

Title: The Lion Within You

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 5/26/24

What a glorious day. This morning, I am going to bring some encouragement. I would call this encouragement, exhortation and intercession in the attitude of Christ. I want everyone to remember and never forget, that there is a Lion that is currently residing inside of you. His name is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. His name is Jesus. Amen. Say, "There is a Lion living inside of me. It is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, Himself." Amen.

Any place that is going to be released from your spirit, comes from the voice of the Lion. Anything that is going to be released from your spirit man in prayer, intercession, and declarations in your walk of praise, comes from the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Jesus Christ is no longer on the cross. He is reigning victoriously as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He dwells in Heaven, and He dwells in His people. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. You have the fullness of the Lord living within you if you have been born again from above. We talk about this all the time. There is a Mighty Lion and when He roars, it is with truth.

The scriptures speak about this. When the Lion roars with truth, it is going to prevail. *His* roar is able to shake what needs to be shaken. *His* roar is able to establish what needs to be established. *His* roar is perfect. *His* roar is going to go forth and conquer. *His* roar is going to build up His church. *His* roar is going to purify His bride. *His* roar shakes the heavens. The stars give Him praise. All creation gives God praise. It is important that we do not lose hope, and we keep in mind that there is a Lion inside. Put your hand on your belly. Do not be afraid. You know what it is like when you are hungry, and sometimes your tummy is roiling and rumbling. Well, there is someone greater. Say, "There is a Lion inside of me. Let Him roar."

We want to have that attitude. Attitude is everything in prayer. What is the point in praying if you do not have faith? You are just doing a whole lot of talking. When we pray, we have to come to God believing that He is, and He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. "We come boldly before the throne of grace." We are coming in the attitude and all attributes of Jesus Christ. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is perfected in Christ Jesus. He is living within us. He is directing the choir. He is directing the movement of prayer, of declarations, of intercessions for things that need to shift, things that need to change, and things that need to stop and come to an end. Jesus, the Holy One, the Lion of Judah, is inside of us. Amen.

We always pray in faith, but we know that He is the Lord. Often we have quoted the scripture, "His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts." As we allow Him to teach us this, we get in the river with Him. We yield to His form of prayer. I can guarantee you it is always going to be above and beyond what you can think, hope or imagine. His prayers are always better than ours. But, He imparts His heart to us, and we find ourselves in travail. Crying, weeping, decreeing, declaring, shouting, and praising. We find ourselves with simple prayers. We pray in the Spirit at all times. I cannot encourage you enough, as Spirit filled believers, to "pray in tongues at all times."

That is what scripture says. You are, "building up your most holy faith." It is vital that you pray in the Spirit. Do not just wait for Sunday morning or Bible class. Pray in the Spirit every day as much as you can. Amen. We do not just pray in tongues so we can give a good message. We pray in tongues for us to live. Your spirit is completely communing with Jesus Christ and with the Godhead. Holy Ghost is fanning that flame. If you have not been baptized with the Holy

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Spirit and fire, we will pray for you to receive that. The tongues are a gift, but it is “proof in the pudding.” It is a spiritual language when you are praying in the Spirit. You are not praying in the flesh. I exhort you. This is vital increase. I know through my own journey. I remember when I did not even know such a thing existed. I know when I received just a little, and I know when I received more. I know when I received more and more and more. Amen.

I know as we continue to press into the Lord, the Spirit of Grace is abiding in the believer. Allow His Spirit to be one with you. Do not be afraid of this. If you need release in that, we will pray for you. Go to someone that you know to have them pray for you. We will pray for that release. But, it is the Spirit of Grace that does it. You just need to ask, amen.

Do not be content. We need to be pursuing the Lord in all things. We know that the Lord continues to bring shakings in individual lives, and in our nation, our state, our city, our communities. That is obvious. We need this. We have talked about how the shakings are necessary, because of the wickedness and those that have departed from God's Word and His Spirit. When God moves in, let God move in. Some say, “I am just going to get out of the way.” No, you are in Him while He moves. You are with Him while He moves. You are hearing Him while He moves. He will direct the Body of Christ in prayer, to target and to join with Him as He moves. You are not just on the sideline saying, “Well, I hope that turns out great, God.” God is going to do what He is going to do. We are right in the center of His heart.

We are His voice on the Earth. The Church of the Living God is the government that He is ruling in right now. He needs our heart, our attention, our attitude, our minds, and our voice. He needs us in the Spirit more than our flesh. Hallelujah. We often do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit gives utterance, groanings, and deep intercessions. He intercedes for us and with us. That is encouraging. When you are in the Spirit and you are praying, you do not know what you said. But, God knows. Sometimes we do not know, but He is an awesome God, amen.

There are shakings. Lines are being drawn, and choices are being made. *There is* nothing new under the sun. There are going to be countless prayer movements. There are continuing prayer movements and intercessions that are being effective. Right? These intercessions are ascending and descending from the heart of God, and we are part of that. Everyone is different. Somebody may have the unction of the Holy Ghost that day, giving a propensity or a direction in which to pray. You think, “Well, I have never considered that Lord.” When you get in the Spirit, He will direct you there, and you will pray accordingly. It may take five minutes, or you may be in prayer for five hours with Him. But, either way, be steadfast in your prayers and be immovable.

God hears our prayers, and He is answering them. God is answering our prayers. He is answering your prayers. He is a faithful God, even when we are faithless. The scripture says, “He remains faithful.” Okay, He is faithful. Let's believe Him. God is preserving us. Say, “God is preserving me.” Repentance is being granted to those who cry out to Him. When you cry out to the Lord, He hears you. He hears your cry. Repentance is being granted. That is changing the way you think. We are lining up with what God's heart is. We want to know the heart of Christ, and many hearts are turning to Christ.

There are different movements that are happening right now. Families are rising up. They are making a difference in their local communities. Local government is rising up. Communities are rising up. Cities are rising up. States are rising up. Lines are being drawn. People are standing up, saying, “Hey, wait a minute. That is not right.” Moms are rising up. Dads are rising up. Grandpas are rising up. Senators are rising up. Congress is rising up. We need more of that. Yes, we do. You keep praying! It is the Lord God that brings conviction.

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It is the Lord God that grants repentance. "It is the Lord God that plucks up, pulls down, and gets rid of it." I am quoting you scripture. We remain faithful in prayer, as God does what He is going to do. Judgment begins in the House of the Lord. That is where those lines are being drawn. Right? He gives us courage. The battle is fierce. We carry the scepter of righteousness to rule the land. "The scepter of righteousness rules the land." When the scepter of wickedness is ruling, it doesn't go well. That is why we need the Body of Christ to understand, "the scepter of righteousness rules the land." It is real, and it is real authority. Our prayers and our decrees change things. Amen. Our prayers are effective and powerful in pulling down strongholds.

God is blessing and moving upon His leaders who are choosing to honor and fear God and His Word. That is what we have to do. We have to honor and fear God and keep His word. Okay, so no compromise. God's not pleased with those who draw back. We do not want to shrink back. I do not want to step back a centimeter or millimeter. I want to go forward, onward, and upward into the high call of God and Christ Jesus. That is the direction, always upward and onward. There is a personal thing that goes inside of your hearts. It stirs you up, and it is called the Holy Ghost. He will meet you in your lowest place. When you are there with Him in the lowest place, He will show up and light or land upon you. He will open your understanding. He will give you a fresh new revelation. We talked about that and sang about it this morning. Through times of testing, no matter which way that wind is blowing, He is there and there is purpose in it. He is going to refine what concerns us. We are going with Him, amen.

Joshua 24:15 NKJV

This a very popular verse. One of stance and one of faith. He is declaring this. "Choose you this day whom you will serve. But, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We have this scripture on plaques, paintings, posters and sticky notes. That is a living, breathing reality of the families of God. "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord." Now, that is a bold stand. That is a bold declaration. If you just made that declaration every day, there is power and authority backing it. God backs that. God is before you. The Lion is roaring out of you, because that is the heart of the King.

1 Peter 5:6-7 TPT

"If you bow low in God's awesome presence, He will eventually exalt you as you leave the timing in His hands." That is a message all in itself.

"Pour out all your worries and stress upon Him and leave them there, for He always tenderly cares for you."

"Pour out all your worries and stress upon Him." Give it all to Him. Leave them there with Him. "For He is always tenderly caring for you." You see this unity and this oneness? Prayer is not without God. Prayer is with God. Yes.

1 Peter 5:8 TPT

"Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour."

"Be well balanced and always alert." Always alert? You say, "Why, can't I check out? No, you cannot. There is no time off. Welcome to the Kingdom. Amen. I think they sang that this morning.

1 Peter 5:9-11 TPT

"Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith."

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“Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack.” I did not write this, just so you know. The Holy Ghost wrote this and gave this to Peter. I am just in agreement with it, and the devil hates that. Right?

“Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith. For you know that your believing brothers and sisters around the world are experiencing the same kinds of trouble you endure. And then, after your brief suffering, the God of all loving grace, who has called you to share in His eternal glory in Christ, will personally and powerfully restore you and make you stronger than ever.”

God is always going to make us stronger. God does not make us weaker. Our flesh is weak and it has to die. “Crucify your flesh daily. I die daily.” That is the work of your submission. The cross does that work daily, but we are increasing more and more in every area of the Lord, amen.

“And then after your brief suffering, the God of all loving grace,” I love that, *“who has called you to share in His eternal glory in Christ, will personally and powerfully restore you.”* We need that every day. *“And make you stronger than ever. Yes, He will set you firmly in place and build you up.”*

You know how good it feels when others build you up. Nobody likes it when they come and just tear you down. There is correction. There is rebuke. That is not what I am talking about. We are building each other up in the faith.

I Peter 5:11 TPT

“And He has all the power needed to do this— forever! Amen.”

He is not lacking power. We have to shift the way we are thinking, and put our eyes on the Lord who does the impossible. That is why Jesus told us over and over again, *“Have faith in God. All things are possible to those who believe.”* Amen.

I had this incredible vision this morning of all these hands and prayers that were lifted up to the Lord. High and lifted up. There are so many scriptures about this word. I saw it corporately, as the Body of Christ at large.

Psalms 141:2 NKJV

“Let my prayer be set before you as incense. The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

We know that our prayer is a sweet incense and aroma to the Lord. “With lifted hands,” there is something about that, even if you go to a good ball game. When someone scores you say, “YEAH!” You cannot just say, “yeah,” right? There is something *within* your body, that you have to raise a hand. There is something about an oath, as you raise your hand and say it. There is something about the lifting of the hands, that goes upward to God. When you pray and intercede, this incense arises. We lift our hands to God, giving Him glory, honor and praise. Amen. It is not good to give Him high praise while you are just sitting on your hands. The body wants to take over and give praise to God. You hear it?

I Timothy 2:8 NKJV

“I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

That is not just for the men. It is for the entire body of Christ, male and female, young and old. "I desire that men pray everywhere." Men, hear the word of the Lord. "I desire that men pray everywhere." Your prayers are vital to Christ. Your prayers are vital. Do not just leave it up to Mama to take care of. Hallelujah!

I Timothy 2:8 NLT

"In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy."

I Timothy 2:8 NIV

"Therefore, I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing."

How about that? God desires that all men pray effectual, fervent prayers of a righteous man. When that happens, Heaven moves. If just two or three of you are in agreement, Heaven moves. When you are on your face, because there is a trial in your house. The husbands are on their face. Mamas are on their face. The heads of that house are on their face. How much more the heads of government? How much more of the heads of the city? How much more the heads of the churches? Do you understand that? They are on their face, and lifting up holy hands to God. I would love to go to a city council meeting and see that all the hands are raised to God as they are crying out to Him on behalf of the city. Amen! Maybe you are one of those that is going to be there. Say, "We are moving mountains today!" There is a Lion that lives inside of you, and He hears your prayers. He is answering your prayers. He is God. We are not.

Psalms 63 NKJV

Now everything in this psalm is about personal prayer between the servant of the Lord and God. There are two places in the middle of that glory, he lets the enemy have it.

Verse nine, *"Those who seek my life to destroy it, shall,"* a covenant word, *"go into the lower parts of the Earth. They shall,"* covenant word, *"fall by the sword. They shall be a portion for jackals."*

That assignment was just taken care of by the Spirit of Grace in the middle of that prayer. They did not have to go out and verbally or physically do anything to anybody. It is happening in prayer, right? It is like Joshua, saying, *"As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord."* That is a covenant you understand and God moves accordingly.

"But the King shall rejoice in God, and everyone who swears by Him shall glory." Here he goes one more time, *"But, the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped."* He is just praising the Lord. He is just calling upon His God. He is saying, *"I am so thirsty for you. I am so hungry for you. My flesh is crying out for you in this dry land, where there is no water."*

It was always the reality of the Old Testament, because they understood the tabernacle. The meeting places were where they could go to meet with God, in the temple. In the New Testament, we are the temple of the Holy Ghost! That is why they always alluded to, "When I could go be with you in the wilderness. When I was with you in the temple. When I was with you in the tent. When I was with you out there in the pastures with the sheep." Because, it was that place of meeting with God, right? "I just want to go to your sanctuary." Many of the saints today are saying, "He is here inside of me. I am the temple of the Holy Ghost!" He is in your sanctuary, and you are in Him, 24/7. You abide in Him and you remain in Him! He dwells in us. We are not just lifting up prayers. We are abiding and communing with God, and the fire comes on our lives. He shifts that direction to pray. Out of this, He makes some declarations to the evil that has been assaulting and coming against the Lord and His movement.

Jeremiah is known as a “weeping prophet.” He was in a hard place, because he had to prophesy what God was saying, and he knew that they were not going to repent. That is hard. It is a hard heart that will not turn and get right with God, correct. All the judgments from God are going to happen. He knows their hearts. He has been long suffering, and he gets to join with God in prayer, knowing the state of their hearts. He joins God in declarations to come and pull down, pluck up, pull out, plant and build up. In Jeremiah chapter one, we read how he gets to work with God to see something happen in His people. There is great heartbreak when the people aren't listening and responding. You have to get the heart of where we are going.

Jeremiah 15:15 AMP, subtitled “Jeremiah’s prayer and God’s answer”

“O Lord, you know and understand; Remember me [thoughtfully], take notice of me, take vengeance for me on my persecutors. Do not, in view of your patience, take me away. Know that for your sake I endure [continual] rebuke and dishonor.” Verse 16, “Your words were found, and I ate them. And your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart. For I have been called by your name, O Lord God of Hosts.” Verse 17, “I did not sit with the group of those who celebrate, nor did I rejoice. I sat alone because your [powerful] hand was upon me. For you filled me with the indignation [at their sin].” Verse 18, “Why has my pain been perpetual and my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you indeed be to me like a deceptive brook with water that is unreliable.” Verse 19, “Therefore thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah]. If you repent [and give up this mistaken attitude of despair and self-pity], then I will restore you [to a state of inner peace].

There is a start. I will read it again,

“Therefore thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah]. If you repent [and give up this mistaken attitude of despair and self-pity], then I will restore you [to a state of inner peace]. So that you may stand before me [as my obedient representative]. And if you separate the precious from the worthless [examining yourself and cleansing your heart from unwarranted doubt concerning my faithfulness]. You will become my spokesman. Let the people turn to you [and learn to value my values]. But you, you must not turn to them [with regard for their idolatry and wickedness].” Verse 20, “And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze. They will fight against you, but they will not prevail over you. For I am with you, [always] to save you and I protect you,” says the Lord.” Verse 21, “So I will rescue you out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you from the [grasping] palm of the terrible and ruthless [tyrant].”

Wow, this is powerful. Listen to what the Lord says. Verse 19, “Therefore, thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah], ‘If you repent [and give up this mistaken attitude of despair and self-pity].”

You see, that is where we have to pray in faith. We can whine and cry and pour out our heart that is broken to God. He takes all of that. But, when He is trying to accomplish something, this is what He is correcting. Amen. “Give up this mistaken attitude of despair and self-pity, then I will restore you [to a state of inner peace],” because you know you are agreeing with God. God moves in those prayers. “So, that you may stand before me [as my obedient representative]. Jesus said that we are ambassadors of Christ. Amen. We are representing Christ in our prayers and declarations. “You may stand before me,” and “If you separate the precious from the worthless, [examining yourself, cleansing your heart from unwarranted doubt concerning my faithfulness.”

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There is where the rubber meets the road. “Oh, God, are you really able to do this? I doubt it.” Right? “Are you serious? You know what it is going to take to save my friend, my husband, my co worker, or my mother-in-law? Do you know what it is going to take to save this city, this state, or this nation? Do you know what it is going to take to shift attitudes for the glory of the Lord to be seen? We have to get back in line and looking at His face. He is God. Right! He is going to see that His word comes perfectly to pass. He knows the hearts of all.

He says, *“You will become my spokesman. Let the people turn to you [and learn to value my values].”* I want to value God’s values. I want to value what God values. *“But you, you must not turn to them [with regard for their idolatry and wickedness].”*

Because, we cannot be sucked down into it, and it is easy to do. It is easy to get sucked into the darkness. We want to always be looking at the glory of the Lord. That is where Heaven flows. Amen.

He says, *“And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze. They will fight against you, but they will not prevail over you. For I am with you [always] to save you and protect you says the Lord.”* Thank you Lord, *“So I will rescue you out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you from the [grasping] palm of the terrible and ruthless [tyrant].”*

These are fighting words. These are words of faith, prayer, intercession and declaration. What is right is right, and what is wrong is wrong. You stand and you stand fast. Amen.

Philippians 2:1-16 AMP, subtitled “Be Like Christ”

“Therefore, if there is any encouragement and comfort in Christ, [as there certainly is in abundance].” You can find comfort and encouragement in Christ abundance. He is not lacking. *“If there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship [that we share] in the Spirit. If {there is} any [great depth of] affection and compassion.”* Verse 2, *“Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love [towards one another], knit together in the spirit, intent on one purpose [and living a life that reflects your faith and spreads the gospel—the good news regarding salvation through faith in Christ],”* Verse 3, *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit [through factional motives or strife], but with [an attitude of] humility, [being neither arrogant nor self righteous], regard others as more important than yourselves.”* Verse 4, *“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”* Verse 5, *“Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility]”* Verse 6, *“Who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it].”* Verse 7, *“But emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity].”*

This is amazing. As a man, He *“emptied Himself without renouncing or diminishing His deity.”* *“But only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human, but was without sin, being fully God and fully man].”* Verse 8, *“After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* Verse 9, *“For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above*

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every name.” Verse 10, “So that at the name of JESUS EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW [in submission], of those who are in Heaven, and on Earth and under the Earth, (Isa 45:23)” Verse 11, “And that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father.” Verse 12, “So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation [that is cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity], with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ].” Verse 13 “For it is [not your strength, but is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing with the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.” Verse 14, “Do everything without murmuring or questioning [the providence of God].” Verse 15, “So that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish in the midst of a [morally] crooked and [spiritually] perverted generation, among whom you are seen as bright lights, [beacons shining out clearly] in the world [of darkness],” Verse 16, “Holding out and offering to everyone the word of life, so that in the day of Christ, I will have reason to rejoice greatly because I did not run [my race] in vain nor labor without result.”

You can hear Jesus Christ’s heart as the Apostle Paul is speaking to the church in Philippi. The truth of the gospel here is so meaty. This is so rich with His unity with the Spirit and His surrender to Jesus, with His willingness to follow the Father’s heart. He is writing this from prison for his faith, and he is encouraging them in Christ. He is encouraging them in consolation. He is encouraging them in comfort and fellowship with the Spirit. He encourages them to be of the same mind with the Lord and one another. He says, “*You are knit together in the Spirit with one purpose. You are one family in God.*” He is renewing their mind, right? He is telling them everywhere you go, you are supposed to bring this gospel. We are that life. We are the ones with the answers. We are the ones that can shift things. Bringing the good news regarding salvation through faith in Christ.

Then he gets personal. “Do not be selfish. Stay away from self-pity,” as in Jeremiah, right. “Do not be selfish. Do not do things from empty conceit, or impure motives, or strife. Be humble, be righteous, and regard others more important than yourself. Do not just look out for your own personal interests, but keep in mind the interests of others.”

You see that intercession? It is a lifestyle of obedience, and then it goes outward from us. Because this is it, “*Have this same attitude in yourself, which was in Christ Jesus.*” Have the same attitude. How did Christ pray? How did Christ intercede? How did Christ lead? How did He heal? How did He deliver? How did He repent? How did He lead? How did He govern? How does He govern now? Have the same attitude in yourself and look to Him as your example. In selfless humility, because it takes humility to depend on God. It takes humility to trust God for who He says He is. Because, you cannot fix it, but He can. Amen.

He goes on and He just affirms His Godhead. He comes and affirms His humanity. He gives all glory to Him, because He knows that because He completely humbled Himself, He has been highly exalted over every other name above, below, within and without. He is King of kings. He is Lord of lords. He has all authority in Heaven and Earth and under the Earth. Hallelujah. That is the truth, and we have to keep that in mind. When you are in oneness with Him and you are praying, you know this King, this High Priest in Heaven ever lives to intercede with us. Holy Ghost is interceding for us and with us. He is groaning in intercession through us according to Romans 8. He is bringing about the will of the Lord in all authority, amen.

Paul says, *"Dear ones, just as you have always obeyed when I am there and when I am not there."* I am in jail now for the faith. You must carry on the work of the Lord. You have to pray like I pray. You have to preach like I preach. You have to heal like I heal. You have to deliver like I deliver. You have to go do what God says do. Do not just quit, because I am in prison. You understand? You have to be One with Christ. Beloved, that is what He is saying to the Philippians." Hallelujah! He says, *"Here is this work. Continue to work out your own salvation. Cultivate it and bring it to fullness. Perfect what concerns me. I love this. Actively pursue spiritual maturity."*

We are in charge of our own spiritual maturity. Every person is in charge. You have to go as far with Christ as you want to go. You can go as high as you want to go, or you can suffer lack. But, it is every individual's choice. Meat is on the table. Food is on the table. The banquet table has been set. You can have as much of the Lord and His Spirit as you want. There is no limit. Say, "No limit." That is what he is addressing. *"Cultivate this, and actively pursue spiritual maturity."* We all need to mature right? That is the goal. *"As Christ is, so are we in this world."* Be awe-inspired with the awe-inspired fear of the Lord and trembling. That is just the fear of the Lord. That is what guards us. That is what keeps us. That is what surrounds us.

Use serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God. People try not to offend each other. But, our number one thing is that we do not want to offend God. If we get that right, then we are going to do okay outwardly to our fellow citizens. We do not want to do anything to offend God. I do not. Amen. We do not want to discredit the name of Christ ever. *"For it is not your strength, but it is God who is working in us."* That is this Lion. He is roaring, He is steadfast, He is immovable, He knows what you do. He knows the sphere that He is having you in. He knows your family. He knows your hopes. He knows your desires.

"He is working with you to strengthen you and energize you. Creating in you the longing and ability to fulfill your purpose."

That is the inner drive. "I just have to do this." The Spirit directs the ship. If you will yield to Him, and go there with Him, He will take you higher. He will take you deeper. He will do exceedingly, abundantly above and beyond *what you can see or imagine. It is all for His good pleasure. Amen. Paul goes on and says, "Do not murmur. Do not complain,"* about God's providence. Remember, He is God. We are not. Let your yes be yes. Your no be no. Praise God, praise God and praise God. Well, praise God. Let Him be God. Let Him do what He has to do.

Finally, in verse 15, *"So that you can prove yourself to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated children of God without blemish in the midst of a [morally] crooked and [spiritually] perverted generation, among whom you are seen as bright lights, beacons shining clearly in the world of darkness."*

This was written by the Apostle Paul when? I am just saying, dark is still dark, corruption is still corruption, sin is still sin, and this is the Spirit's cry from this man of God, to the Church of the Living God. He was blameless, spotless, guileless, pure, devoted, full of faith, and the Holy Ghost. You hear that? That is the Word of Life. Hold fast. Do not run in vain. So that in the day of Christ, the Apostle Paul says, "You are my fruit, and you are my reward. I want to be there, seeing the rewards of Christ given to you. I want to see you there on the day of the judgment, the judgment seat of Christ, seeing the rewards being given to those that I labored in and gave my life for."

Sunday, May 26, 2024

You hear it? It is that. It is that mother and fatherhood. It is that spiritual authority. It is the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who have labored with the saints to see them grow up and mature in Christ. There are great rewards that God will give and that Jesus Christ will distribute to His Church. This is His prayer. He is saying, "I want you to be fully rewarded. I am going to be rewarded. It is oil on His head, because of their fruitfulness. That is the Kingdom. The Kingdom is about multiplication. Jesus was crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, because of His faithfulness to fulfill the will of God. God's will was for Him to go to that cross and take our sin. He has been crowned forever as the Lord of Heaven and Earth, and we adore Him. Right! We want to be encouraged today with these words. I encourage you to listen to this over and over again. Know that this is the cry of the Lion within you, so be steadfast, pray, abide, remain, stay in the work.

You know, as summer comes, do not take off from being with Jesus. Saying, "I am going to come back in the Fall." We see it all the time. People come and go. We are on vacation which is awesome, but do not take off from Jesus all summer. I pray that everybody that hears this will go deeper, higher, greater, and have more revival encounter with Jesus than ever before. That it will be our greatest summer ever. Hallelujah.

Let's stand up and honor what Jesus had to say today. "Father, we thank you. We are listening, Lord. Our heart is yours. We thank you that we are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and you are directing us to the attitude of Christ. We thank you, Lord, that you pray with us, for us and through us, Lord, in a perverse and crooked generation. Thank you that you said that we are the light of the world and that we carry the message of good news of the gospel of the Kingdom. Use us, Lord. Anoint us with fresh oil. Strengthen our prayers. Strengthen our faith, God. For those who are weary in well doing, Lord, I pray for a fresh release of fresh fire upon every head, every heart and all the feet here. That everybody will have faith to rise up within their inner hearts to please you, Lord. To see you, Lord. To love you, Lord. Lord as you make a steadfast and immovable move around the globe, we see the sufferings. We see the body of Christ suffering. We see those giving their lives for the gospel. May we be found faithful to the end and give you all the glory, honor and praise. In Jesus's name, amen. Amen. Be blessed.