

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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One New Man – "Coming Very, Very Soon"

At **1.53 am**, on February 4, 2015, I was woken with this word: "***Publish on the one new man.***"

Over the years I have either referred to or written about the one new man many times, so this is not a new topic for me. However, at the moment, this is not on my list for writing material. The fact of the matter is my first reaction when I heard this was that I had no particular inspiration to do so. I considered dropping the matter but could not for three reasons.

The first is that I quickly realized that obedience is at the heart of this command, which goes along with the very word He wants me to publish. Obeying the Lord is not based on our interest level or inspiration. The purpose of obedience is to mature us as sons until we come into full agreement with the Father, so that we know His heart, His will, and His plan and purpose, and agree with Him without question. Children question, asking why they must do something parents ask of them. On the other hand, maturing sons listen for the voice of their parents and learn not to question but to respond out of love, until they know the heart and will of their parents to the point they act before even being asked, no matter what it is. Obedience is not about doing pleasant things or things we like to do; it may involve a level of suffering. After all, our Lord Jesus **though being a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered** (Hebrews 5:8). Jesus only did the will of His Father and was always in agreement with Him. This is the type of son that the Spirit of God is raising up in these last days; a son that is in full agreement with the Father. The obedience of a mature son has everything to do with the *one new man* that God has begotten and, by His Spirit, will be birthed through resurrection and transfiguration.

The second and third reasons deal with the time of 1.53 and the word *publish*. The number 153 signifies the sons of God. However, I was puzzled by the word *publish*; why wasn't I just told to write about it? ***Publish* means "to make publically known; announce, proclaim, divulge."** This is a call to proclaim the one new man, not to offer some doctrinal teaching about it. This is quite significant, for it goes along with another word the Lord woke me with seven days ago, on January 29, 2015: "***Tell all the world I am coming very, very soon.***" The Lord has spoken to me many times about His coming, but this is the first time He has emphasized this with "*very, very.*"

To add a little context, let us briefly consider the only verse in scripture that uses the term ***one new man***, which is translated this way in most versions, although a few use the expression ***one new person*** or ***one new humanity***.

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16 NASB)

Most appropriately, Paul, the apostle of the nations, is the only one to use this exact expression as a contrast to the former division that was based on the law of physical requirements. The good news is that because of the cross, in Christ, there is no longer any division. Of course, there is a great deal of doctrine and history tied up in Paul's words, and, down through the centuries, many have expounded on them. There is value in studying along these lines; however, as I see the **Day of Christ** approaching, I am becoming less interested in such things and becoming more interested in focusing on what lies ahead for all. I believe this is the Lord's doing. It is not just what lies ahead for those who believe in this age but what lies ahead for all of mankind, none excluded, both past, present, and future. This is the glory of the cross and is the highest and most glorious meaning of the *one new*

man, namely, that, in His Son, God is bringing forth a new humanity in which **Christ is all and in all** (Colossians 3:11), with no one left out, until God's ultimate purpose of being **All in all** is fulfilled (1 Corinthians 15:28).

In light of this, let us consider the meaning of the three words *one*, *new*, and *man*. The word **one** means "a single thing or unit, not two or more; whole; united; undivided." The word **new** means "never existing before; existing before, but known or discovered for the first time; taking the place of what has existed; having just come; having just reached a position, rank, place, etc." The word **man** means "a human being, whether male or female; the human race, mankind." There are other meanings attached to these words, but these are the ones that most appropriately sum up Paul's revelation. Just consider the word *new*; Paul's *one new man* came into existence at Calvary, but it was also in the heart and will of God before **the conception of the orderly arrangement**, about which I have recently written.

When Jesus appeared as the Son of God and died for the sin of the *whole* world, not just a select few or one single nation, all mankind **objectively** reached an undivided position or whole unit before God that is now **subjectively** being worked out in this age and the ages to come, all to the glory of God the Father, until He is All in all as His Son is all in all. Through His only begotten Son, God the Father has begotten a whole new united humanity based on the life of His Son. In essence, He has broken down every single barrier of man, whether physical, racial, tribal, religious, denominational, even saved and unsaved. He has brought peace to all. All of humanity is destined to be begotten and birthed into a new humanity, a new race, a new whole, all based on the life of His Son. Of course, today, we don't see it in anything near its fullness, but it is here in germinal or seed form within a first fruits people that are growing and maturing to be manifested as sons in the next age; immortal, glorified, spiritual, and heavenly sons in the likeness of the Son of God.

This is where the number 153 enters the proclamation of the one new man. The Lord woke me at this time, for He wants me to proclaim that the first fruits of the one new man are coming very, very soon, for He is coming to meet them in clouds in air. These are the conquering, victorious sons of God. In Hebrew, the expression *sons of God* [*Beni Ha-Elohim*], which appears seven times in Hebrew, has the gematria of 153. In Greek, the same expression has a gematria of 21 times 153. To make sure we don't miss the point, the actual number 153 is found in John 21:11 where Jesus appeared to His disciples for the third time and directed them to catch 153 fish.

Many have pointed out that it is a rather odd number to appear in scripture, which has led to much discussion over its spiritual meaning. Augustine seems to be the first to notice that the sum of all the numbers from 1 to 17 equals 153, which is also a factor of 17 times 9. The number **17** signifies **victory**, which speaks of the sons, especially the conquerors (overcomers), who will be found worthy to sit upon His throne and reign with Him on earth and among the celestials for 1,000 years. The number **9** signifies **the fruit of the Spirit**. The conquerors or ones in victory are the ones who are not only alive by the Spirit but also walking by the Spirit. This victorious, overcoming company will be the first to be **out-resurrected and transfigured** as the first fruits of the one new man. They will be the first crop or harvest of the greater harvest of all of humanity that is to follow. Don't let this one thought evade you; if there is a first-fruit crop, then there has to be other crops to follow until all the crops are harvested into the barn, i.e., the Kingdom of God. Miss this point and you miss the full meaning of the one new man. So, don't look at the first-fruit harvest as the end of the story. It is only the beginning.

Dear people of God, this is our hope, which is an expectation, not a whim, not a desire, not an imagination, not a maybe. It is a full expectation that this is so, and it will come about very, very soon. I purposely add the words *very, very soon*, for, as I have already said, the Lord has told me to tell not only His people but the whole world that **He is coming very, very soon** (His exact words). I realize people are very uncomfortable with making such declarations. I understand the reasons, but there comes a point when all the concerns and objections and fears, yes, fears of the many, must be ignored and the truth declared from the rooftops. If I don't declare this, then I am being disobedient. I'll leave the details and timing of *very, very soon* to the Lord. My responsibility is to declare it.

The first fruits of the one new man are about to be birthed into creation that is groaning for their arrival. Are you hearing the voice of the Lord? Are you obeying? Are you groaning? Are you in birth pains, knowing the Spirit of holiness is getting ready to birth the one new man, the man child within you? O, may it be so! Let us rejoice!