

Zion's Trumpet Newsletter

And his feet shall stand in that day
upon the mount of Olives, which is
before Jerusalem on the east...

Zechariah 14:4



Volume One

Jesus Is Coming Soon!

October 2007

Bringing Forth Iron

Conclusion

In part one of this message we saw that when God calls us to be a Christian, He is in fact calling us to a life of suffering and self-denial, so that His life can grow in us and eventually be manifested through us.

We also saw that because the apostle Paul knew this, *the need for suffering* was an integral part of his preaching and teaching. Indeed, he had some harsh words for those who claim to be Christians, but who refuse to take up their cross on a daily basis.

*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} **enemies of the cross of Christ**, whose end is destruction, whose god is {their} appetite, and {whose} glory is in their shame, who **set their minds on earthly things**.*

Philippians 3:17-19 (NAS)

Paul said those who refuse to live a life of self denial are "enemies of the cross of Christ" and their end will be destruction. That is, *eternal* destruction.

Notice carefully what makes a person an enemy of the cross. He didn't say they were murderers or drunkards or rapists or gamblers or drug addicts. Nor did he say they were gossipers or backbiters or envious. He said they were people who "set their minds on earthly things". They were people who followed their own appetites.

All that's necessary for *Christians* to become enemies of the cross—and by extension an enemy of Jesus—is that we keep our minds on earthly things and pursue our own appetites. This is why Jesus warned us not to try and *save* our lives. This is why Paul said those who are "carnally minded" and who live "according to the flesh" will die.

*For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **For to be carnally minded is death**, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are*

*in the flesh cannot please God...Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **For if you live according to the flesh you will die**; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Romans 8:5-8 & 12-3 (NKJ)

Following our appetites, setting our minds on earthly things, being carnally minded, or living according to the flesh, is evil because it *blocks* God's life from coming forth in us. This is why God hates our life; this is why He wants to nail it to the cross; and this is why suffering is so necessary. Only through suffering can we be conformed to the image of Jesus.

Of course, suffering is a universal condition of mankind. All people suffer in this life. Suffering in and of itself is not necessarily profitable. The thing that determines whether or not suffering will profit us spiritually is whether or not we are "exercised" by it.

The writer of Hebrews warns us not to "despise" the correction and the punishment of God, for it comes to make us "partakers of his holiness". We should expect to receive chastening *and* scourging from the Father's hand. (*Heb. 12:5-6*) To be scourged means to receive *severe* punishment—and this is exactly the kind of correction most of us need to break our stubborn, rebellious wills.

*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh **which corrected us**, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days **chastened us** after their own pleasure; but he **for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness**. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them **which are exercised thereby**.*

Hebrews 9-11

If we *voluntarily* endure suffering, if we *willingly* submit to the chastening and scourging of God, our suffering will "profit" us spiritually. But if we moan and complain about it and resist it, we will defeat the purpose of God in our lives. Instead of conforming us to the image of the Son, it will harden us and make us bitter.

We also said there is a remnant of believers today who understand this truth, and they are trying as best they can to take up their cross and deny themselves daily. As the result, they are not in danger of accepting a gospel that tells them they do not have to suffer.

However, we face other dangers—and one of them is the danger of being conformed to the *wrong* image of Jesus as a result of listening to ministers who continually focus on the love of God because they have an *aversion* to iron. These brethren never teach about spiritual iron and they never mention the fact that God wants to bring that iron forth in us. Nor do they tell us that if we want to rule with Messiah in the next age, we *must* have that iron.

They don't realize they are presenting an *unbalanced* image of Jesus to us—and that an unbalanced image of Jesus is a *false* image. They don't realize that a constant emphasis on love will *never* produce iron in us, and that it will in fact produce a strong aversion to it.

Those who over-emphasize love are quick to point us to passages which support their view. They say, didn't Paul tell us to speak the truth "in love" (Eph. 4:15)? Didn't he say we should walk "with all humility and gentleness, [and] with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love" (Eph. 4:2 NAS)? Didn't he tell us to "walk in love" (Eph. 5:2)? And didn't he say we should "increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men" (I. Thess. 3:12)?

Yes he did—and we should already be walking in that love and manifesting it to those around us. The problem is, that's not the whole story. The apostles also possessed and manifested spiritual iron. Since this fact is so often overlooked, we would like to look at some examples of that iron *in action*.

Consider the sarcasm of the apostle James, as he rebukes those in the congregations whose faith has produced no works. He says: "*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*" (James 2:19-20)

The term "O vain man" is equivalent to "fool". So under the unction of the Holy Spirit, James told these people in a sarcastic manner that their faith was no better than the faith of demons, and then he called them fools for believing they could have faith without works.

Can we agree that when James called his fellow believers fools he was manifesting God's nature? Or was he just in the flesh?

Listen to the harshness of the apostle Peter, as he describes false teachers: "*But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own*

corruption". (II. Peter 2:12) In modern terms, Peter is calling these people irrational animals who were born to be caught and destroyed. Can we accept that when Peter said what he did, he was manifesting God's character? Or was he was in the flesh?

Can you picture yourself talking this way about *today's* false teachers? Can you imagine yourself telling other Christians that someone like Benny Hinn is just an animal who was born to be destroyed?

Listen to the rudeness of Stephen, as he stands before the recognized religious authority of that hour and says: "*You stiff necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit...Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute?*" (Acts 7:51-52)

Telling the leaders of Israel they were "uncircumcised in heart and ears" and that they do "always resist the Holy Spirit" was a monumental insult to them. It was the same as telling them they were heathens in God's eyes. It was like saying they were not even saved. Can we agree that when Stephen said those things he was manifesting God's nature? Or did he just lose his temper?

How about you? Could *you* stand before any of today's deluded religious leaders and say what Stephen said? Could you stand before the Kenneth Copelands or the Joel Osteens of this world and tell them they are uncircumcised in heart and ears, and that they do always resist the (true) Holy Spirit?

Listen to the rudeness of Paul, when talking about Jewish believers who were demanding that Gentile believers be circumcised. He is so frustrated and upset (in the Spirit) at what these people are doing he says: "*But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves*". (Gal. 5:11-12 NAS)

He said he wished these Judaizers from Jerusalem would emasculate themselves! Now I ask you: can you reconcile these words of Paul with the other things he said about love? Can you reconcile these words with the "charity" he describes in First Corinthians chapter thirteen?

Can you agree that when Paul said he wished some of his fellow Jews would *castrate themselves* he was manifesting God's nature? Can you accept that he was being led by the Holy Spirit to talk that way? Or do you think Paul was in the flesh when he said these things?

What about you? Do you believe God would ever ask *you* to say something like that about someone? And if He did, could you do it? If your answer is "No", then maybe your view of God's nature is a little lopsided. Maybe you are walking under the influence of the Dragon.

Consider how rude it was for Jesus to tell the religious leaders of Israel that they were a “*brood of vipers*” (Matt. 2:34) and “*hypocrites*” (Matt. 5:7). Consider how harsh it was for Him to look at Peter and say: “...*Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me...*” (Matt. 16:23).

Do we realize that statement must have wrecked Peter that night? Peter loved Jesus. When Jesus said He was going to be rejected and killed by the leaders of Israel, Peter thought he was showing the Lord his love and devotion by telling Him He must never let such a horrible thing happen. The problem was, Peter's emotions were not under the government of the Holy Spirit, so Satan was able to use them to get Peter to go against the perfect will of the Father for Jesus—which was that He die on the Cross.

What about you? Do you think the Spirit of God could ever lead *you* to look at someone who loves you, someone who is trying to protect you, but who is (without knowing it) interfering with God's perfect will for your life, and say: “Get thee behind me Satan; thou art an offence to me”?

Consider the sarcasm Jesus exhibits in another place, as He attacks the self-righteousness of the Pharisees. He says: “...*They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*”. (Mark 2:17) You can almost picture Him holding up fingers with the quotation marks around “righteous” as He spoke to them, yet He was manifesting the nature of God.

Consider how harsh the apostle Peter must have seemed to those who watched in horror, as God wielded His rod of iron through him to slay a man and wife who were part of the Jerusalem church. (Acts 5:1-10) Ananias and Sapphira were not drunkards or murderers or extortioners or drug addicts. All they did was lie to the apostles about the actual price they got for some land they sold. But God slew them for that sin—and Peter was *the vessel* He moved through to execute that judgment.

How could Peter bear to do such a thing to Ananias and Sapphira? He could be used of God this way because he was letting the Holy Spirit conform him to the *true* image of Christ—the image that is able to manifest *both* the love and the iron of God.

How about you, brother? How about you, sister? Could God ever use *you* in such a way? Could He ever lead you to announce the death of someone you know, of someone you love, of someone who's been a part of your fellowship, who has committed a sin that doesn't seem that wicked?

Consider how rude Paul must have seemed to those who watched him publicly rebuke Peter for his hypocrisy.

When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong....When I saw that they were not acting

in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

Galatians 2:11&14 NIV

We'll never see anything like this among today's religious leaders because they see themselves as a special class of people—like doctors and lawyers—who are exalted above the *common* man. They will argue among themselves and talk about each other among themselves, but they will never argue with each other *in front of you*. They will never talk about each other *in front of me* because their first allegiance is not to God or His truth—it's to that exalted class of people called “the clergy”. They will always try to protect themselves and their fellow religious leaders.

Paul was not this kind of man. His first allegiance was to Jesus Christ and His truth—and that allegiance produced spiritual iron in him. That iron sprang into action when he saw how Peter's hypocrisy was affecting everyone, and realized that it had the potential to cause them to accept the false gospel the Judaizers had brought from Jerusalem. It was the iron in Paul that caused him to confront and rebuke Peter right there in front of everyone

Moreover, it was that same iron that would later cause him to write the following words to Timothy, his son in Christ: “*Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*” (1 Tim. 5:20)

Take a fresh look at the Old Testament prophets. Consider carefully the things God said and did *through* these men. Then think about how they would be judged by today's Christians. Most of us would view them as divisive, rude, obnoxious, and lacking in love. Indeed, if they walked into our fellowships today they would very likely be cast out and labeled *unchristian*.

Throughout the Scripture, God's servants have, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, used sarcasm, irony, ridicule and harshness as they spoke (or wrote) the messages of the Holy Spirit. They have confronted and exposed the sin of both the people and the leaders of Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church. Much of their ministry was negative and divisive, and they have often been used by God to pronounce devastating judgment on His own people. They were in fact, revealing God's iron.

We are not saying that we should express ourselves this way all the time. There is a time for iron and there is a time for love. Indeed, there are opportunities each day to demonstrate the love of God to others. What we are doing is highlighting the fact that when it comes to manifesting God's character—which *is* the image of the Son—there is more to it than being kind to everyone. Certainly no one can accuse Jesus, Stephen, Paul, Peter and James of being unkind or of lacking God's love! These men possessed and

shared the love of God with those around them every day. But they also had *iron* worked into their personalities. And because they did, they could say and do things that today's Christians can't relate to or even comprehend.

God wants to bring spiritual iron forth in us because it takes iron to live a life of self denial and self discipline. It takes iron to war against Satan, and sin, and self will until we have achieved complete victory over them.

He also wants to bring iron forth in us because without it, we will never be able to rule with Him in the next age. Yet another reason He wants us to have iron is because in the not to distant future, He's going to pour His wrath out on secular and religious Babylon.

*And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia**; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for **he hath judged the great whore**, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and **hath avenged the blood of his servants** at her hand. And again they said, **Alleluia...***

Revelation 19:1-3a

When God begins to pour out His wrath, entire nations are going to be obliterated. Millions and millions of people are going to die. John said when this happens, those who are "in heaven" will rejoice. This is more than just a reference to those who have died physically and are now in the spirit realm. It's *also* talking about those who are alive and are seated with Christ in heavenly places. It's talking about believers who are not minding earthly things. It's talking about believers who are walking in the spirit.

These believers will be able to say "Alleluia" when they see God pour out His wrath because they will possess the *same kind* of spiritual iron He has. They will be able to say "Alleluia" because they will have been conformed to the *true* image of the Son and they will *be one* with God.

How much spiritual iron have we allowed God to work in our lives? Would we have enough to *rejoice* if God's wrath were poured out tomorrow and our nation was destroyed by nuclear terrorist attacks? Could we say "Alleluia" with those who dwell in heaven? Could we be on God's side and say "true and righteous are His judgments?"

And what if we had to watch that wrath come upon those we love: upon our wife or husband, or our children, or our parents, or our close friends. Would we still be on God's side? Would we be able to say "true and righteous are His judgments" with those in heaven?

Sometimes I wonder just how many of us will even be able to recognize Jesus when He returns. How many of us realize He's not coming back as a babe in a manger, or a

gentle shepherd, or a suffering Lamb? How many of us realize He isn't coming back to reconcile and save people, but rather, to take vengeance and destroy those who hate Him and who kill His faithful saints?

Jesus Christ is coming back as a *king*—and He's not going to put up with any more rebellion from anyone, anywhere on this planet, anymore. Those of us who are used to doing our own thing or getting our own way are in for a rude awakening; for when Messiah returns, He will crush the rebellion of *Christians* just as surely as He will crush the rebellion of the nations!

So you see, this matter of bringing forth iron is extremely important. If we don't have the iron, we can end up an enemy of the cross, and as a result, be eternally destroyed. If we don't have the iron, we will not be able to rule with Messiah when He returns. If we don't have the iron, we could find ourselves on the wrong side of the battle on the Day of the Lord.

Therefore, we need to examine ourselves and make sure we have not come under the influence of the one who hates and fears the iron of God.

Selah.



Update On The Virtual Fellowship Hall

We have decided to open the room on **Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. (EST)**, beginning on **October 6th**. We will try to be led by the Spirit regarding when to close it. Once again, this will be a locked room. You will have to type in the password to enter. We want this to be a time of true fellowship and spiritual edification, not one of debate and confusion. There are a lot of "religious" people roaming around PalTalk who love to debate and argue about religious issues and I'm really not that interested in meeting them.

The password is: **Perfection**.

Also, I put up a new web site with a page about the PalTalk program. It contains instructions on downloading and installing the program. The URL address of the new site is: zionstrumpetministries.com

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