

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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The Presence – Seismic Change

In the last issue, I referred to June 26, 2015 as being a remarkable day. I won't go over ground already covered, so you are encouraged to read it if you haven't done so already. <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc650.pdf>

However, to add a footnote to the events of last week, it was reported on June 30th that the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that a six-foot tall Ten Commandments monument must be removed from the state capitol grounds because they (i.e., God's Law) are "obviously religious in nature and are an integral part of Jewish and Christian faiths." Yet another court has chosen man's law over God's law. By the way, this is called *lawlessness*.

Moving on; June 26 was a noteworthy day in my journal, for on this day twelve years ago, I was given the dream of Wednesday, September 8 that I have mentioned many times, probably too many times. I won't say anything more about it other than it was about the coming of the Lord. Interestingly, according to two sources, **the number 26 signifies the gospel of Jesus Christ or the power of salvation**. The 26th time that Noah's name is mentioned in the Bible is when he released the dove into the world for the second and third times. As mentioned in the last issue, the third sending forth of the dove signifies the sending forth of the Holy Spirit to burn up the chaff with God's spiritual fire, for **God is a consuming fire**. Thus, the good news of Jesus Christ or the power of His salvation will be manifested in the earth, and the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ will take root among the nations.

Now, at 8.40 am, on June 26, 2015, the Lord began to speak to my heart with sort of an unusual word. I heard: ***"I have loved you with a never-ending love that will see you through the days ahead and into the Presence, into the Kingdom of God. My Presence is coming. It is My Parousia for all who know Me and are eagerly and patiently waiting for Me. Fear not. I come in the glory of My Father. My glory is your glory, just as My Father's glory is My glory. Seismic change is coming."***

Sometimes when words like this come, I wonder if it is from the Lord or from my own imagination. The Lord knows my questioning, so to be sure I got the point, just as soon as I finished writing these words in my journal, my best friend John, who lives two states away, called and asked me how I was doing. Then, he said something like this: "I just had this very strong sensing of **the presence** of someone in my car with me and I thought of you." I knew that this was a second witness to *the Presence*. To make sure I still did not miss the point, later in the day I was curious about the *Books of Enoch*, so I picked up the copy that had just come in the mail and randomly opened to a page of the book. There I read that Enoch was transfigured into an angel called *the Prince of the Presence*. I wasn't too impressed with the story of Enoch, but I was impressed by what seemed to be a third witness to the expression *the Presence*.

So, I think it is a pretty sure thing that the Lord was and is speaking about His Presence in light of entering the Kingdom of God. Whatever the days ahead look like, it seems we can be sure that they will be seismic in magnitude, much like a great earthquake. Of course, the Kingdom of God manifested in the earth will alone be a seismic change as the kingdom of this world becomes the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. **We receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken**, but to receive it requires the removal of all created things that can be shaken. This requires God's seismic action. **His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.** (Psalms 97:4-5 KJV)

It seems clear that whatever lies between today and the coming of His Presence will require the Lord and His love to bring us through these times that might give some (most?) people reason to fear. I am not convinced like

others that the path going forward is going to be an easy one. **Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God** (Acts 14:22). In whatever way this plays out globally, nationally, or individually, the good news is that, for those with eager and waiting hearts, it leads to the Presence of the Lord and entering into His glory. *The Presence* signifies that the Kingdom of God has come, or, we could say, the Kingdom of the Heavens has come to earth. The will of God that is manifested in heaven is about to be manifested on earth.

In light of what was presented in the last issue, the way into *the Presence* is through the Holy Spirit's baptism of fire, for **God is a consuming fire**. Fire can also be likened to His glory. In other words, **God is the fire, and His Presence and Glory burn up or consume all the chaff, dross, or carnality from our lives**. On our part, we are encouraged, even exhorted, to eagerly and patiently wait for the Lord, wait for His Presence. When we enter His Presence, we will be entering His Kingdom of Glory and experiencing His righteous life in a way that we have never known.

If you have read much of my material, you know that I see resurrection and transfiguration as the way into this life, that is, into His Presence. Some indicate that the Lord's people will be filled with the Spirit as never before while still occupying mortal bodies. If this occurs, I see this as an interim step in the process; it will not be the end point but a sign of what is soon to transpire. Granted, it would be better than the life we now live, but it would not be the best. At this point, I have no indication from the Lord of this interim step. So, we wait and see.

But it seems the Lord was not done with impressing His coming Presence upon my heart. Two days later, on June 28th, I had just woken and was sitting on the edge of the bed and I saw the words **Psalms 27**. I hardly ever sit on the edge of the bed when I wake; consequently, I never receive a word picture in this manner either. So, this became my morning reading. The Lord is my witness; I was not familiar with the specifics of this psalm, which is not unusual for me, since I am not one who can recite chapter and verse off the top of my head.

In this one psalm, David gives great encouragement for ones who face warring enemies or adversaries. **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? ... Though a host (army) encamp against me, My heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident (trusting). ... One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.**

Is there any doubt why David was called a man after God's own heart? In the midst of great trial as his enemies sought his life and false witnesses rose against him, **and such as breathe out violence**, David kept his heart stayed on the Lord. His trials led him to a passionate desire to dwell in the house of the Lord and in the midst of trouble to be concealed in the Lord's tabernacle or booth. May we have hearts like this even as we face trouble and adversaries and false witnesses, and as we wait for the experience of Tabernacles (our new booths)!

Now, what really caught my attention in light of the word given to me about *the Presence* is verse 8: **When You said, "Seek My face [paniyim]," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."** The Hebrew word *paniyim* (H6440) is usually translated as *face* (259 times in the NASB), but it is also translated as *presence* (131 times in the NASB). Although I found no translations rendering verse 8 using the word *presence*, it seems to me that it just as easily could have been written as: **"Seek My Presence,"** and **"Your presence, O Lord, I shall seek."** After all, if we see the face of someone, are we not in the person's presence?

Dear people of God; *the Presence* is coming. The Kingdom of God is coming to earth to manifest heaven on earth and to lead the nations into the righteousness of God. The Presence is the Lord Jesus Himself. He is coming to manifest Himself to those who seek His Presence. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is** (1 John 3:2).

What are we to do in the meantime? Let us be like David and heed his exhortation. **Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.**