ananais laid hands on him in Damascus. Paul’s life was not his, he said, but Christ’s.

### **Galatians 2:20**

20 [together] With Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ. Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

When Paul says, “I am living in faith that is of the Son of God,” he is acknowledging that the faith he’s living out of isn’t even his, but Christ’s. Paul knew that his own faith paled in comparison to the Lord’s operating in Him. So it is today: not only is Christ living in us, but our faith, as important as it is, is overshadowed by the Lord’s operating in us as He is living in us. Truly, we are not our own, as Paul declares in **1 Corinthians 6:19!**

### **Ephesians 1**

2 Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ,

Notice that Paul’s focus here is not on earthly blessings, but spiritual ones. Paul is not concerned with earthly blessings, but every blessing from God, which is located in Christ and among the celestials. Paul is NOT saying we can’t *have* earthly blessings, but that isn’t his focus.

Here's one of God's fingerprints, or landmarks, to which we need to pay attention: ***our focus isn't to be on earthly blessing any more than Paul's was.*** If we will be rightly focused on the spiritual and operate our lives from our spirit; earthly blessing, I believe, is a given – it's the same principle that Jesus spoke of in

### **Matthew 6:33 –**

Yet seek first the kingdom and its righteousness, and these all shall be added to you.

### **Ephesians 1**

4 according as He [the Father] chooses us in Him [in Christ] before the disruption of the world [these decisions have already been made; they were made before Genesis 1:1], we to be holy and flawless in His sight,

Paul is NOT saying that we have to DO something to BECOME holy and flawless in His sight. Thank God! Paul says here that God already sees us that way – He's already chosen us to be that – it's part of having saved and justified us IN, by and through Jesus Christ's faith – you can read about that in Galatians and Romans 3:22.

### **Ephesians 1**

5 in love designating us beforehand [into] the place of a son [or daughter, into] Him [that is the Father] through Christ Jesus [that is, Christ is the agency of our adoption, so to speak]; in accord with the delight of His will,

Why does God do all this? Why is He blessing “us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials?” Why did He choose us “before the disruption of the world, to be holy and flawless in His sight”? Why did He designate us beforehand, in His love, into the place of a son, into Himself and make Jesus Christ the agent by which this was all accomplished? Because it delights Him to do it! All this agrees with – it is “in accord with the delight of His will.”

The picture Paul paints is that, **before** the earth became a submerged chaos in Genesis, God decided with pure delight, how it would be, who WE would be, and what it all be for; and here's Paul spelling it all out, as if to say, “This is what brings sheer delight to the Father. He delights to do this.” Does there need to be some other reason, I ask?

Now...Paul is about to tell us what the whole purpose is for this entire exercise:

### **Ephesians 1**

6 for the laud of the glory of His grace,

“Into the praise of the highly favorable opinion with which our senses and our minds have been impressed, concerning the Father's “favor” – His acts that produce happiness and benefits for those who, were it not for His sovereign favor, would deserve the opposite.

which graces [favors] us in the Beloved [that is, Christ]:  
7 in Whom we are having the deliverance [the full fruition of a ransom or redemption]  
through His blood, the forgiveness [all pardon] of [the] offenses [that which wounds the  
feelings] in accord with the riches [the abundance of that which is esteemed of value] of  
His grace,  
8 which He lavishes [superabounds] on [into] us; in all wisdom and prudence  
[understanding]  
9 making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He  
purposed in Him [that is, Christ])  
10 to have an administration of the complement of the eras,

This is a wonderful phrase. It means an orderly arrangement for the management of affairs for the completion the eras, or the seasons. And Paul goes on...

to head up [the] all in the Christ -- both that in the heavens and that on the earth --

This is the picture of completion: Christ heading up the all -- in the heavens and on the earth. "Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed is Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven...and it will be done exactly as Jesus spoke it, because He saw the completion of the all from the beginning.

Remember, this that Paul is writing about was not known before, and was revealed to him by the Lord Himself. It was kept hidden until Paul was shown it and was released to share it...it was hidden even from Israel -- for theirs is a different administration; a kingdom administration.

## Ephesians 1

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating [the] all in accord with the counsel of His will,

"In Him in Whom **our** lot was cast also" -- Paul's language here is somewhat figurative, but his audience would have understood the reference, because casting lots was not an uncommon way of making decisions. You'll remember that lots were cast to determine whom to designate among the apostles in place of Judas Iscariot. Here's what struck me when I read it this time:

1. Lots were cast -- that is God made determinations and decisions -- and then designations about where you and I fit "beforehand" (before Genesis 1:1, perhaps long before); in accord or agreement with the One (that is the Father) Who is operating --present tense -- THE all (nothing is left out here -- God is steering this entire process -- in agreement with the advice of His own will -- because, after all, God is Sovereign.
2. We are In Christ today because we were designated to be here! Praise the Lord! That also implies, by the way, that others had their lots cast, decisions were made, and they were designated NOT to be here, but to be elsewhere.

We are once again face to face with the sovereignty of God, I believe, and we must see that we are where we are by virtue of two determining factors:

1. our choices, and
2. God's pre-designation

This is where people have gotten weird over the centuries: how many of us have heard the term "predestination," meaning there's nothing you could have done to be anywhere other than where you are, 'cause this is exactly where God wanted you in the first place. It's completely fatalistic and it has inspired apathy in people who follow that notion.

Every deception has an element of truth, which makes it plausible enough to swallow; however, the fatalism and inescapable nature of the doctrine of "predestination" makes Ephesians 1:12 impossible. Look at it:

### **Ephesians 1**

12 that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ.

What praise of his glory – the "highly favorable opinion with which our senses and our minds have been impressed" – could there be if we're just robots whom God is operating as if pieces on a big Candyland game board?

Here is what I see as the truth of being "designated beforehand," and our lots being cast in Him, while others were designated to be elsewhere: Jesus said, "Many are the called; few are the chosen." The Father knows everything about everyone from beginning to end because He is the Sovereign God, and there is no other. I believe the lots were cast and the designations were made by virtue of His foreknowledge of where our own choices would take us. Psalm 139:3 says, "For all my ways you have made provision." God is never playing catch up, as if constantly having to adjust His original plan to fit our choices. No way. In a sense, WE cast our own lots, by virtue of His foreknowledge of ALL our choices; and everything is playing out exactly as He foresaw. Look at all the events over the past few weeks – people coming in and getting out – lives turning directions so quickly, it makes you want to buckle up, put on a helmet, and wear lots of protective gear, to handle the sudden twists and turns. This is indeed a new season, and we are watching people play out their determinations, which God saw long before we came into existence, and for which He set in motion His purpose of the eons.

We are where we are, not because we had NO choice – no say – in the matter; no, we are where we are precisely because God foreknew our choices, and for which He made provision – He fore-planned the consequences for the choices He knew we would make.

I can hear Him saying to us right now, "I'm showing you what you need to see, so when I do what I do, you'll know why I did what I did."

Paul revealed a secret that I understood only partially before. I may still understand it only partially now, but the part has expanded tonight. I'm going to encourage you now to review this section of the recording, along with the scriptures in Ephesians 1, and let this image of casting lots and being designated beforehand really sink in.

I pray you see the Sovereignty of God in a new perspective that is entirely glorious and worthy of all praise and honor. If you recall, that is, in fact, the objective Paul expressed in **Ephesians 1:12**:

12 that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ.

We who were designated beforehand, by virtue of our lots having been cast in Him, are for – it is our purpose to be for – the praise of His glory; we are those pre-expectant in the Christ. We are expecting BEFORE anyone else in our location; that is In Him in whom our lot was cast, being designated beforehand – we could add here, “for the place of a son [or daughter]”, back in verse 5 – “according to the purpose of the One Who is operating the all in accord with the counsel of His will” (repeating verse 11). Can you see how God's purpose, His sovereignty, the Counsel of His will, our being designated beforehand, our being pre-expectant in the Christ, and set apart for the praise of His glory; all are interwoven into a massive and glorious demonstration to the celestials, as Paul shows us in Ephesians 3:10-11.

Let's move on...

### **Ephesians 1:13**

13 In Whom you also -- on hearing the word of [the] truth, the evangel of your salvation -- in Whom on believing also, **you are sealed with the holy spirit of [the] promise**

Look at the order here: On hearing the specific tidings of our salvation; then on believing those tidings, we are **SEALED IN HIM WITH THE HOLY [THE] SPIRIT OF [THE] PROMISE**.

I have a troubling question. Perhaps it has troubled you too. If not, then just pity me and indulge me a moment: Exactly what is the “evangel of my salvation” that Paul talks about? Salvation from what? I address this in my book, **Go God**, and I know we have looked at it before in our studies, but the spirit is compelling me not to skip over what it is we must hear before we can believe, that leads to our being sealed with the holy spirit of THE promise.

Salvation is NOT from sin – yet I have heard it from preachers more often than I can count.

### **Romans 6:18:**

Now, being freed from Sin, you are enslaved to Righteousness.

### **Romans 6:22:**

Yet, now, being freed from Sin, yet enslaved to God, you have your fruit for holiness.

The Apostle Paul, whom the risen Lord taught exclusively, does not say “being **saved** from sin. He says, “Freed,” i.e., “liberated from bonds.” Saved is being “kept or delivered from evil.” They are two different things.

Now, lest we think this too fine a point, remember that we are dealing with WHAT SEALS US IN HIM, as it is written in Ephesians 1:13.

The key is in **Romans 6:23**:

For the ration of [the] Sin is death, yet the gracious gift of God is life eonian, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Salvation is “the deliverance” that Paul wrote about in **Romans 8:23-24**

we ourselves also, who have the firstfruit of the spirit, we ourselves also, are groaning in ourselves, awaiting the sonship, the deliverance of our body.

24 For to [the] expectation were we saved.

Here’s what I wrote in the dedication to my book, **GO GOD!**:

For your sake, Jesus Christ sacrificed His life and God saved Him out of death and into life, to become “firstborn among many brethren.”

Later in Chapter 11, I wrote this:

Grasping the importance and scope of this revelation from the Apostle Paul explains “**salvation**.” Jesus *saved* us from the reproach of sins and offenses. The Father *saved* Jesus, resurrecting Him from the dead and “**vivifying**” Him (“*making alive*”, CLNT-KC, 320). Through our faith in Christ, by His pattern, God also *saves us* into life for the eons!

***“...yet God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us...vivifies us together in Christ (in grace are you saved!) and rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in Christ Jesus, that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God's approach present.”*** (Ephesians 2:4-8)

A paraphrase of Paul’s message above makes it easier to grasp its full impact:

*“God’s love for us is so huge that He will make us alive as surely as He did Christ! In His favor; in an act producing happiness, God delivers us from death and saves us into life together with Christ Jesus! Not only that, but the Father seats us among the celestials so that in times yet to come, He can display the abundance of His favor that goes far beyond anyone’s comprehension. And all this is a benefit bestowed on us because of our faith — our conviction concerning matters which we cannot see — we are not observing them, yet we trust God. This achievement is nothing we could ever do*



*of, by or for ourselves. It is God's approach present — the offer He makes, the gift He brings — by which He draws near, by which He comes close to us."*

(CLNT-KC, 257, 304, 100, 257, 17)

I pray that God pierce your heart with the beauty of the astonishing picture of what He accomplished by making good on His promise to raise Jesus from the dead. The achievement is far greater, grander and more wondrous than what we may have believed or even thought possible. Sharing "***Jesus Christ's faith***" (Galatians 3:22) in God's promise of resurrection makes it possible for God, in grace (in favor), to bring the saving of *our* souls from death into life, as an offering to *us* — His approach present — as if to ask, "*Will this satisfy you?*"

So the glad tidings —the evangel — of our salvation is what we must hear — it's the first order of business, coming back to **Ephesians 1:13**

13 In Whom you also -- on hearing the word of [the] truth, the evangel of your salvation -- in Whom on believing also, **you are sealed with the holy spirit of [the] promise**

The second issue is believing in Him Whom the evangel is about! We must be convinced about something we can't observe first hand — we must rely solely on the testimony...and how much testimony there is: far more than two or three witnesses — when Jesus ascended there were over 500 who could testify!

Upon hearing and then believing, we are SEALED: we are "stamped with approval; secured against violation." AND it's the Holy Spirit of **the promise** that seals us. We're talking about the comforter, the spirit of the truth that will guide us into all the truth. Jesus paid with His blood to send us the Holy spirit! This is an unbreakable seal, if you ask me, because it is the holy spirit of **THE PROMISE**. What's **THE PROMISE**? It's not just A promise. It is THE Promise —

I have to go out on a limb here, because I could find almost no help in the lexicons for what I see. So, here it is, for what it's worth. The Promise is the Father's promise to His son, Yeshua — the only thing left that Jesus could hold to as He trudged up the hill to His death...as His hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and as He hung there in the hot sun: When the Father went silent, all Jesus had left was The Promise that His Father would not leave Him dead; and Our Father will not leave us dead either, and **verse 14** of **Ephesians 1** suggests if not confirms that idea:

14 (which is an earnest [a down payment] of the enjoyment of our allotment [our share or inheritance], to the deliverance of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!

The Spirit of God, living in us now, is what seals us, and is also the down payment on the delivery of what has been preserved for us as our own — without using the words,

Paul is speaking about the change of this corruptible, mortal body into the incorruptible, immortal body of glory, just as the Lord, Yeshua ha'Mashiach, inhabits now – it is the form that appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. It is a form we cannot look at or stand up to now, but we will be in the same form when we are changed into the body of His glory. THAT is the promised inheritance we have in Christ Jesus, of which the Holy spirit is the downpayment we may enjoy until the trumpet blows, and He calls, with the shout of command, and we will be changed, rising to meet Him in the air, as we saw in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians.

Paul is about to reinforce this whole thing:

### **Ephesians 1**

15 Therefore, I also, on hearing of this faith of yours in the Lord Jesus, and that for all the saints,  
16 do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers  
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a **spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him [the Father],**  
18 **the eyes of your heart having been enlightened,** for you to **perceive *what is the expectation*** of His [the Father's] calling, and what **the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His [the Father's] allotment** among the saints,  
19 and what **the transcendent greatness of His [the Father's] power** for us who are believing, in accord with **the operation of the might of His [the Father's] strength,**  
20 which is **operative in the Christ, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand among the celestials,**  
21 **up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending:**  
22 and **subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all.**