

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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NOVEMBER 7, 2008

BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL NEW! #1

Many people, especially Christians, were looking to 08-08-08 as a special day; after all, this combination of the number 8 comes along only once every thousand years. *Eight* is the number of new beginning, new birth, or new creation.

Peter wrote: **But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day** (2 Peter 3.8 NASB). Given this word, according to the Lord, every thousand years of the history of man and this earth is considered a day. We are near the end of the first six days of man and the seventh day of the Lord is soon to overtake the kingdom of the world as the kingdom of Christ comes to reign over the nations for 1,000 years. Following the Kingdom Age is the eighth day, which is God's day, at which time a new heaven, a new earth, and New Jerusalem come into view as revealed to John in his Patmos vision.

It was on the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the last day, the great day of the feast, that the Lord Jesus cried out: **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water'"** (John 7.37-38 NASB). *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* closes with the call to come: **And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost** (Revelation 22.17 NASB).

Consequently, the eighth day has great significance. In fact, it is the last day, the great day, for it is the day in which the One who sits upon the throne declares: **"Behold, I am making all things new. ... Write, for these words are faithful and true." ... "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost"** (Revelation 21.5, 6 NASB).

Now, at this point, I am not clear on the spiritual significance, if any, of 08-08-08. But, I do know that on the day before, on 08-07-08 at about 5.30 am, the spirit of God met me and revealed something that, to me, is a great revelation; it deals with God's ultimate purpose in light of the new creation.

But first, what is the purpose of God? Paul reveals the answer in his defense of the resurrection of Christ and, ultimately, of all mankind.

Now when all the [things] are subjected to Him, then the Son also Himself will be subjected to One having subjected all the [things] to Him, so that God shall be the all in all! (1 Corinthians 15.28 ALT)

In other words, when the Son of God has headed up or summed up all in the heavens and on the earth, having subjected all to Himself and, even, having abolished death, He will then hand over the kingdom to God the Father, for one grand purpose—**so that God shall be the all in all!** God's entire plan that is being worked out in the eons through, by, in, and for His Son has one end in view and that is for God to be all in all. This is the purpose of God, and all that the Lord is doing is driving toward this end.

I had just finished writing the eight part series titled *That God May Be All In All*, and, frankly, I thought I had a good grasp of it, until the spirit of God revealed to me that the second **all** of *all in all* refers to **all new**. It is discovered in the words recorded by John as he beheld the new heaven and the new earth: **"Behold, I am making all things new!"** The Concordant Version words it: **"Lo! New am I making all!"** The word *things* does not appear in the Greek and, to me, gets in the way of the depths of the meaning. The better rendering is **Behold, I am making all new!**

This is the revelation that I received on that day: The *all* that God shall be all of is *all new*; it is a new creation. It is not a reformulated creation, a restored creation, a cleaned up creation, or anything related to the previous creation extending back to when God restored a ruined earth and then formed Adam from the soil of the earth. God is going to do a new thing entirely, and He shall be all in all of this new creation. Another way of stating this revelation is that He shall be all in **all new**. There will be nothing of the old in this all. He will do a new thing entirely.

I don't know how else to say it or to convey the greatness of God's purpose that will come about with the consummation of the eons. **All** is about **all new**! It is so simple and yet so profound that I imagine this glorious thought is lost on many of the Lord's people who are looking for great things to happen on earth in our day and even in the age to come. Don't take me wrong, the next age will be glorious as the Lord Jesus restores this earth until it is filled with the glory of God. But even this will pale in comparison to when **all is new**. The next age is about restoration, not about making all new.

When this revelation came to me I was meditating on the whole matter of revival and restoration. After all, today, many who are part of what is called *the restoration movement* are looking for a revival of the church so that she can go forth as the army of the Lord disciplining the nations for Christ so that His kingdom can come. Actually, I was crying out to the Lord for understanding and a knowing of His heart on the matter. It was with this cry that the spirit of God opened the eyes of my heart to see that revival, restoration, reconciliation, recovery, restitution, and even redemption itself, are all in the plan of God, but they are not His purpose, they are merely means to achieve His purpose. And, as Paul was pressing on toward the goal for the prize so is the Lord pressing on toward the purpose of God in which **all is new**.

It is safe to state that many of the Lord's people are looking for a Pentecostal revival; the church returning to its roots or, we could say, its embryonic state of over 2,000 years ago. I have read that some are looking for the return of apostolic Christianity. But, I must ask: Why? Does a baby long to return to the cradle? Does an adult long to return to diapers? Are we to seek for a mere repeat of something that was a leavened feast (Leviticus 23.17) and, as such, was never intended to be perfect or to usher God's people into perfection? Pentecost is an incomplete and imperfect feast.

The restoration of all does not answer the issue either. It is not enough; it falls short of the purpose of God. It is a vital part of His plan, even an essential part, but it is not the end point. Reconciliation of all does not answer to the absolute purpose of God either. Bringing all mankind, even all creation, into the peace of God, through the blood of His cross is part of the plan of God, even an essential part, but it is not the end point. No; we are looking for a new creation, not a reformulation or even a repeat of something. We are looking for *in the beginning God created*.

These things are not the end or even the goal. The end of it all is when all is new.

Let revival come. Let the unity of the faith come. Let the fullness of the stature of the mature man come. Let the restoration of all things come. Even let Christ be all in all. But for what purpose? What do all these things mean in the context of God's purpose? What is God after? Is He after merely a restoring of all things back to what they were before the fall? Is He after cleaning up things, tidying things up a bit? Do the words *restoration* and *reconciliation* speak to the heart of God and His purpose? No; but the new creation does. **Behold, I am making all new!** A new heaven, a new earth, New Jerusalem, a new man, a new creation in Christ!

Oh, we aren't there yet if we merely have another Pentecostal experience or kingdom power that transcends even that seen through the first apostles. We aren't there yet if the whole of the church is walking in signs and wonders and miracles. This is child's play compared to what God has in store for His creation when all is new.

We must continue pressing on, marching on, keep fighting on; there is a goal out front of us and we have not arrived yet, for it is God's purpose that He shall be all in all when **all is new**; all to His glory!