

First Light Herald

Got Religion?



Yacov (James in your King James Bibles) told us that pure religion was this:

James {1:27} Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.

It isn't difficult to find the fatherless or widows in affliction. In fact it's easier to just close your eyes and pretend they aren't everywhere. In fact a good friend we hadn't talked to in months had called me yesterday and let us know her husband had passed away. I was very surprised. He'd been gone for three months and she'd been going through the early stages of widowhood by herself.

As far as the fatherless or orphan goes, they are everywhere. Sadly there are so many children being raised by their mothers in this land that the numbers are staggering. Our own daughter was abandoned by her husband a year ago and is doing her level best to raise their two small children on her own. Without the support of a husband she must play both parts to her kids. She is doing a good job, but it's a struggle any way you look at it.

I didn't start this article to whine or share hardship, but to cause us all to focus on the places we're supposed to focus. Paul in one of his letters to the believers in Corinth told us that "the most feeble is the most necessary". For me it's clear that we aren't supposed to ignore or reject the "weakest link", but to lift up those in affliction. When you have a weak link in a chain you must focus on repairing and strengthening THAT link or else you end up with segments of chain. A chain in segments is worthless.

The state run church focuses on the outside. We were literally given the left foot of fellowship in a "church" in New Mexico years ago for caring TOO much for the street kids. We made the mistake of bringing them to church on Wednesday nights and mixing them in with the REGULAR kids. We were put on sabbatical without warning for breaking an unwritten rule. Pretty is cool and popular, average and weak is not cool.

Pray For Us

Remember those who teach and love you. They spend countless hours praying and studying in preparation for what they bring forth from the spirit of God for you. They will have to give account for everything they teach you and for the example they leave for you, but you too will have to give account for what you're taught. You must apply the word in your life! We count ourselves blessed to be called to care for the Good Shepherd's lambs, but we too get tired. The Apostle Paul asked those who read his letters to "pray for us" many times. He had a rough time in the places God sent him. He was attacked and persecuted in ways we may never know. So we ask for your prayers. Thanks

Hebrews 13:17



God will have to deal with the leadership there, but we in the Body of Christ can NOT fall for such tripe. We have a job to do. If the place you go to worship is full of fashion shows, programs and the membership is only full of nice clean, designer labeled folks there is something really WRONG.

Matthew {25:31} When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: {25:32} And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: {25:33} And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. {25:34} Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {25:35} For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: {25:36} Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. {25:37} Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee?] or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink? {25:38} When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee?]{25:39} Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? {25:40} And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me. {25:41} Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: {25:42} For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: {25:43} I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. {25:44} Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? {25:45} Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me. {25:46} And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The religious in Yeshua/Jesus' day were all over him for eating with the "nasty folks". He ate with tax collectors, sinners and even allowed an ex-prostitute to wash his feet with her hair. How many tattooed, pierced, blue-haired folks do you allow at your table? When is the last time you touched an orphan with your own two hands? It's been too long for us so we're headed to the orphanage in Mexico.

Get out of your comfort zone practice a little pure religion. For Jesus' sake!

Faith is Spiritual



*Romans 10:8-10 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Once again I'm surprised at how long I can stumble all around something without really understanding it. Jeff (in the past) would see me look UP to heaven when I prayed like the answer was coming from there and ask "What are

you doing?" as if I was off in my praying. Sure heaven is up, but the throne is on and in my heart and quite occupied. Faith is in the heart. One of my favorite preachers (who has since gone on to heaven) always said, "You need to believe with your heart and not your head." I just wasn't getting it.

I woke early this morning as is my way, got up and prayed in the spirit for quite a while. I then began journaling all I've been studying and learning about warfare, strategies and battle in the kingdom of heaven (here on earth). While writing I began to see what has so long been down my spirit but far from my understanding, UNTIL NOW! Hallelujah!

Faith is produced in the heart or spirit of man. The connection of the soul and spirit and body of man is lost to many of us, but 3 John 2 makes it a whole lot clearer to us:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

We can see that prosperity and health are directly connected to the prosperity of our souls; our minds, wills and emotions.

Health and anything that comes from God is spiritual because God is spirit. Yeshua told us that his words were spirit and life. He also told us that he only spoke what the Lord spoke. God created everything with His word. If His words were spirit (He never changes you know) then He used things spiritual (His words) to make the natural.

We are spirit. Yes you read that accurately, we are spirit. We are made in the image and in the likeness of God. He is spirit therefore we are spirit. We aren't made in the likeness of angels who are spirit alone. They don't have flesh and blood, but they do exist. They live on a plane different but constantly in touch with the flesh realm. God allows them to manifest and be seen in our realm. How He does it is a mystery we don't understand, but spirit can be manifest to flesh.

Back to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is known by several names and manifests in many ways doing many jobs. The Holy Spirit is called a Comforter. The Holy Spirit is a teacher. The Holy Spirit is a helper. The Holy Spirit is a convictor and a convincer. The Holy Spirit is a reminder. The Holy Spirit is a confirmer. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Compassion. The Holy Spirit is called Holy, which means separate. But most excitedly, the Holy Spirit has come to live in the hearts of men!

We must gain an understanding of something that has been lost to us who seem so far removed from the 1st century believers. The new covenant is written or engraved on our hearts. When we read our bibles we must know that the things written in the new testament letters are just a small part of the new covenant. There are denominations that believe that the new testament of the bible is ALL there is to the new covenant. We are given a clue to the inaccuracy of this thought when we read the following words.

John {21:25} And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

*Jeremiah {31:31} Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: {31:32} Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: {31:33} **But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. {31:34} And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying,***

Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The Lord has provided everything we need for life and godliness, but it is written on our hearts. Yeshua/Jesus is the word made flesh (John 1). He is the new covenant. He is written on our hearts. When we need healing or anything that pertains to life and godliness we get it from the word written in our hearts. We access it by praying in the spirit and studying the written word and then speaking what we hear from God (who I remind you IS Spirit). The more fresh manna we consume the more of God's will and mysteries we possess. The more word we learn and **apply** to our natural lives the more godliness that manifests. You can't just study the word and call it good, you must act upon the word.

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

Let us look at these words. Let's meditate (to speak them or mutter them to ourselves) on them. We have everything we need in our hearts. The words written in the new testament letters first give us righteousness as we confess that Yeshua/Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Faith in Yeshua/Jesus is our only access to heaven, to God. Next we begin to look at our lives and see things that aren't quite right. As we again look at the written word we discover that we need the Holy Spirit to come and lead and direct our lives. We confess our need of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Soon he will begin to do just what we expected him to do, he leads, teaches and guides. Then we begin to see other things in our lives and the lives of others that are not according to the word. We have sickness in our bodies or some weakness in flesh. We see in the written word that God put our sickness on Yeshua/Jesus (Isaiah 53). We begin to resist the symptoms (lying symptoms I might add). We learn we're supposed to cast the devil out. We see that every good and perfect gift comes down from God so anything that isn't good or perfect comes from the devil. We learn that he comes to steal, kill and destroy so we resist anything being stolen, killed or destroyed in our lives. All of this is accessed through our spirits. We no longer have to bring the Lord down from heaven to get what we need. He isn't in hell either so we don't have to go to hell to bring him up from the dead. He's in heaven interceding (standing as a middle man between God and the accuser, satan.) He confirms what we're believing as we confess and act upon the word.

Let me take Romans 10:10 and make it appear just a little more practically applicable.

With my spirit I believe. With my spirit I believe that I am in right standing with God Almighty (who is now my Heavenly Father). I now believe that I am a co-heir with Yeshua/Jesus because I have been adopted and stand without a bit of guilt or condemnation because Yeshua/Jesus paid for every single sin (of mine and yours) and took every single bit of my sickness (and yours) on Calvary. I use my mouth to confess until I see my life saved in every single area. (This doesn't happen overnight.) I use my mouth to confess what Yeshua/Jesus did for my healing. I use my mouth to confess what Yeshua/Jesus did for my prosperity. I use my mouth to confess what Yeshua/Jesus did for me to walk just like he did. I confess these things until they manifest from the spirit to the natural realm. I don't give up confessing until salvation manifests! Again, I also act upon what I am believing. No confessing healing and staying in bed for me.

It takes time in this natural realm to manifest the spoken word until it becomes what we're confessing. It took God 4,000 years to manifest His spoken word until HE (Yehsua) became flesh. So as we have access to so much of the written word, we must realize it's going to take some time for it to take form in the natural. I get so excited when I think how many folks have access to the written word and can take it and make it whatever God wants! Faith is truly the substance (matter and material) of things we are hoping for and the proof or conviction of the things we can not YET see! Selah.

Are You Barley ?



God reveals many mysteries in His harvest cycles. They must be studied in depth to allow the Holy Spirit to bring revelation to us through His word. In Ex. 23:14 God says "Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in a year". Then in verse 16 the feast at the end of the year is the feast of ingathering or Tabernacles. This is the collection of the whole entire field or harvest. In every year there are seven biblical feasts. They are: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles.

Three of them are in the spring, one in early summer and three in the fall of the year. This isn't by chance, God did this for a reason. All of the feasts centered around two things, harvest and rain. When we check out the months God chose for these we find it is months of harvesting or months of rain appearing. Sometimes Passover is in March and sometimes April. Tabernacles usually falls in September and sometimes October. Without going into a whole bunch of calculating suffice it to say that the reason for this is that the Hebrew calendar is based on a lunar cycle and is set by the first fruits of the barley harvest in the spring starting at Passover. For this reason the months following may be different caused by the timing of the first fruits. This cycle began on the month of Abib which literally means "young green grain that is ready". This is the appointed time set for the beginning of Passover.

So the three main feasts are Passover which is at the barley harvest, Pentecost is at the wheat harvest, and Tabernacles which is the final ingathering of everything, which deals specifically with rain and the grape harvest. The three feasts they were commanded to attend were: Passover instituted by the Israelites as they put the Lamb's blood on the door before they came out of Egypt. Pentecost, which was instituted when Moses received the law at Mt. Sinai and gave it to the children of Israel, as told in Exodus 24. Tabernacles, which was Israel living in the desert 40 years. Each of these three feasts have a very personal application for us today. Passover of course represents the blood of the Lamb-Jesus, which is our salvation. Jesus died at Passover to give His blood as the Lamb of God for you. Pentecost is when the body of called out ones began. Acts 2 when Pentecost was fully come when the Holy Spirit was given to who-so-ever would believe for the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Tabernacles is a picture of the resurrection of the dead when the Messiah Jesus will return into His Kingdom. These three feasts "MUST" be attended by each one of us. No one can be born again for you, no one can go to Passover for you! No one can receive the Holy Spirit for you, Pentecost! No one else's body is going to be resurrected for you, Tabernacles! You "MUST" appear before the Lord yourself! We can see then that each

of these three feasts have a literal fulfillment and is also a picture of things that must happen in our spiritual life.

Now as far as the harvest time of these feasts, at Passover the barley is the first to ripen in the spring and the wheat ripens second at May or June around the time of Pentecost. At Tabernacles, the final great harvest falls third and is in late fall. All three feasts fall at certain times to emphasize a certain harvest time and are very important. If we read carefully we will notice that Israel's enemies usually attacked them at harvest time.

- Joshua 13:15 Joshua is crossing the Jordan when the river was overflowing it's banks. The Jordan always overflowed at harvest time. Joshua was crossing over at Passover.
- Judges 15:1 Samson had the Philistines come against him at the wheat harvest which was Pentecost.
- I Samuel 6:13 the men of Bethshemesh took the lid off the ark of the covenant and over 50,000 men were killed that day. It was the wheat harvest at Pentecost.
- II Samuel 21:9 Saul's sons were killed at the time of the barley harvest it was during Passover.
- II Samuel 23:13 David is running from Saul's army and hiding in caves at harvest time.

In the New Testament there are also examples;



In the parables the harvest is at the end of the age when the wheat and the tares are growing together. (Side note: Have you noticed just in this country alone there is a division and this division is not going to be repaired. The division is between light and darkness. Most people don't see or understand why but when you begin to understand harvest time it becomes clearer and clearer. The wheat and the tares represent the light and the darkness which must grow together until...harvest time! So it becomes easier to see that we are in a real thrust of what we see in the Bible as the end time harvest.) The end time harvest is God preparing the field, which is the world, to be reaped by the Lord. Keeping this in remembrance that the attack will come at harvest time.

When we see this by example so many times in the Bible it is simple to understand that believers will be attacked at harvest time. Why does our enemy do this? Because in Revelation 12 he comes knowing that he has but a short time! He opens up his entire arsenal and releases every kind of devilish spirit on the earth. I won't go much into this but again suffice it to say that the armies of the world have gone into the world's area of the prince of Persia (principalities). This principality stopped Daniel's answer to prayer for 21 days. April 9, 2003, just 21 days into the war in Iraq (Persia), the man who was being led by this same principality had his image toppled to the ground. Yes Saddam's statue came down on the 21st day of war. The toppling of Saddam's image was very prophetic! Saddam even called himself Nebuchadnezzar. The Bible is very clear about when a devil being run out goes into dry places and then comes back with demons worse than himself and then comes against the ones who ran him out. And we read and hear about all these evil things that have happened to our country's leaders and forget how the realm of the spirit operates. Enough of that.

There are four laws of the harvest: Marked, Gathered, Harvested, and Gleaned.

- 1st the first fruits must be marked and brought before the Lord in His Temple.
- 2nd the entire field is gathered all together.

- 3rd the harvesting
- 4th the four corners are to be left in the field for gleaning.

Simply put the first fruits were marked and brought before the Lord in His Temple, this is the Rapture of the believing body of Christ. You know that the word rapture makes a lot of believers cringe now, where as a whole in the past we all had no doubt about the rapture. The First Fruits must be taken out of the field (the world) before the rest of the field can be gathered and harvested. In Rev.14 an angel of the Lord is told to thrust his sickle into the earth because the harvest of the earth is ripe. Again the 1st fruits must be taken out of the way so that this can take place. The entire world must be gathered and then harvested as well as gleaned during the Tribulation Period. The gleaning in a biblical nutshell is when God gathers His elect from the four corners of the earth or field.



Now I want to show you what I have found hidden in these pictures in the bible. One of my favorite things when I was a little child were the hidden pictures within a big picture in the “Highlights” magazine my parents got for us. I loved looking for all those many hidden pictures of things in the big full page picture.

In John 6 Jesus fed 5000 men with some food a small boy had brought from home. He had 2 fish and 5 BARLEY loaves. After everyone had eaten their fill Jesus takes the leftovers, 12 baskets full, and then says gather up the fragments that none be lost. 12 baskets I see as a picture of the fruit from the 12 disciples that became apostles after Jesus resurrection and the breaking of bread. They were the ones that started multiplying people into the Body of Christ. The barley harvest, 12 disciples-12 baskets full. Three times in that same chapter of John Jesus says He will raise up the dead on the last day. Three feasts that must be attended, three harvests and at the end of every harvest a raising or a resurrection of the dead. Jesus says gather up the fragments so that none will be lost is also mentioned in His prayer to His Father that He has lost none except the son of perdition. So we can certainly see a picture of the barley harvest in the feeding of the 5000. We are still living in the time of being fed by the barley, His bread of life. The Barley harvest is the time of Passover a time of salvation by partaking of this bread. A time of deliverance out of the world and into His Kingdom. The Barley Harvest was always the gathering together of the First Fruits of the field, which is the world, unto God. We beseech you therefore brethren by the gathering together unto Him by the coming of our Lord Jesus The Christ. (1st Thess. 2:1) In the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things that are in Christ...!

