

# 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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## ***Flesh and Blood Shall Not Inherit the Kingdom #4***

October 24, 2009

To conclude this series, I want to share a concern that I have over some things being emphasized in our day among some Christian groups in regard to the kingdom.

In the last issue, the sons of Zadok were presented as a type of the sons of glory that will rule and reign with Christ in His coming kingdom. In their wool capacity, they will judge the people. Isaiah gave a very similar word: **For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9 NASB). The judgments of the Lord will come through the sons of the kingdom, and through their judgments, the world will learn righteousness.

God's judgment cannot and will not come until the manifestation of the sons of God. We are limited in what we can do and can accomplish in this present evil age while we occupy bodies of death. This is by God's design. It doesn't mean that we are impotent and helpless to do anything for the kingdom of God. After all, we are children of God and citizens of His kingdom.

In our day, we hear of miracles being manifested in parts of the world to open eyes to the good news of the kingdom and the King, and yet in other areas of the world, there are no great miracles being manifested; some people get healed and others do not; and some people believe on Jesus and others do not believe.

It is not because we are not doing enough or exercising enough of the "power" of God. It is because we have been limited by God. If the spirit of God does not move in a certain way, then no matter what we do or try to do will not be successful, at least according to the standard of God. We have not arrived at our full growth in Christ, and we have not given birth to the manchild within, the seed of God that abides in us and is growing into the image of Christ (1 John 3:9). We need the resurrection and transfiguration to complete the birth. We need immortality!

Now, there are those who are trying to work up the soul of believers by exhorting them that they have all that they need inside of them to bring the kingdom of the heavens to earth today, not in the future when the kingdom comes and the sons of God are manifested. As their teaching goes, they claim that we need to start demonstrating the power of God in our lives to reach the world as Jesus did when He walked here 2,000 years ago. I have no argument that we are to be an aroma of Christ wherever we are or go, and that we are to be a reflection of His life, which, by the way, is a life of sacrificial love. This is our call in this day. However, this is not what is generally meant when some teach that we are to demonstrate the power of God. They are looking for something supernatural to happen, a supernatural anointing; something that demonstrates the power of God like Jesus did when He walked this earth and like His first, chosen disciples did. Again, I do not doubt that some of these demonstrations occur in our day, and there are special anointings that come upon His people at times. I have personally experienced such anointings, and I am open to the idea that we possibly might see a greater anointing upon some as this age comes to a close. However, I object to these experiences becoming a specific teaching and emphasis for the church to embrace and pursue in our day as if this were to be the norm.

As the thinking goes, Christians have all the power and authority they need today to overtake the nations, or "take the nations," and establish the kingdom. It is not uncommon to hear: "We have the power; the reason we see so little power is because we do not exercise it. God wants to give us a greater measure of glory. It is in you; now go do it." The same ones generally argue that the kingdom of God is not so much about something future as it is about something now. They demand that it is now, and it is our duty to bring it in.

Although I am a bit critical of those who teach these things, I also am somewhat sympathetic to them. I understand the desire to see the power of God manifested through His people and to bring about real change in a world that lies in the power of evil. However, this cannot be used as an excuse to ignore the truth of the word of God, especially the prophetic word in relation to the coming kingdom of Christ or the kingdom of the heavens, when the inhabitants of the earth will learn righteousness. This is the heart of God, and the true demonstration of the power of God. When the nations begin to live in accord with God's righteousness, then we will know that the kingdom of Christ has begun to take root among the nations, and when this happens, it will be a true manifestation of power, for there will be true peace on earth, not wishful thinking through a phony Nobel Peace Prize.

Church history is 2,000 years of failed attempts to establish God's kingdom on earth among the nations. A review of church history will show that every attempt to do so has resulted in failure as the lustful flesh of men took the things of God and fought with the physical sword rather than the spiritual sword of the word and of the spirit of God. The end result has been the building up of the kingdom of men, not the kingdom of God, and this has led many into religious bondage and death.

Why do some think that, spiritually, we are better equipped in our day and can pull off what others have failed to do during the age of Pentecost, which, by the way, is celebrated with leaven, as in "corruption"? A certain measure of failure is built into our present age, and this is the Lord's doing.

Let me ask a question of those who are trying to establish the kingdom of God on earth by "taking the nations" while all of humanity occupies soulless bodies: How can you do such a thing while you still have blood flowing through your veins? Do you honestly believe that flesh and blood inherits the kingdom?

Are we any different from the saints that have lived and died down through the centuries since Pentecost? Have we been given something extra at the end of the age to go where no man has gone before and to do it without the Lord? The Thessalonians were waiting for the Son to come from heaven. Have we lost this expectant waiting and decided we have to take the matter into our own hands? In demanding that we must manifest the power of God in a supernatural anointing, are we acting any differently than a world that seeks for instant gratification and lives by sensory overload?

It is as if some are declaring that we need to get into action or be left behind. After 2,000 years, have we decided that the "church" has waited long enough, and it is time to act? If so, we are no different than the Zionists who, in 1948, laid hold of the literal land promised to Abraham instead of waiting for the Messiah to come again, the very one their forefathers demanded be crucified. They may have a state called Israel, but, according to the prophets, it is destined for ruin. Are we to go this same path?

To me, the problem stems from a lack of understanding of the progression of the feasts in the life of the individual believer, the corporate temple of the Lord, and creation itself. Each feast, especially the three main ones, represents the journey with the Lord to reach God's new beginning for all.

**Passover** represents the first phase of the journey, which is **justification by faith**. As the sons of Israel had to apply the blood of the lamb on the door post and lintel, so must the blood of the Lamb be applied to the door of our heart. This is a one-time action, and then we must move on. The next phase of our journey is **Pentecost**, which corresponds to receiving an earnest of the spirit so that the spiritual law of God can be written on our hearts through obedience to His word. This is the process of **sanctification**, a life-long process. It is likened to the wilderness journey of the sons of Israel as they set out for the Promised Land, only our land of promise is an immortal, spiritual-physical body of flesh and bones that comes in the final and most glorious phase of the journey, **Tabernacles**, which corresponds to **glorification** and **immortality**. The wilderness journey must end and Tabernacles come in order to inherit the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. His kingdom will not begin to manifest itself on earth until the manifestation of the sons of God. Those who have conquered during Pentecost will be found worthy to reign with Christ as the sons of God, the sons of glory. They will be part of the first resurrection and transfiguration. However, on a grand scale, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

Obviously, I have left out much detail and explanation of the three main feasts, but my point is this: We have not arrived yet. We have not inherited the kingdom because we are not immortal. Let us patiently wait for Tabernacles and the Son to come. Let us endure until that grand day. It won't be long!