

WORD AT WORK

Dear Friends:

The March “Word At Work” marks the 29th year of my journey in which God challenged me from Genesis 12:1-3 to leave my family, State of my birth and go to a region of His choosing. My wife Jayne, when praying about this year, received Psalm 65 with its very exciting promises. I have an alternate translation written in the margin for verse one, which characterizes this month’s Bible study.

Setting the tone for Psalm 65, it says, “To Thee, resignation is as praise, Elohim, in Zion, and to thee is the vowed paid.” Learning to live in the Kingdom, demands adopting entirely different values. We are all called to traverse the path from self-centeredness to self-sacrifice, learning to place others above ourselves. Resignation is the beginning of true discipleship!

The promises for all those who have consistently embraced this concept can only be described as awesome. Verses 1-5 state, “Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; And to You the vow shall be performed. O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come. Iniquities prevail against me; As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them. Blessed is the man whom You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple. By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas;....”

Ask God for something only He can do and all who see it will agree it has a Sovereign signature from above! Awesome deeds are coming for those who have faithfully pursued Christ-likeness. May the testimony of Jesus be birthed before the year’s end! Awesome deeds are coming.

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER III
Using Faith On Your Flesh To Obey God II

MONDAY, March 1

Scripture: Luke 14:25-29

Luke 14:25-29 says, “And great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it – lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him,...’” We find ourselves, as the Church, living in a society where everything we stand for is being mocked by one group or another. The elite of government consistently come against the Church whether in the form of prohibiting manger scenes at Christmas time or propagating a bogus concept of the separation of Church and State. What the Founders intended to be freedom **of** religion is being interpreted as freedom **from** religion. The media consistently, daily, mock the Church. The educational elite, lawyers and judges who make our rulings are consistently mocking the Church. A recent Supreme Court decision striking down sodomy laws is an absolute mockery of everything the Church stands for and everything our Founding Fathers built into this nation. When the foundations are destroyed, what will the righteous do? God’s blessing, because of righteousness, is consistently progressively vanishing. We are living in the midst of the greatest quantity of mockery ever thrown at a generation since our nation was founded. Does God have an answer? If so, what part do we play?

TUESDAY, March 2

Scripture: Luke 14:28-30

Jesus made it clear that if we are going to sign up for the Kingdom we have a responsibility and that responsibility includes counting the cost. Do we find ourselves living in the midst of verses 29-30? Verse 29 says, “lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.”” Isn’t the world challenging the Church? Aren’t they emboldened in their mockery of God, and everything we stand for, based on the fact they consider the Church utterly impotent to impact in any way shape or form their generational activities? Our judges who are appointed for life feel they are untouchable! Our news media, because of freedom of the press, feel they are untouchable! Our educational elite, because of tenure, feel they are untouchable! Our lawyers, because of their ability to bankrupt people by filing bogus lawsuits, feel they are untouchable! And government, because of the authority granted to them, feel like they are untouchable! Are they untouchable? Or does God have a plan to impact all of them within their insulated spheres of influence? How are we, the Church, to respond in this season as the mockery grows and increases?

WEDNESDAY, March 3

Scripture: Luke 14:31-32

Verses 31 and 32 say, “Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.” Have we made “peace” with our mockers by never mentioning the issues from the pulpit which face us as believers or ignoring the biblical response to things like abortion and the gay rights movement? Have we sought conditions of “peace” by turning our churches Seeker-Sensitive so we could gain more people, bigger budgets, and a greater measure of success? Have we prepared the Body of Christ to pay the price to be an end-time Church? When we really apply what Jesus said, we begin to wonder if we have chosen and walked out the biblical path. Perhaps, many of us can identify those who have taken the path of least resistance versus the biblical pattern. Jesus did not walk the path of least resistance. It appears He walked the path of greatest resistance. Where do we fall between these two extremes? Are we closer to least or greatest? Is there any doubt about which one Jesus followed? Are we like Him ...or... are we not?

THURSDAY, March 4

Scripture: Luke 14:33-35

Verses 33 through 35 says, “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” The real question each of us must answer concerns our qualification for discipleship. God leads us into situations where we have to choose. What we choose in that situation determines our qualification. An entire generation of the Church accepted “abandonment theology” and began to view participation in politics and government as worldly leaving the entire realm to the enemy. Needless to say, he now rules in government. Many of the laws and the decisions by our judges are absolutely permeated with the spirit of Antichrist. We now see the fruit of a whole generation who took the easy path refusing to use their faith on their flesh. What they put off means what we face is now doubled. We have to make a much more confrontational stand. Are we ready for that? How “salty” are we? Would our nation be in the place it is in today if the Church was as “salty” as Jesus describes in Luke 14?

FRIDAY, March 5

Scripture: Exodus 12:35-36

One of the questions the Lord asked me years ago that led to the crucifixion side of discipleship was, “How did I pay for building My churches?” I told the Lord I didn’t know and His short reply was, “Find out!” Exodus 12:35-36 says, “Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they **plundered** the Egyptians.” God’s word is very clear on how He paid for the sanctuaries He commissioned. It was never from the tithes of God’s people, but always from the spoil they took from other nations. The application of what all that means is the issue for which I was not prepared! The fruit of that question became a book. When I first published what God had given fourteen years ago it closed nearly every door in Southern California. I suddenly began to understand the cost of discipleship and the choices that we make as we are led by the Holy Spirit. There is a pathway of least resistance, middle resistance, and greatest resistance. As long as we allow God to choose the path – we’re in good shape! The minute we choose to depart from His leadership because its easier or better or more productive in our eyes, is when we begin to forfeit God’s purpose and the contribution we would have made to our generation. Being a disciple does not have worldly success as its goal. The goal in being a disciple is to be Christ-like. Christ-likeness leads to persecution and crucifixion.

SATURDAY, March 6

Scripture: First Chronicles 29:3-4

First Chronicles 29:3-4 says, “Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the house;...” In David’s own testimony we hear what he specifically set aside for the building of the temple. We know where David got it. It came from the spoil of the cities and nations he conquered. We understand that both the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon were built from the spoil that came from God’s covenantal anointing on the army. Looking at the Church during the ‘80’s and trying to make a prophetic application about business in a functional way was a challenge. It certainly didn’t appear as if it would happen again by war, so I had to ask God what the application would be? And again He answered prophetically. The resistance that comes as a result of bringing forth prophetic revelation has a significant price tag. There is a question we have to ask ourselves over the issue of discipleship. To what degree are we willing to use our faith on our flesh to obey God? Jesus is the pattern. Jesus is the example. How far are we willing to walk down His path?

SUNDAY, March 7

Scripture: First Chronicles 22:14-16

David explains all he has done in preparation for building the Temple. He says in verses 14, “Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.” One hundred thousand talents of gold, based on an \$8 an hour wage, translates into one trillion one hundred and fifty-two billion. You add to that the value of one million talents of silver, based on the same \$8 an hour, and we have an additional seven hundred and sixty-eight billion. The Temple was nearly a two trillion dollar undertaking. It all came from the anointing to spoil. Isaiah prophetically named business in the last days as a conduit for God’s purposes. A single picture emerged. God would anoint businesses as a pipeline for the anointing to spoil. Its different, its unusual but how does it impact the Church? If God gave the tithe to the Levites and He intended the buildings to be built by the anointing to spoil, how do we raise up the ministries who will begin to view their businesses as a church they are called to pastor so God can prosper, bless and bring forth the finances to disciple cities and nations? Prophetic truth has a two-fold price tag. There is the discipleship price tag of the vessels who see it and are led to teach it, and then there is the personal price tag for all those who embrace the vision and find themselves called. Every time we open our mouth and act on what we sense is a prompting of the Holy Spirit, we are using our faith on our flesh to obey God. It is wonderful when we get it all right, but it doesn’t seem that is something God requires. What He requires at a foundational point in our discipleship is that we use our faith on our flesh to obey Him, to the best of our ability. Places of assumption and points that need clarity, He faithfully brings later. But the requirement is still the same. Its Abrahamic and its upon each one of us. Abraham would have never left Ur the Chaldees if he had not been willing to use his faith on his flesh to obey God. And we can never leave the safety of the familiar unless we use our faith on our flesh and step out for the King! How will we respond in our discipleship in the days ahead and better yet, are we preparing a generation to walk in true discipleship? That is our call and we can’t proceed without modeling it. Our kids will listen and act according to the values we demonstrate. The real question is, what values are we demonstrating?

MONDAY, March 8

Scripture: Genesis 14:14-16

Fortunately for all of us who are walking out discipleship as teachers and preachers in the Kingdom, we have some rules which can help us determine the accuracy of what we’re hearing. Perhaps one of the greatest is the seven-fold test of doctrine. In the seven-fold test of doctrine, we find the same truth in several areas. It should appear first in Genesis in seed form, then we should find it in the Law, and we should see it in Psalms or Proverbs. The Prophets should speak about it, Jesus should teach it, we should see it somewhere in Acts and the Epistles

should mention it. Fortunately we can measure what we're hearing by this yardstick and see if it fits before we step out walking on the water proclaiming it. In Genesis 14:14-20 we find Abraham receiving the news that Lot, his goods, the women and all the people had been taken captive. Because Abraham had a covenant relationship with Lot, he was responsible for him being in the land. Abram armed all of his servants and they overtook the enemy in the King's Valley. Abraham was victorious. Melchizadek, the priest, happened by. Abram gave him a tithe and discussed the fact that he was not going to keep any of the spoil because he didn't want anybody saying that they had helped make Abram rich. He wanted to ascribe that only to God. Do we ascribe our blessing only to God?

TUESDAY, March 9

Scripture: Genesis 26:1-2, 12-13

Genesis 26:1-2 says, "There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines in Gerar. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: 'Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.'" Verse 12 says, "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him." What a faith challenge it must have been to sow in great drought. When Isaac used his faith on his flesh, God really blessed it! Will He do the same for us? If not, He is a respecter of persons.

WEDNESDAY, March 10

Scripture: Genesis 49:27

In Genesis 49:27 we are told in a prophetic blessing, "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil." The anointing to spoil can come via natural warfare, sowing and reaping or spiritual inheritance. For Benjamin, it came by a spiritual inheritance that had to be walked out. The Scripture is clear that the anointing to spoil can come in a variety of ways. The very first stage of the seven requirements is met. It does appear in Genesis in seed form. Perhaps a better question is, if I were going to participate in this which one of these manifestations in Genesis would be more likely? Would it come by conflict? Would it come by sowing and reaping in a season of famine? Or would it come by spiritual or natural inheritance? Perhaps one of the things we need to recognize is that each of the three require using our faith on our flesh but in different ways. True discipleship always carries a thumbprint of using our faith on our flesh, regardless of what the issue or the subject is. Where are we on this discipleship path?

THURSDAY, March 11

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:18

After seeing a principle in Genesis in seed form, we also need to find it somewhere in the Law. Was it a part of the Law? Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." Deuteronomy 8:18 may be a very familiar scripture and if it is we should ask ourselves why, when we hear "prosperity" or "wealth transfer" or something of this nature taught, do we have a negative spiritual response? Why does it seem to grieve the Holy Spirit? The answer, I think, is clear. When the messenger has not walked the true discipleship path, he cannot present the word from a place of crucifixion. It will always sound like self-seeking, self-promotion and manipulation. True disciples have a distinctly different ring to what they say because the things which defile have been bled from them. They don't minister something with an expectation of profit from it. They minister it from a pure platform, from the platform of Gethsemane. They have had to pay a price to say what God wants said.

FRIDAY, March 12

Scripture: Deuteronomy 20:14-15

Deuteronomy 20:14-15 says, “But the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall plunder for yourself; and you shall eat the enemies’ plunder which the LORD your God gives you. Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations.” God outlined in the Law the anointing to spoil for all His people as they took their promised land. So we have found this principle in Genesis in seed form and now it is in the Law. The next hurdle will be Psalms and/or Proverbs. Will we find it? Will it become a consistent biblical principle?

SATURDAY, March 13

Scripture: Psalm 68:11-12

Psalm 68:11-12 says, “The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it: Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home divides the spoil.” The Psalms identify the fact that when God gives a word, and it is walked out by a group, we can expect the enemy to flee and even the housewife at home can participate in the spoil. In a season of God’s blessing can we expect His hand to move in behalf of the housewife? We certainly can. We should. And we do! God will honor all those who have laid down their careers to sow into their kids. An appointed season exists and we shall soon see it’s manifestation.

SUNDAY, March 14

Scripture: Proverbs 13:22

Proverbs 13:22 says, “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.” Even Proverbs identifies the fact that God expects to transfer wealth from the unrighteous to the righteous. Why would God do that? What is the root issue? Why does this theme consistently appear in Scripture. What does God have in mind? The answer to that question lies in how Satan captures people for his purposes. Perhaps the chief issue that needs to be understood is that Satan uses mammon like God uses the Holy Spirit, demanding divine judgment. Jesus said we can’t serve God and mammon – we have to choose! Jesus identified mammon as His chief competitor for the affections of men. A judgment financially would expose mammon’s roots in men releasing a revival of repentance nationally. Perhaps the Lord has appointed a season of grace and mercy on all those who have been ensnared by mammon. A financial judgment or transfer would probably open their eyes. Perhaps God has ordained everything the enemy hoarded to be used to disciple a harvest in the last days. The full measure of God’s blessing has been prophesied!

MONDAY, March 15

Scripture: Isaiah 53

Perhaps there is no prophetic chapter in Scripture so endeared to the Church as Isaiah 53, because of its description of the agony of the crucifixion and what that agony would produce in its completion. Verses 11 and 12 say, “He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death. And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.” Jesus Himself is prophesied to supervise and execute the anointing to spoil. The first manifestation of the anointing to spoil will probably be a harvest of souls, but shortly following that we need a transfer of finances to pay for the discipleship of those same souls who are taken from the grasp of the enemy’s deception. Jesus, Himself will assign manifestations of the anointing to spoil. Will we have a part in that? Will we catch any assignments?

TUESDAY, March 16

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-7

Verse 5 says, “Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.” Isaiah was very clear about this issue. Not only would Jesus personally assign levels of the anointing to spoil, but Isaiah 60 describes a transfer of wealth from the unbeliever. What purpose could that have? The answer to that question can only be in the discipleship of a great harvest and all we need do is let Scripture set the time frame. It is obvious the principle holds in the Prophets. What better prophet than Isaiah to proclaim it?

WEDNESDAY, March 17

Scripture: Isaiah 61:6-7

Isaiah 61 speaks to the anointing that was upon Jesus and then to the anointing that He would pass on to the Church. Verses 6 and 7 say, “But you shall be named the Priests of the LORD, Men shall call you the Servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.” What can we say of such dramatic, bold, and obvious statements by perhaps the greatest prophet, other than the Lord Himself? Isaiah saw something. He saw something the Church was going to experience. Will we have to use our faith on our flesh to walk in it because it has been so defiled in its presentation by those who have never been delivered from the spirit of mammon? What happens when an individual preaches something based on this principle and perverts it by saying, “If you’ll give \$1,000.00 into the ministry, then you can expect to walk in this”? Offense usually comes to the heart of every believer who hears such things! The problem is not with the principle of transfer. The problem is the uncrucified vessel trying to use it for his own gain. We tend to throw out the principle along with the unsanctified vessel. It’s time we acknowledge the principle and help the unsanctified vessel get delivered.

THURSDAY, March 18

Scripture: Matthew 12:29-30

The next major hurdle is did Jesus teach it? And amazingly enough He taught it and He taught it very, very dramatically. Matthew 12:29 says, “Or else how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.” Interestingly enough Jesus uses the Greek word **har-paz-o** for “...plunder his goods....” In First Thessalonians 4:17, speaking of the rapture, we find the same Greek word translated “...**caught up** together...to meet the Lord in the air”. The only difference is Jesus uses a strengthened form of **har-paz-o** in Matthew 12. In Matthew 12:29 at the end of the verse, “...then **he will plunder** his house” is **dia-har-pazo**, a strengthened form of the verb. The words Jesus used indicate there is something greater than the rapture of the Church and it is what the Church does to the enemy in spoiling him of cities, nations and obviously the finances to disciple them. God is the one who has ordained the anointing to spoil and Jesus taught it. Why would we settle for a second rate event, like the rapture, when we could participate in a first rate event like the fulfillment of Psalm 2, “Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations....”

FRIDAY, March 19

Scripture: Acts 4:34-35

Number six in our proof and purity progression is can we find it somewhere in the book of Acts? Acts 4:32 seems to qualify, “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.” Barnabas sold his land and laid the money at the apostle’s feet. In Acts 5, we see two reluctant people selling their land and laying part of it at the apostle’s feet. Ananias and Sapphira acted like they were laying it *all* down, but didn’t. But they certainly laid a portion of it down. If this doesn’t qualify as the anointing to spoil, what does? What can we say about this principle? Well, it certainly seems thus far, to satisfy every major test. How do we disciple a **generation** to accept

and walk out a measure of the anointing to spoil in prophetic fulfillment? That is really the question that faces us. Not so much the degree of our present participation, but can we present a level of discipleship to a generation empowering them to handle this kind of prophetic fulfillment? It's a challenge of maturity. It's a challenge of commitment. It's a challenge of dedication. One generation will have to do it. How long will we postpone the coming of the Lord? All these prophecies have to be fulfilled before the Lord returns. We have some serious discipling to do.

SATURDAY, March 20

Scripture: James 5:1-8

The seventh and final confirmation is can we find it in the Epistles? In James 5 we find a hint of the timing for fulfillment. We are told, "Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure **in the last days**. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." All this horded wealth, James says, has been stored for the last days. It has been set aside by the enemy's need to satisfy man's greed, but God will tap it **for a purpose** of sowing divine seed that multitudes will heed. Again, our chief issue is not so much the degree of our participation, but can we disciple a generation who is free from the spirit of mammon, recognizes its tentacles and takes a solid stand of integrity against it? There is a generational discipleship challenge, one that I hear God calling us to and the question is - are we ready to embrace it? Can we do it? Can we walk it out? Can we fulfill it? We certainly cannot impart in discipleship what we haven't walked. Are we ready to walk it in the full measure that God has ordained?

SUNDAY, March 21

Scripture: Revelation 19:9-10

Perhaps one of the most offensive things about how the issue of prophetic wealth transfer has been taught is the distinct absence of the testimony of Jesus. We are told in Revelation 19:9-10, "Then he said to me, 'Write: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"' And he said to me, 'These are the true sayings of God.' And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" Anything that is prophetically from the heart of God should come with the testimony of Jesus. If it doesn't have the testimony of Jesus it will not *witness* to our heart. The Greek word for testimony here is **mar-tur-ia**. The **mar-tur-ia** of Jesus is the witness He gave because of His willingness to use His faith on His flesh to obey God. He was willing to obey God unto death. When that process has not been worked out in a person's life, what they speak, teach or bring forth can be tainted by the desire for personal gain. The Holy Spirit is faithful to give discernment to the hearers. When the true word of the Lord comes forth in a vessel that has the testimony of Jesus it can be received. When it comes forth by a vessel that does not have the testimony of Jesus, the message is hindered and it becomes a blot and blemish on the Body.

MONDAY, March 22

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-23

In Hebrews 11:1-23, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses' parents all have the same thing in common. They were all willing to use their faith on their flesh to obey God. It seems that the first level of discipleship we find acceptable in Scripture is when we are led to offer ourselves to God for His purposes, allowing Him to sow us wherever and whenever He desires. Those who were rewarded in Hebrews 11, lived that way. Noah received a wonderful assignment – a gift that kept on giving. It lasted over 100 years. He had to build an ark and everybody made fun of him. Moses's parents also had a tough assignment. Should they allow their child to be destroyed with the others, or should they hide him? Should they launch him on the water before he is discovered? They all had to use their faith on their flesh to obey God and it was considered their

reasonable service. Reasonable worship has not changed. It is still the same. The question for our generation is, are we willing to rise to that level of discipleship?

TUESDAY, March 23

Scripture: Hebrews 10:5-7

Verses 5-7 tell us, “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come – In the volume of the book it is written of Me – To do Your will, O God.”’” It is obvious that Jesus, as the Pattern Son, lived the primary assignment of discipleship throughout His life. He embodied it. He witnessed it. He taught about it and He lived it. The essence of that pattern of life and ministry is, “Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – To do Your will, O God.” Jesus used His faith on His flesh to obey God. He set the standard of discipleship. It cannot be changed. It can only be embraced. Are we willing to embrace this one true level of discipleship? See the movie, “The Passion” and get the message!

WEDNESDAY, March 24

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-22

Verses 19-22 tell us, “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” There is one way we can have the same kind of boldness to walk beyond the veil. That pathway has a common thread exhibited by The Lord Himself. Verse 20 removes the mystery of the veil, “...by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.” Jesus used His faith on His flesh and that process became the pathway by which we pass from the outer court into the Holy of Holies into God’s presence! Can anyone stand in God’s presence who has not learned the most basic element of discipleship, using our faith on our flesh to obey God? The answer is “No”, because it is the veil. Jesus had to walk through the veil, which was His flesh. We have to walk through the veil, which is our flesh. Jesus made it possible for us and we can appropriate His grace to walk through it ourselves. The question is, are we willing to embrace this level of discipleship?

THURSDAY, March 25

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-24

Hebrews 10:23 and 24 states “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works....” We all have access to the Father through the sacrifice of Jesus, but the only way to keep it is by pressing through our own veil, which is our flesh. Jesus can get us in, but it takes our own faith to keep us there and to gain re-entry at will. Every one of us need encouragement toward “...love and good works....” But the good works require using our faith on our flesh to obey God. It’s one thing to choose to live this way ourselves. It is quite another to provoke others to travel the same route. This route has far too little traffic and needs a whole lot more if we as a generation are going to wind up the age.

FRIDAY, March 26

Scripture: Numbers 14

Numbers 14 is a perfect picture of what happens if we’re *not willing* to use our faith on our flesh and obey God. The spies brought back an evil report and the consensus of opinion among the congregation was based on that report. Verse 4 says, “So they said to one another, ‘Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.’” Joshua and Caleb stood up and they said, “If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for

they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.” I’m sure most of us are familiar with the fact that Israel spent another 40 years, while this generation died off in the wilderness, waiting to go into the promised land over one issue – their refusal to use their faith on their flesh to obey God. Are we willing? Do we have a choice? Surely we can learn from their example. The time to use our faith on our flesh – has come!

SATURDAY, March 27

Scripture: Numbers 14 Joshua 14:7-9

The two men who said “We are willing to use our faith on our flesh and obey You” – God kept for 40 years. And when it was time for them to go in and take the promised land, Caleb asked for the region where the giants lived. He was very specific in laying hold of what he wanted. Caleb, according to Joshua 14:7-9 says, “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’” The path to a perpetual inheritance for both Caleb and his children came as the result of his willingness to use his faith on his flesh and obey God. This is something we need to understand. The God of the Bible will give you an inheritance and your children, because of your willingness to use your faith on your flesh and obey Him. Its time to claim those areas and pass them on to our kids. The wars we have fought in our generation have an inheritance and that inheritance belongs to our children. God ordained it and it is time we asked Him to manifest it!

SUNDAY, March 28

Scripture: Ephesians 2:12-13

Ephesians 2:12 and 13 tell us, “...that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ.” Once we were far off and now we have been made near. The question is, what do we do with that covenant request? Do we honor it. If we honor it then we take advantage of the covenants of promise. If we don’t honor it then we continue to stand outside. The covenants of promise require something. They require us to use our faith on our flesh to obey God. If we’ll do that, God says He will bring us into the full measure of what He has for our generation.

MONDAY, March 29

Scripture: Malachi 3:10-12 Luke 16:12-13

Jesus wants us to learn to use our faith on our flesh to obey Him. What better place to start than with the issue of money. He is not asking us to currently live up to the standard of the Early Church where they sold everything and brought it in and laid it at the apostle’s feet, but He is asking us, by offering His covenants of promise, to walk in those to the best of our ability. One such covenant of promise is the promise of the tithe. The promise to return, multiply, bless everyone involved. How can we ever receive the full measure of the covenantal blessing of the tithe if we don’t use our faith on our flesh and obey God by giving it? We certainly won’t benefit from it unless we’re willing to use our faith on our flesh and *do it!* Luke 16:12 and 13 say, “‘And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.’” When we do not avail ourselves of the covenant of the tithe, Jesus put a different spin on it by stating *our loyalty is reflected in our choice*. If we choose not to obey God, we despise the Lord. How long can we continue not using our faith on our flesh and still expect the full measure of God’s blessing? We may expect it, but I doubt if we’ll ever see it. God says we have to use our faith on our flesh to obey Him. It certainly appears that He is right!

TUESDAY, March 30

Scripture: Mark 10:42

Mark 10:42 says, “But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.’” “lord it over” is the Greek word **kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo-o**. It means to subdue by using position or money against! How does the enemy subdue or bring us into harmony with him by using money against us? If we choose for fear of lack, not to operate in the covenant of the tithe, he has done just exactly that. Using our faith on our flesh to obey God means we are willing to walk the full measure of God’s path one step at a time, day by day, growing in grace and in willingness to use our faith on our flesh. Are we there? Are we willing to walk there? The time has come to make that choice.

WEDNESDAY, March 31

Scripture: Mark 10:42 Luke 22:24-25

Mark 10:42 says, “But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers (**ar-kho**) over the Gentiles lord it over them (**kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo-o**), and their great (**meg-as**) ones exercise authority (**kat-ex-oo-see-ad-zo**) over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great (**meg-as**) among you shall be your servant (**dee-ak-on-os**).” This passage, perhaps more than any other, brings us to the very crux and cornerstone of what it means to use your faith on your flesh when interacting with the Church as the Body of Christ. Jesus made it clear there was a definite distinction in how we operate, which marks us for Him or for the world. Jesus said if we use our faith on our flesh to *serve* the Church then we can expect the full measure of God’s blessing, but if we use our faith to subdue or subjugate, whether it be by building an organization and recruiting churches to join it at 5% or 10% a month, or whether we hold conferences and measure out who gets ministry by the price they pay, then it shows really where our heart is. In the world we expect activity like that. In the Church, however, we do not. The real question is, are we willing to use our faith to build up the Church or are we going to use our faith to profit from it? It’s the real essence and core issue of what Jesus was addressing. Paul faced that in his life and ministry consistently. We understand that is the major issue that is being addressed here because of the parallel account we find over in Luke 22:24-25. Verses 24 and 25 say, “But there was also rivalry among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise leadership over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called “benefactors.”’” The question is, what are we building? Are we using our faith on our flesh to bring forth God’s Church into the full measure of their gifting and calling, or are we using our faith to build our own personal kingdom? One is encouraged. The other is rebuked. One is of God. One is of the devil. One demonstrates the heart of a servant. The other demonstrates the heart of an abuser. **WHICH HEART will WE build?**

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ITINERARY

Al Houghton

March 7-14

Lighthouse Christian Church

Kilauea-Kauai, HI

Services: 7th & 14th 9:30AM

Phone: (808)826-9080

9th 10th & 11th 7:00PM

March 18-20

Minister’s Conference, Servant Ministries

Honeysuckle Inn 3598 Shepherd Of The Hills Expressway, Branson, MO

Phone: 1-800-942-3553 to register

Services: 18th & 19th 7:00PM