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First Light Herald



Jeff & Cerise Welter

Volume 3, Issue 11

Whole Hearted



Rom 10:10 For **with the heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

When we open our bibles to the New Testament we see so many wondrous things. We see men doing great exploits for the Lord. We see men persecuted for their faith, for their believing. We see a man who was willing to pursue and persecute the Body of the Anointed (Christ) into the ground, but he changed from a zealous warrior for the law to a man who would give us the most important secrets of the kingdom of heaven. We read in

Hebrews 11 a list of valiant believers who were willing to even lay down their lives because they actually believed and trusted what God was saying to them. We should be NO different, so why are we?

Let's go back to the parable of the sower and find out what has affected the Body so profoundly that it looks like it is dead or dying. First, let us look at this verse above. The apostle of the Lamb, Paul (Sha'ul) writes this eye opening letter to the Romans. He lets these ex-Gentile or ex-pagan led believers in on a secret. He tells them we don't believe with our heads, but with our hearts. The word used here in the Greek is kardia, but folks you can no more believe with the blood pump in your chest than you can taste with the tongues in your shoes. Paul is speaking of the core of a human. He is speaking of the place where the spirit of man is alive.

1 Peter 3:4 But let it be **the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of **a meek and quiet spirit**, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Here we have another of Paul's writings to the Body. This time he is instructing wives how to deal with unbelieving and disobedient husbands. He tells them not to preach and nag their husbands if they are NOT obeying the word, but to rely on the silent witness of their own godly behavior. He is telling them to allow the *hidden man of their heart* to shine; the meek and quiet spirit within each one of them to be the silent witness of God's presence and will.

Within each of us is that same hidden man of the heart. It is where faith is produced. Much like the deep warm earth or heart of the garden produces a verdant yield of fruit and vegetables, so is the heart of man and its power to produce faith.



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Special points of interest:

?? Please continue to lift the following in prayer:

?? Barnabas D'Souza India

?? Pavel and Irina Belarus

?? Chima Nigeria

?? Murphy's Mexico

?? Anna Mexico

Whole Hearted.....continued



Now let us return to the “Sower who sows the seed”. Let me first remind you that this parable is repeated in three places in the NT; in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8. I exhort each of you to **read** and **reread** these passages. Chew the cud and re-digest these stories over and over. The Lord told us that the mysteries contained herein are so great that the prophets of old and the righteous of old spent their lives hunting for them, but they were meant to be revealed at Yeshua/Jesus’ arrival. (Matthew 13:17) When I read such things I follow the Lord’s advice and really delve into the recesses of what Abba Father has hidden in them.

Let me give you a HUGE key of understanding for these parables. God is revealing the hearts of all mankind in this parable. If man uses his heart to believe we can then see just why some men hold fast to faith and others do NOT. The more we understand about this parable the more we will know how to produce faith and the byproducts of faith!

Reminder: Parables are natural stories with spiritual wisdom hidden within them. The more you meditate upon them and put them into action the more you will glean from them! You determine how productive your heart is. It is up to you and the amount of diligence you are willing to put out for the cause of faith.

So let’s go a little deeper, shall we? I am not going to use this space to put the entire parable here, but I will give you a little insight into them so when you read it you will have a better “reading light”. Remember that Matthew was a tax collector and surrendered it for the gospel. He writes as a man with knowledge of that world. Mark was a young man so he writes with the zeal of youth. Luke WAS a physician so he is more analytical and also had a great knowledge of the human body. Always consider who is doing the retelling. God uses our gifts for a reason. He doesn’t give us gifts and then expect us to try to work outside of them. God works WITH us.

Here is the list of what **YOU** need to study:

Matthew 13:3-35

Mark 4:3-34

Luke 8:5-18

The Lord Yeshua (salvation in Hebrew) was teaching us how to be productive in faith by sharing this parable. He spoke in parables for our own protection. If the wicked were able to glean from these parables and to believe they could produce faith for their wicked devices. The word of God convicts and convinces so wicked men really avoid it from the get go. For those of us with living spirits God has entrusted His faith. He tells us through Mark that we are to “Have (hold onto) the faith of God” (Mark 11).

Here are the conditions of the ground and their effect on the seed that was sown.

1. Trodden wayside-hard packed ground where seed can’t penetrate-fowls eat the seed upon it.
 2. Rocky soil-ground where seed can only perform for a while-withered and dies.
 3. Thorny soil-ground where seed can only begin to produce-choked and dies.
- Good soil-prepared ground where seed was productive-better soil produced better fruit.

Here is the deeper truth contained within and an example of each.

Those who don’t understand the word of God (the word of the kingdom) have heard the word but it never penetrated their hearts so the adversary consumes it or eats it. Hard hearts come from repeated exposure to God’s word without ever doing God’s word. The adversary is always after the word sown in and around our hearts. He is ulti-

Whole Hearted.....continued

mately after the BIG seed, Yeshua. If he can get us to doubt that HE was the Messiah and that HE fulfilled all righteousness HE will kill us.

Example: King Agrippa after Paul preached to him in Acts 26:28.

There are also those who have gladly received the word of the kingdom or the word of God but have affliction or persecution come to try them (and it will always happen this way) they are offended because of it and the word withers and never produces a born again man.

Example: Peter is told he will deny the Lord three times. Persecution comes at him as he sees the Lord crucified. He is offended at the idea of giving his life for the Word (the Lord being that word) and denies him. Praise God he had a second chance at believing.

Those who are represented by rocky soil are those who trying to stay half in the world and half in the kingdom. In affect they are fence sitters. They love the world, they care for the world, they worry about their needs and lust after all that the world offers. They TRY to love God at the same time. They hear a truth from the kingdom, but the love of the world gets in the way. The word gets choked out by their occupation with the everyday pressures of the world. They don't trust that God is on their side and willing to provide and the life giving power of the word is choked out of their hearts.

Example: See Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1.)This is serious business folks.

Finally we see a good heart. This heart is **prepared** by being shown repentance from dead works by someone who understands that we need to understand righteousness in order to have the kingdom of heaven. They must be taught that they must give up the temporal (temporary) world for God's eternal kingdom. We must be pre-warned about the devil's devices. We must know how to keep the world behind us and God and His kingdom and His will always before us.

Example: The life of Paul. He began with his own agenda and surrendered it. He was ready to give his life at the very end and his reward was waiting for him with the Lord in heaven.

Spread the Word

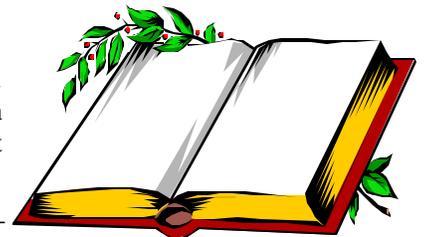
There is absolutely no reason why YOU cannot be a messenger of the gospel. The first step is always the hardest, but if you take that step you will never turn back. There is nothing quite like sharing the gospel for the first time. Your heart is pounding out of your chest. You feel like you're going to die! BUT, you don't die.

Yeshua/Jesus told the disciples "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel". The message he left 2000 years ago is just as important (if not more important) today as it was when he physically walked the earth.

How to start: Buy a nice new bible. Pray over the bible. Ask God to show you where to plant that bible. Walk out the door. Listen for His voice. Follow His instructions. Give the bible to the person it belongs to. Let them know God loves them. Let them know that God loved them SOOOO much that He sent you on a journey to give them His heart, His love in written form. Tell that person that the bible is God speaking to them. The more they read the better they will be able to hear His voice for themselves.

Start them off by reading 1st, 2nd and 3^d John to them or having them read it for themselves. These are love chapters. You can also have them read 1 Corinthians 13 which speaks of the love of God. Everyone needs the love of God. We are all so alone in this world without God and God is LOVE.

After you've shared the word one time you'll just simply have to try it again. No one can do it just once. We challenge you to step out of the boat. Ready? Set? Go!



Summer Adventures



It's almost summer time and we've been working towards a huge goal. We want to disciple all the children we led to the Lord during the last Spring break. We've purchased all sorts of crafts and supplies and are doing the last minute curricula planning. All that is left to do is send out the invitations and buy prizes for all those hard working kids. We will also be buying bibles for any new kids that happen to come along.

We ask for your prayers as we step out once again and start our summer bible club. Our theme for the first four weeks will be "Soldiers of the Lord" and the second four weeks, "Treasure in the Word".

The world has all sorts of entrapments that keep kids from ever hearing the truth of God's word so we must use good bait to draw them to the cross. We are after all, "fishers of men". We ask for your prayers in the days and weeks ahead. God has been more than faithful to provide the natural resources, but we must tap into the Spirit to reach these kids and hold their hearts for the kingdom.

Along with the challenges of corralling 30+ kids comes the challenge of squeezing another adult into our humble home. We have been blessed with a young woman who is willing to do just about anything we need. We, in exchange, are teaching her the things that God has laid on our hearts to share. For now she is taking one of the rooms in our home and that means its contents must be moved, but to where? There is no room at the inn.

We are at present trusting for direction in the days ahead about our housing situation. We want to practice contentment along with our godliness as we trust it is "great gain". We do however have need of a larger home to be able to store all the resources and supplies that true "religion" requires. Letting go of our comfortable home is tough. We have so many memories in this home, but reality is speaking so loudly that facing facts is our only recourse. It's time to ask and believe for larger quarters.

It is easy to be too close to see the trees for the forest and so we ask for *your* prayers. God will surely provide what we need, but what that is is just too hard for us to see at present. Thank you for your voices joined to ours as we seek His will.

Working Out with Jeff Types and Shadows



John 17:14-23 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in

me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

I was taught that Joseph was a "type and a shadow" or an example of the coming Messiah. He was our example of a suffering servant, but he was NOT the Messiah. He was only a picture of what was to come. King David was another "type and shadow" of the coming Messiah, but he was an example of a conquering king. With only these two examples or types and shadows we begin to understand what our teachers wanted us to know. My first pastor taught me what a "type and a shadow" was using these two examples. What I got from his teaching were two sto

Types & Shadowscontinued

ries, period. I could tell my wife the new story I learned about Joseph. I could tell my friends at work about the new story I learned about David, but I was NEVER taught that Jesus was also a “type and a shadow” or an example of THE Body of Christ.

Paul told us that the power of God is in the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we mistakenly believe that learning little stories about “types and shadows” will help us get closer to God we will find ourselves powerless. We can learn from teachers all day, everyday and learn ABOUT God, but because of the gospel and the power that is in it we can KNOW God. He will in turn get to KNOW us. Learning ABOUT God is alright because everyone starts somewhere, but are you satisfied with knowing about Him instead of getting to KNOW Him and becoming so intimate with Him that you know what HE desires?

Types and shadows are not OF our Christ or OF our God. There is after all NO SHADOW OF TURNING in our God. We don't need to study the shadow of the hand that is casting the shadow to get to know the hand. We need to make ourselves familiar with the hand. The casting of shadows is for people that are outside the light. Types and shadows were given to direct men to look for the coming Messiah. He has already come so why focus on the hope of him coming. It's time to lay down the kindergarten lessons of our spiritual childhood and walk as men (and women).

The Body of Christ that Jesus WAS when he walked the earth is who we are supposed to be now. He was the WHOLE Body of Christ in himself. By our accepting his sacrifice we become the Body, but made of many many parts. He was the first begotten and we are the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth.....millionth, etc. begotten. If you are the one millionth begotten son you need to begin to look at Jesus and what he did, where he went, why he went there, what he said when he got there and so on. He is our example, our pattern of what the Body of Christ (which we are) should be. Christ Jesus, by his spirit is the head speaking to the Body (us).

In Mark's account of the gospel he retells Jesus' last instructions to us. His words are words of huge faith in the Body he is about to leave on the earth. He expects us to walk and talk just like he walked and talked. With no reservation whatsoever he tells us to “cast out devils”. Most of us have don't have enough faith in ourselves to cast out the trash into the dumpster, let alone tangle with demons. It all stems from not knowing who we are because of him and who we are in him. He really did perform all righteousness. He really did make us righteous.

We must quit looking in the mirror to decide whether we are capable of doing what he said. That flesh body you see in the mirror isn't YOU. Hidden within you is a power that can move mountains, a power that can raise the very dead. Peter called the hidden man of the heart the divine nature of God. It was God's plan to put His Spirit BACK into man. He started this whole thing putting His Spirit into man and that is how He intended it to end.

If you return to the prayer of our Lord just before he was crucified (John 17) you will see what high hopes he had and has for his Body. He knew what was ahead, but his faith was in the Spirit of the Living God. That Spirit would quicken the dead man and cause him to do great exploits.

Believe the word. Believe the righteousness. Believe the power that raised Christ from the dead and know that it/he dwells in you now. Stop looking at your body that casts a shadow thinking that is who you are. Within you beats the heart of our Messiah himself. The answers have never been the types and shadows, those examples pointed TO the answer.

I believe that Jesus received what he asked for in his prayer, and we are going to become one Body being made of many members (parts). We will all come in the unity of the faith. We are the real thing and not a type and a shadow. We are the Body of Christ, the Anointing. We carry that anointing and not for ourselves but for those who need it.

Effective Prayer



Prayer is communication with God. To communicate is to be in touch with one another. Most of us throw prayers out like an archer might shoot an arrow into the night sky. We know we sent it up and out, but have no idea if it hit its mark. We have had some teaching about prayer, but its time to get God's heart on prayer. In the months ahead we shall share what we are learning about accurate communication with God. Not only will we send out words spoken in prayer, but in a true form of communication we shall expect to hear someone on the other end of the line. Communication isn't talking and talking and talking without ever listening. There is a reason we have two ears and one mouth.

Prayer must be powered by faith and faith comes by HEARING, not speaking. It's time to ask God what He wills and then listen for the answer. We have spent too much time asking for what we want and then hoping God will bless our plan.

Don't just skip over these verses. Read and reread them. Faith comes by hearING.

Matt 6:25-34 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **BUT seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We are supposed to seek the kingdom (God's will) and rightstanding with Him. If we do this and work to establish HIS kingdom He promises to provide our natural needs. He knows we have need of all the natural things we're running after. He did after all create all the resources to provide those natural things in the first place. He even gave us the brains that figured out how to make everything we hold so dear. Those things are so temporary and the kingdom is REALLY eternal.

It is so easy to fall for the trap of loving the world and the things that are in it. We must learn to hear His voice so He can warn us when we're about to fall in yet another trap of the adversary. He works to get us to exalt the stuff to a higher place than it belongs. The stuff is for our enjoyment, but not at the expense of our lives with God.

Prayer to establish His covenant will assure us of our needs being met. Let us learn how to communicate (co means two-way) with our God. He longs to walk with us in the cool of the day. He wants us to give ourselves over to loving Him as much as He loves us.

Heavenly Father,

We need You so much. Forgive us for letting our communication with You suffer. We have put so many silly things before You on a daily basis. We have allowed ourselves to get too busy with the things of this world. We do trust You with our eternal souls, so we should be willing to trust You with our temporal needs. We commit ourselves to Your love and to Your will in the days ahead. Teach us to make communication with You a regular and dependable thing. Help us to be disciplined enough to say no to the ringing phones, enticing media and everyday busyness of life. Help us put You first place in our lives. Help us put Your written word as the bedrock upon which

Effective Prayer.....continued

we build everything. When we hear Your voice help us “try all spirits” to know which are just imitations and which is YOU. You told us Your sheep would hear Your voice and another they would not follow. Help us to know the counterfeits by knowing You so intimately there is NO doubt about who is speaking.

Abba, You have been so faithful to us. You have been so patient with us. You have been so long suffering with us. Please be patient just a little longer. We love and need You more than life itself for You are our life and the strength of our lives. Thank You for Yeshua/Jesus and his willingness to suffer in flesh. Thank You for Your precious Holy Spirit, may we always be sensitive to the leading of Your Spirit. You are growing more precious to us everyday and we need You desperately. Thank You for everything.

Amen

With You in Trouble

Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Ps 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.

Many of you are faced with trouble on what seems like a constant basis. You get out of one sticky mess and another seems to rear its ugly head. There are times when you even despair of life and wish for the end to come prematurely. So how do we go on? Well we could remember the Lord's words, “In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world”. In effect he was telling us, “If I can do it you can do it.”

God really will be with you in the worst trouble you can imagine. We need to see or envision Him standing with us, beside us, in us and around us in the middle of every situation. We never know when the trouble makers will show up. He's going to try to make us doubt. He's going to try to make us fall. He's going to try to make us think that we are all alone.

In your prayer and meditation time go over these two small verses. Stir up the memory of the last times you were in really serious trouble. Consider how God got you out of each one of those messes. We tend to forget the last victory we had. We tend to focus much too closely on the trouble we're in at the moment.

When David was in the middle of one of his hardest battles, he took the time to encourage himself in the Lord. I think he reminded himself of the past victories he'd experienced. When David was faced with defeating Goliath he reminded himself and those around him of his past success in downing huge animals. He equated Goliath with an animal that was going down.

1 Sam 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.



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Jeff & Cerise's June 2006 Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Prayer & Bible Study Day	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
Please pray for the children each Wednesday as we will be	Teaching them from 10AM-noon each Wed.	Please call for directions 432-550-7642	Meetings open to all	1	2 Lovington 2227 E. Waters Hebison's 7-9PM	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Hobbs Doc Dean's office 7-9:PM	10 Roswell Meeting 2401 N. Grand McCutcheon 2-4PM
11	12	13	14 Odessa 18 Antebellum 7-9PM Godwin's	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Odessa 10 Louisiana Cove 7-9PM Bailey's	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Odessa 18 Antebellum 7-9PM Godwin's	29	30	