

# WORLD AT WORK

## VOLUME XL NUMBER X PREPARING FOR PERSECUTION II

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Scripture: Matthew 10:1-14

As God begins to restore and complete five-fold ministry teams in multiple places, He will bring forth the anointing to be deposited within the saints for a great end-time harvest. As that occurs, we will most likely find ourselves under the same constraints as the early church leaders who found themselves on assignment in hostile territory. Our primary purpose is, as their's was, to share the gospel. God has a very distinct purpose for where we go and what we say. We must be prepared for the fruit of obeying His leadership: great upheaval and much persecution! If we look to the ultimate purpose of God, which is a great harvest, we can understand the necessity for following His leadership. Even though it results in many unsavory circumstances and confrontational situations. The purpose of God will be fulfilled in the end-times, and we must choose whether or not to be the vessels of honor for its attainment. Jesus died for a harvest of nations! This starts the last great opportunity for the fallen world to receive salvation. The ever-increasing conflict culminates in ever-increasing judgments until man is without excuse! If you can't bring the judgment, you do not speak for God.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Scripture: Matthew 10:15-18

As Jesus continued instructing the Twelve before sending them out, He narrowed his focus in teaching them that the eternal fruit would be well worth the persecution they would encounter. What was true for them is certainly true for us. In effect, Jesus said to the Twelve, 'You are becoming a dividing line, a plumbline in the wilderness. As a result of the testimony you give, for those who hear your words, a line is drawn in the sand. Just as Moses did with Israel when he came down from the mountain and found the people in midst of great sin, your words will draw an important line. The witness and testimony you give will force people to choose between continuing in their current lifestyle or changing through repentance.' Verse 18 is very revealing and makes it clear, "*You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*" The phrase "*as a testimony to*" reveals the ultimate purpose of God in the witness he calls us to give. At times that witness is so sharp and provokes an immediate response. In verse 17 Jesus warned, "*But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.*" Why must we endure the persecution of men resulting from giving forth God's messages? Since the price tag for persecution falls on the church, surely we have the right to understand God's ultimate purpose for a message that many will not receive anyway!

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Scripture: Romans 1:18-23

In Romans 1:18-23, Paul answers why we must endure persecution. Verse 20 says, "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,...*" The ultimate issue is that every individual will stand utterly without excuse at the judgment seat of Christ. In order for that to become reality, multiple opportunities for repentance and change are given to all, consistent with God's nature of mercy and grace. It appears the Father is recruiting an army of witnesses to

speak, say and live, doing things which bring conviction upon those who hear and see. If the onlookers choose to harden their hearts, their response will bring judgment to themselves and persecution to the witnesses. The price paid for them being speechless on judgment day comes out of our flesh. The spiritual law seems to determine the future relationship of the believer to the world, as we progressively move toward the end-times. This law may even define the relationships within the church because of the magnitude of deception on Christians. Are those expecting the rapture ready for persecution? Are they willing to pay the ultimate price?

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Scripture: Matthew 10:19-26

On judgment day, everyone will be utterly without excuse. Removing excuses requires a willingness to pay the price of martyrdom. What God calls us to do and say will reveal hidden hatred toward Him in the hearts of many. Jesus tells us that we need not worry and we certainly should not fear. For everything in the heart will be revealed! Nothing can be hidden any longer. The more we approach the end-times, the greater the degree of manifestation in the church first, then the world. We are living at the point where ongoing sin can no longer be hidden within leadership in the body of Christ. No one can vote for communism or socialism and call themselves a Christian. Christian hearts are revealed first. And after that, God will deal with the world. Those things hidden in the heart are coming to the surface such as attitude, motivation, desires and goals. The course which God has charted gets more intense as we progress toward the winding up of the age. Verse 22 is a stark reminder of what is ahead, *“And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”* Persecution will increase dramatically. As we look toward the purpose of God, we can realize why these things must be and gird up the loins of our mind in preparation for martyrdom!

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Scripture: Matthew 10:27-28

Our fear in the end-times must be properly placed. It has to shift away from the fear of man and what others can do to us. It has to shift to the fear of God! Jesus made that clear to the Twelve: *“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* There has to come a holy fear of the Lord that drives us to speak the truth even in the face of death itself. We have all heard many sermons on the fear of the Lord as a reverential respect for God. The truth is, in the end-times the fear of what will happen to us by God if we do not obey has to exceed the fear of what will happen to us from man when we obey God! Are we there yet? Some will repent, saying, ‘Disaster from the Lord terrifies me and because of His majesty I could not do these things.’ (Job 31:23)

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Scripture: Matthew 10:29–37

Jesus made it very clear that if we expect to have Him confess us before the Father, we must be willing to speak what He tells us before men. Verse 33 says, *“But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”* Jesus is speaking here in the context of openly preaching from the housetops those things that He speaks to us in secret, bringing to pass the truth of verse 26, *“...For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.”* Verse 33 very distinctly speaks about our refusal to stand up and say what God ordains because we fear destruction and reprisal to our own life from those to whom we were sent. He said in verse 33, *“But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”* When we study the early church, it appears that martyrdom was a normative Christian experience. The early church expected it! What does today’s church expect? A diet of exclusively Jesus-loves-you, turn-the-other-cheek Christianity does not prepare end-time witnesses. Verse 34 is distinct, *“Do not think I came to bring peace on earth. And I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”* Could we find ourselves running from meeting to meeting, looking for an anointed word that comforts when we should be seeking the anointing that will bring judgment on the wicked? If we are so engrossed with meeting our personal agenda, needs and desires, what chance do we have of survival when the sword appears? Isaiah 11:4 promises, *“The breath of your lips will slay the wicked.”* Revelation 11:5 promises the same thing. Is your church preparing you to walk in this end-time promise?

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Scripture: Matthew 10:38–42, 11:1

When we consciously set our love on a holy God and His purpose, the cross that comes into our life becomes something we can receive and embrace rather than run from. Jesus covers this point in preparation for ministry when He says, *“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.”* After making this point, Jesus departed into each of their cities preaching, which meant all their old friends, family and acquaintances began to see who they were involved with and many became offended because of what was preached. Just as Jesus endured the animosity of His own brothers and sisters, so would the Twelve endure the same response from some of their families. When God puts His Word on our tongues, is it not possible that the family of faith where we grew up might not readily receive the new work He wants to bring? When we face friends from the past and the issue is, ‘Who are you? We remember what you were like back then...’ There is a work God needs to do in our hearts. It is a work which, upon completion allows us to follow Jesus and set our face like flint going to our destiny that may include martyrdom. As we get closer to the day of the witnesses in Revelation 11, we will face those that want to harm us. And if we prepare ourselves for persecution – if we develop the purity, maturity and security in *all* of Who Christ is, the Lord will slay anyone who tries to harm us before we finish our race. If your church is not preparing you to face this persecution, you should be looking for a place to grow into who God wants you to be!

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Scripture: Matthew 5:10- 12

What should our attitude be when persecution intensifies? Verses 10-12 are very explicit. Jesus said when persecution arises as a result of doing what He told us to do, we are blessed and the kingdom belongs to us. When reviling, persecution, lies and evil rumors abound because of standing for Him, we are to rejoice and be exceedingly glad because our reward in heaven exponentially increases due to the manifestation of these adversaries. There is eternal fruit which comes from persecution’s work within us that we need to set our hearts on right now. It would appear from scripture that persecution produces something in eternity which can be attained no other way!

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Scripture: Luke 10:10-21

Jesus said one of the primary reasons we can rejoice in the midst of persecution is that we are being used to reveal scorners and consequently separate them. Persecution is inevitable in the structure of God’s plans for the latter days. It is necessary if everyone is to stand before God utterly without excuse. The Lord will say to many, ‘I spoke to you and told you truth but you rejected it!’ They will respond, ‘When did you speak to us and tell us?’ The answer will be, ‘When my servants opened their mouths and proclaimed the truths that so offended you.’ Our attitude in the midst of persecution has to be that of rejoicing.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-45

Immediately after rejoicing when persecution comes, we must train ourselves to lift up in prayer those who manifest violent reactions to what the Lord has called us to share. One of the reasons why we need to pray for the people that persecute us is so that the rain can come upon them. God desires salvation and when God’s rain begins to fall on them, it escalates the process that Scripture reveals must flow in the end-times. There is another very important reason why we need to pray for the people who persecute us. It is not only because it helps enable us to forgive thereby elevating our hearts, but because it helps escalate the principle of God and ultimately uncovers their heart for judgment!

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Scripture: Hebrews 6:7-8

Hebrews 6:7-8 speaks to the principle of escalation when rain continues to fall on soil that does not produce repentance and change. It says, *“For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for*

*those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.”* When we pray for those who persecute us for speaking the truth, many times in God’s mercy and grace, He gives them multiple opportunities to hear the same message but probably in a different way or from another source, so that repentance will come forth. After those opportunities, when repentance does not come forth, then judgment falls. The principal is this: rain rejected ultimately brings judgment. This is very clear and incontrovertible. The rain you and I pray on those who persecute us may be used to separate the wheat from the chaff.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Scripture: Revelation 8:1-5

In Revelation 8:1-5, we see a reference to the previously described scenario unfold in heaven. Verse 1 says, *“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”* Verse 3 says, *“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”* What was the result of the prayers of the saints mixed with incense? As it ascended before God, a response came in the form of fire, *“Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.”* When prayers for salvation and deliverance are prayed, especially for those who are persecuting the church, the rain of mercy and grace comes to them with the opportunity to repent. When they adamantly do not turn, it appears those prayers offered with incense turn into judgments that come back up on their heads. To be in such a position is hazardous. It should be noted that when the saints respond correctly there is little delay in the fulfilling of the cycle; and we can expect that in ever greater manifestation as we approach the end of the age.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Scripture: Matthew 12:46-50

Matthew 12:46-50 describes the attitude of Jesus concerning His true Family. Jesus in essence says, ‘My family is not the one I was born into physically, but it is the group of people who do the will of God.’ When we come to the place where we can accept this standard, we can begin to rejoice, because never again will there be a hindrance because of what a family member thinks. It is time we made some decisions about who our real family is. The real Family are those who do His will. Even if persecution comes from our blood relatives, we can still rejoice knowing that our spiritual Family ties are solid and unbroken!

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Peter gives us an outline of how to walk in the blessings of God. He tells us when we choose, *“...Not to return evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing...”* we move into an area of covenant promise that is indeed glorious in every respect. When we respond like Jesus did and pray for those who are persecuting us, we release a covenant blessing that really comes no other way. God promises to bring us into good with full provision and covenant blessing. No one could kill Jesus before the appointed time. He proved that on several occasions by turning around and walking right out of the midst of the crowd when they wanted to push Him off a cliff. Jesus hid Himself. There is no insurance policy that can give you protection like that! It comes by obeying God’s will and adhering to His ways. If we set a pattern of making these decisions now, they will become automatic response as the fire of persecution increases. If we set our pathway in cement, we will guarantee the blessing and protection of God until it is time to go home!

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:13-14

Peter said it very well, probably because he watched it happen in the life of Jesus. *“And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?”* Peter had watched them try to kill Jesus but they couldn’t ‘lay a glove on him’ until the appointed season that God had foreordained. Isn’t that the kind of covenant blessing we want to walk in?

If anarchy continues to intensify in the United States, only those who are immersed in truth and covenant-assured will dare to openly continue meeting and ministering. Are we not approaching that place in some states?

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15-17

According to verses 15-17, it is very important when persecution comes that we maintain a clear conscience. The way we respond to persecution is absolutely critical to maintaining a pure heart and a clear conscience before the Lord. When we maintain a clear conscience by rejecting unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment, we can pray in faith, calling forth opportunities for their repentance. We can decree God's covenant purpose and plan in the lives of others. When we maintain a clear conscience, we also have the faith in our heart for deliverance and the ability to continue to do what God has ordained. Peter had been in prison and threatened more than once. Is it any wonder he could speak so boldly to the conduct and character required in a season of dramatic persecution? He lived through it, and now we can learn the wisdom of what God taught him. If we heed it, that wisdom will carry us through as it carried him through.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1-2

The confinements which Peter endured in prison undoubtedly helped him determine and become established in what was really important. He said, *"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."* When one is in prison with life hanging in the balance, it seems reasonable that paying the rent will no longer be the primary faith challenge. It is apparent Peter made similar determinations. The things of priority to most were no longer high on his list. He was going to dedicate and live his life for the eternal purpose and plan of God. Is crossing that line what opens the prison door and releases angelic intervention, setting us free to finish the race? Our future may depend on it. Find a church/teacher/source that prepares you for persecution!

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:4-19

In verses 12-13 Peter said, *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."* Persecution produces an eternal fruit and should bring forth a rejoicing because, according to verse 14, the Spirit of glory and of God comes upon us. This is a Holy Spirit empowerment one can get no other way, producing great fruit and an eternal reward. There is an anointing and blessing few of us in America have ever experienced because we have not faced a heightened level of persecution. When persecution comes, the Spirit of glory and God will rest upon us in a measure we have never seen. It will be a season of great glory and tremendous harvest. It is something to walk toward and not away from.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-5

As we begin to look at the subject of persecution, it might be good to make a quick survey of 2 Timothy. This is probably the last epistle Paul wrote. He was writing from a Roman prison in the year 67 AD. 2 Timothy has a summation of the wisdom Paul had learned from years of ministry and we can view it as a manual for warfare. It tells us how to successfully complete the race we are called to run, accomplishing God's personal assignments through our giftings and callings. The very first thing Paul dealt with in 2 Timothy 1 is outlined for Timothy. Those who had turned away from Paul because he was in chains and facing imminent death. It was undoubtedly through fear of reprisal that those who formally walked with Paul had turned away. In 2 Timothy 2:3 it says, *"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* One of the first and primary fruits of the persecution which is coming to the church, is disentanglement from the affairs of this life as outlined in Verse 4. When our life is on the line, it forces us to reassess what is really important!

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Scripture: Acts 8:1-4

In Acts 8:1-4, we see the reality of how persecution disentangles people from life's pleasures and comforts. Jerusalem had become a desirable place because of the apostles ministry. The church was enjoying the blessing of the anointing God was pouring through the apostles in teaching, signs, wonders and miracles. God had to shore things up by expanding His reach and pushing the church out of their comfort zone! The persecution shook the apple cart and forced many to get out on the road and into a new location where they would have great opportunity to share their faith. What if the FBI started taking people to jail for being outspoken in their faith? How important would color coordinating your house with wallpaper, drapes, furniture and knickknacks be when your freedom, or your life was on the line? Persecution may indeed sweep through the land, forcing God's people out of the natural realm and into the spiritual or eternal realm.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:6-13

When persecution comes, we are forced to realistically face the issue of who we are living our lives for. Are we living our lives for ourselves or living them for the Lord? What is God's call? What am I committed to? And what am I really willing to die for? In an hour of persecution all the social niceties aren't worth much. Positions of power and influence are no longer important. What is important is what God has called us to do and our obedience to His voice. There is nothing that brings reality and priority home like persecution. Could we find this depth of heart and purpose in some other way?

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:14-15, Matthew 12:25

Verse 14 clearly speaks to an issue in the church which fades rapidly during a season of persecution. Paul says to Timothy, *"Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers."* Doctrinal striving between leaders in the church brings great destruction, division and strife to the Saints. Paul calls it, *"...to the ruin of the hearers."* What would it take for the church to be delivered from the doctrine of the pre-tribulation rapture? The chief agent in scripture for dissolving minuscule doctrinal differences is persecution! In such an hour, the church learns the truth of what Jesus preached in Matthew 12:25, *"But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.'" When persecution comes, we stand together on the fact that Jesus is Lord!*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Scripture: Acts 4:1-3, 17-22

There is a progression in this passage which shows how Christians benefit from persecution. In Acts 4:1-3, persecution begins, *"Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening."* Church leaders choose how to respond. Verse 17 reveals the motivation of the leadership. Persecution reveals individual commitment of heart to speak for the Lord. Verse 19 says that persecutors demanded they no longer speak about Jesus, and at that point they had to take a stand. The early church said, *'We choose to obey God rather than man.'*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Scripture: Acts 4:18-33, 5:29; Psalm 119:67

The response of the early church was they chose to obey God! Acts 4:18 says, *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge."* Their response was crystal clear, *"Anoint us to obey."* They raise their voices and cried out to God for an anointing of boldness to enable them to stand. In Acts 4:30 they prayed God would double their boldness, *"...by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."* They were asking for an anointing that would make them so bold God would give

incontrovertible evidence of the reality of what they had been commanded by the Father to preach. God answered with what we would call a double anointing. Acts 4:33 says, *“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.”* Is it possible the price tag of the double portion in the last days is walking through persecution? It is time to pray their prayer of agreement!

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15-18

Persecution will demand a boldness to speak, that goes beyond where most believers are at this point in their Christian growth. Notice Paul’s willingness to mention the name of those who were providing the gospel or watering it down. We have seen books that mention names, but generally the authors have been so far off themselves that they certainly don’t qualify under the banner of this passage. The counterfeit, cloaked in manipulation and deception, often to a degree parallels the real. Here we see the real exposing the counterfeit. I expect those days will grow in intensity as we progress toward the end. There’s one thing you can count on in the end-times, it will certainly not be boring!

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:19-26

Perhaps the greatest fruit of persecution is that it brings purification, as believers begin to realize that obedience to God is a life or death issue. Paul outlines this purifying process of bringing forth sanctified vessels fit for the Master’s use. Vessels of honor become so through repentance and victory over the dictates of the flesh. Purification is rapidly coming to the church, as God releases an anointing which brings forth a revival of repentance. Persecution is inevitable in such an hour.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Persecution also exposes the apostasy of those who choose to follow the pathway of least resistance. Verse 5 is very explicit, *“...having a form of godliness but denying its power.”* The power of the Gospel is the Cross, but the ability of God is only released when we receive the cross separating us from the dictates of the flesh and giving us a heart to serve Him unto death. There are those within congregations and ministries who look good but the true depth of commitment will only be revealed as persecution rises to test us. Paul says by the Holy Spirit, *“...From such turn away.”* I believe we have lived through a season where you could sit on the fence with one foot in the world and one foot in the church, but we are rapidly coming to the season where that will no longer be possible. A church that is really going to be the true church, demands we deal with our flesh. What is the standard where you attend? We need to leave selfishness, shallowness and passivity behind and become prayer-patriots. It is the hour for surrender and obedience. This is not a time to run from God’s dealings upon our flesh but rather turn and run toward growth! Have we acquired sufficient oil to stand boldly and fearlessly in the evil day? May we be sons and daughters of the fresh oil of the Holy Spirit!

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Verses 12 and 13 outlines for us the necessity to prepare for persecution. They say, *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”* We currently find ourselves on a pathway which we have to choose to stay on. It is very difficult to stay on this roadway because it is the path of purification and cleansing. It is the roadway which demands Ever-increasing holiness. All those who think they can walk with God and still allow sin in their life come to a cycle of ever increasing deception, which the Holy Spirit describes in verse 13. I believe we are entering such a season and those who resist the Holy Spirit and His dealings with their flesh will find themselves in a very dangerous place in the weeks and months ahead.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Perhaps this passage sums up the benefits of persecution in the life of Paul. He was approaching death. Persecution purifies the church, filters out flakes, gets rid of the rotten leaven/doctrine and plants the seed of purity for those who remain, so that God's power can flow through the remnant. Timothy was such a man with Paul. Timothy watched Paul live. He saw his motivation. He saw his integrity, his strength and his conviction. And Timothy was determined to live the same pattern. Will we choose to voice God's standard and declare what God hates – every year the sin that destroyed Sodom grows in legal protection and acceptance! Samuel refused the lifestyle of Eli! If we refuse to walk like Samuel, we will do a great disservice to the future generations and impede the end-time harvest that is so close to the Lord's heart. Is persecution necessary? I wish it were not, but it appears obvious that it is. It is time to seek God and ask Him to join us with those of like precious faith. *"Oh, that you would slay the wicked!"*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Scripture: Daniel 12:1-10

Daniel's vision of the end-time is really quite unique. He saw the power of the holy people being completely shattered. He heard but he did not understand. He cried out for understanding. The Lord said it to Daniel in verse 10, *"Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand."* Many of the wicked felt like they were prevailing over Jesus, especially when he was condemned to death on the cross, but the truth is God's plan was being fulfilled. 1 Corinthians tells us had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. Everything changed at the resurrection! Are we now about to see in some measure a repeat of the same principle? Ten years from now we will look back and say, had the enemy known what power would be released through the church, he would never have come against us in the way he did! Are we prepared to walk through such a season? Let's continue the process of preparation! The time is at hand! May we be sons and daughters of the fresh oil of the Holy Spirit! *"Oh, that you would slay the wicked!"*

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-18

This is a parenthetical note for all those who live to see Apostolic team ministry come forth in the church in the years ahead. It seems that everyone who moves in what God has for them is destined to experience the trials and catastrophes that were part of Jesus' own ministry. In our zeal to fulfill God's Word, many times we join ourselves with people that seem to be of like precious faith but it is only in a time of intense persecution or testing that every facet of what is in our hearts will be revealed. This causes a turning away and a separation which is not enjoyable. It is hard to explain to believers, and yet we see Paul not hesitating but telling the truth about such separations! This appears to be a pattern we are going to have to learn to live by in the days ahead as we are called to some of the same things. To me, team ministry is a lifelong commitment and only God can join fully committed people together!