

# 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)

#04-10121

## **Personal Note – On Pause**

December 18, 2010

Some who have been regular readers of my material probably have wondered why I have not posted anything new for some time now.

A few months ago, I felt it was time to hit the pause button, metaphorically speaking, and take a break. Simply, it was time to step aside for a bit to see if and what adjustments, corrections, and enlargements the Lord might have for me, or if perhaps, He wants me to stop writing altogether. I still do not have an answer to this last question.

I started writing about 20 years ago, which has intensified as the years have passed, especially in the last 3 years; however, it has never been my intention to keep this thing going as if it were some special “ministry.” My sole desire is to follow the Lord and to be doing and speaking what our Heavenly Father is doing and speaking, for only in this way will I be of any service to my brethren in Christ.

Over the last 30 years, I have been most helped by others when they have shed some light on certain matters, and this light has served as a springboard for me to study Scripture until it dawns upon my own heart and becomes revelation. Perhaps I have been able to do this for some who have taken the time to read my material. Only the Lord knows of what value these materials have been to others.

I feel like I have been wired by God to continually question what I believe and why, and, in so doing, I believe He has given me increasing revelation in some areas; not all, mind you, just some. By revelation, I do not mean some new unrevealed secrets of Scripture; I simply mean that light has been shed on God’s Word and opened the eyes of my heart in some new way. Through this process, my understanding of Scripture has undergone a number of enlargements and, frankly, corrections and adjustments.

There have been times when I have headed down a certain path of understanding, thinking it to be correct, only to have the Spirit of God convict me that something was off or amiss in it. This process of correction and adjustment has often started with a groan deep within me, which has led me to cry out to the Lord for answers. Even today, I have questions about some things I have written and continue to inquire of the Lord for more light.

Teachers and expositors of God’s Word should humbly acknowledge that they don’t have all the answers, and when they get off track in some area, they need to explain in what way the Lord has adjusted, corrected, or enlarged them. Unfortunately, I have seen very little of this in many of the so-called “ministries” of our day, as if the message has become crystallized or cast in bronze like a statue readied for a museum.

As I have testified elsewhere, for a time I was headed down the road of ultra-dispensationalism, especially in regard to the present-day state of Israel and Christian Zionism. I was failing to cast out the bondwoman and her son as warned by Paul in his epistle to the Galatians (4:21-31). I have since repented of such thinking and have attempted to correct this in my writings over the last several years. Lord willing, I trust that I will be released to write on this once again, especially in regard to the true nature of Zion. **We have come to Mount Zion** (i.e., New Zion) **and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem** (New Jerusalem) (Hebrews 12:22).

If we are looking to the present-day, earthly Jerusalem as to where God has placed His name, then we have not cast out the bondwoman and her son. Jesus has promised His conquerors: **“I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, New Jerusalem”** (Revelation 3:12). God has placed His name on His new temple, the conquering Body of Christ, **the holy temple in the Lord, the dwelling of God in spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22).

Back to my point; I have held for many years that we should never make one man’s (or woman’s) teaching our primary source of spiritual food, and we should be very cautious of any man’s teaching that has not changed in 20-40 years. We must challenge ourselves to *personally* search for the truth and not simply take another man’s word as the final word on a subject.

We need to take in the Word of God and digest it for ourselves and not make a diet out of predigested or, if you will, processed food. Just as the best foods for our natural bodies are whole foods, straight from nature, without all the man-made additives and impurities, so it is with spiritual food. We need to take in the pure Word, not one infected with the leaven of the traditions of men and their institutions and denominations, falsely disguised as truth, that have crept in over time. Jesus warned His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (religious teachers). After all, a little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6). I might add that we also need to fast from spiritual junk food.

To this end, we must be diligent to guard our hearts from following every wind of doctrine, or, as Paul warned, we need to guard ourselves from **the systematizing of the deception** (Ephesians 4:14 CV).

We all see in part and are prone to get off track in some area. I believe there should be growth and increased revelation not only in one’s teaching or message, but more importantly, in every believer’s walk with the Lord. Mind you, I am not implying that there must be growth and increase just for the sake of it but rather as a result of continually seeking the Spirit of truth.

However, let us be ever mindful that we need to discover the Lord and His truth **personally** and **individually** and **experientially**. If truth remains simply head knowledge, it will become either the foundation of religion or the basis for pride. Look at what Christendom has become in our day!

Well, I leave you with this. If you feel led to pray for me, please pray that I will have the mind of the Lord regarding whether I should continue to write and, if so, that I will have the anointing to do so.