

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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Let All The Earth Be Silent Before Him!

Today, around 1:48 am, I was awake and considering why the Lord had been relatively silent with me during this first month of 2014. The month was not totally void of His voice, but it was the quietest month in some time. So, I asked the Lord why it was so. Over the years, I have learned that we must wait on the Lord, something that seems to be difficult for some of the Lord's people to do and even at times seems to be out of vogue. After all, aren't we to be actively engaged in doing things for God; time is of the essence, we need to be doing something, even fulfilling our purpose? I am not of this school of thought. We need to wait upon the Lord. It is not about what we can or need to do for God; it is all about what our Father and Lord are doing. We need to line up with God's will, not our will or even our good intentions. Anything less or more than this will not do!

Well, when I asked this question, I immediately heard: **Let all the earth be silent!**

This comes straight out of the oracles of Habakkuk and Zechariah: **"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him"** (Habakkuk 2:20). **"Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation"** (Zechariah 2:13).

This is not a new word for me as it has come to me periodically since 2010. Of late, this word has resonated with me on several occasions as I have been with the Lord's people. It has been as if the Spirit of God has been whispering to me: "Silence. Let there be silence. Listen for My voice." All of this goes along with previous words from the Lord. The word for 2012 was and still is: **Who has stood in the council of the Lord that he should see and hear His word?** The word for 2013 was and still is: **Wait for it!** Here are the links for more on these words.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc572.pdf>

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc559.pdf>

This morning was different. The Lord broke His silence to tell me that it is time for the earth to be silent before Him. His silence toward me was a sign of the call for all flesh, all of the earth, to be silent before Him. It is not a call for one segment of mankind but a call to all mankind, for according to scripture, we are all of the earth or from the soil of the earth.

Then the LORD God formed man of dust [soil] from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [soul]. (Genesis 2:7 NASB [CVL])

The first man is from the earth [ge], earthy [soilish; choikos]; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy [soilish; choikos], so also are those who are earthy [soilish; choikos]; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy [soilish; choikos], we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:47-49 NASB [CVL])

The Greek word *ge* comes from a primary word meaning "soil." The Greek word *choikos* means "made of earth or earthy" and comes from another word that means "dusty or dirty, soil like." Most translations translate the Greek as the adjective *earthy*; however, the *Concordant Literal* (CVL) translates it as *soilish*. When we consider that mankind is made of the same substance as the earth, the word *soilish* makes a lot of sense. Given this, it is safe to conclude that the Lord is speaking to all mankind of our day, including Christians, for our bodies are earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7) or terrestrial/earthy tabernacle houses (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Who could question that there is a great need throughout the world for mankind to be silent in a day of great unrighteousness and injustice, and in a day in which all the structures of man continue to crumble? Who of the world leaders or even religious leaders are being silent before the Lord, even acknowledging His presence as well as His right over His creation? Who is coming before Him in silence to hear His voice? Only the Lord knows, but based on what is going on in the world today, it is easy to draw the conclusion that there are not many. There is a great need for silence in a day of great chatter.

However, I believe there is a much greater message in this word based on the fact that the Lord is in His holy temple or habitation and that this temple is not made of bricks and mortar but of people. Since the day of Pentecost, as the Lord's people, we are the temple of the Lord. As Paul reminds us: **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? We are the temple of the living God** (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; also see 1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19). Further, Paul tells us that we are **growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in Spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22). So, the Lord is in us, His temple, and He is saying to be silent.

We must acknowledge, however, that this temple has not been perfected or fully built up yet as we continue to occupy mortal bodies, that is, earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7), which means we are still of the earth (earthy or soilish), and we have the continual danger of living out of our earthiness. Our earthiness is our flesh that Paul says cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50). We are called to be a spirit-led people. Given this, the Lord is saying to His people: "Let your flesh be silent before Me. Let your earthiness, your soilishness be silent. Your flesh is directing your lives and speaking to you. You have a new nature in you. You have My Spirit in you, the Spirit of Christ. Be silent and listen to My Spirit. You live by My Spirit; now walk by My Spirit. I am a life-giving Spirit and am preparing a one new spiritual man in My image."

He is in us and we are in Him. We are His Body, His holy Temple; and He is commanding silence in a day of many voices, many confusing voices. Just as judgment begins with His house, so must silence begin with His holy Temple. It is the only way to hear and perceive His voice in the day of Babel. We desperately need to hear the Lord, and, to do to this, we need to be silent before Him. We need to stop listening to the voices of men who have not stood in the council of the Lord. We need to stop listening to the voices of the false prophets.

Do you realize that the school of prophets during Samuel's day produced the false prophets that appeared in the midst of Judah and Israel? They were professionals, religionists, academic prophets who studied religious history and had religious knowledge, but they were not speaking the oracles of the Lord. Is it any different in our day as the seminaries and other forms of religious schools produce professional pulpiteers, even ones who take on the title *prophet*? Of course, one does not have to go to school to take on a title, for many in our day do this in the absence of professional schooling. It is time for silence before the Lord!

This is no small issue or one to ignore. We are moving into perilous times, a day of tumult; the structures of man, even the religious structures, are crumbling. It is going to become increasingly difficult to discern the Lord's voice if we do not know how to discern His voice in this day. The day is fast approaching when it will be too late to learn how to discern His voice over the many other voices. This is a call to the individual members of the Body of Christ. Although the Lord speaks through men to His people, it is imperative that each of us learns to hear His voice speaking directly to us; only in this way will we be able to discern if and when He speaks through others. For too long now, many of the Lord's people have relied on the voice of others, believing that just because they have a title or a ministry or have written best-selling books or have been outwardly successful in the "work," everything they say is from the Lord. It is time to have a change of mind. We are one Body and of one Spirit, and we need to hear the one Voice! All of us, as the Body of Christ, need spiritual ears, and these come by being silent before the Lord.

Dear people of God, the Lord is in us. It is time to hush our earthiness and to push aside the innumerable distractions of life that are simply corralling us like cattle for slaughter. It is time to listen, for **the LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him!**