



bloodline network newsletter

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HE SET HIS FACE

“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.”

The previous year Jesus chose not to go to Jerusalem because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. He urged His family to go without Him saying, “*My time has not yet fully come.*” Only after his brethren had gone did He secretly go to the feast Himself. Jesus determined what He would and would not do because He knew the purpose of His life. Therefore He recognized the fullness of time and “*steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem*” to endure the shame of dying on a cross in order to manifest His purpose.

From the very beginning Jesus spoke of His purpose, saying His very sustenance came from doing “*the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*” He had no personal agenda other than accomplishing the will of His Father. He was firm and unwavering in what He did and set His course according to the divine plan.

“Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said “Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.” ... by that will we have been sanctified.’”

The sacrifice and offering of the Old Testament was a shadow that gave only a faint resemblance of a future event. It was a shading of the Word but not its complete meaning—alluding to but not clearly identifying the salvation of mankind as a willful choice that was not forced upon Him against His will. That’s why so many totally missed the significance of what was happening; they never knew the deeper meaning or real ‘purpose’ behind the rituals they religiously performed.

The body prepared for Jesus was intrinsically the Word made flesh—meaning the essence of God’s purpose was never in animal sacrifices or offerings but in His choice to fulfill God’s will. Jesus was not busy ‘doing’ something but rather passionately ‘being’ the Word made flesh—totally aligned to His ultimate objective and walking it out everyday. Jesus ‘willed’ to do God’s purpose; God’s will was the outworking of His life. He executed a firmly fixed resolve to do the will of God and steadfastly set His face towards fulfilling it. His sacrifice was holy because His intention was holy—wholly committed to fulfilling the will of His Father.

Jesus knew what was expected of Him and therefore spoke, *“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified—signifying that just as a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die, so must He die to bring forth much grain. Knowing the steps He must take in the next few days to fulfill His purpose weighs heavily upon Him and He says, “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour.”* A few days later in the Garden of Gethsemane *‘He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.’*

Because Jesus knew He was the embodiment of the law—not the shadow but the manifestation of God’s will, He knew His eventual demise was at hand. Jesus asks if this cup may pass from Him—making certain that dying on the cross was His only option. Releasing any resistance He may have had to the humiliation and degradation of being the embodiment of sin, Jesus embraced the will of His Father saying, *“Not My will but Yours be done.”*

The Garden is the final test of will. Jesus chose to submit to the divine plan and was determined to finish His work—forever defining salvation not as an outward change in circumstances but rather as an inward change of heart, in its attitude, intention and choice to do God’s will. The angel strengthened Him—strengthening Him in His purpose.

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

Why was the Apostle Paul so adamant about what he would and would not do? Paul knew his purpose and committed himself to do nothing outside of what God intended. He didn’t try to be a great orator or philosopher expounding on the testimony of God but rather chose to speak only about the risen Christ. Paul interprets Christ beyond the cross and the grave.

Paul spoke of the finished work of Christ. He understood that the Tabernacle brought him to Christ and he went past the torn veil of His flesh to become one with Him in purpose. The new man, the resurrected man, the order of Melchizedek and the

outworking of the tabernacle of God became Paul's talking points in the finished work of Christ—and he found man's ultimate destiny in the Body of Christ.

What would it feel like to be so determined that nothing else mattered? Was it possible to have that same mindset? Could man enter into the same space in time and experience the exact passion as Paul? If God's Word is the same yesterday, today and forever then man is capable of experiencing the moment again in Him—TODAY.

As I questioned the possibility of experiencing the same determined mindset, I accessed a portal and entered the NOW of God—connecting to the same spirit that was in Paul ... and the same passion fell upon me—catapulting me back to the Source of that passion as I heard the words, *“Zeal for My Father's House has consumed me!”* In that moment I felt the same intensity and passion in my life TODAY as Jesus did two thousand years ago! I determined to know Jesus and the outworking of His House—the finished work of Christ found an opening.

You have the Holy Spirit and therefore can access the NOW of God with the same intensity and passion. You are transcending time by actually pursuing your eternal purpose. When you set your face with intention and renew your heart with passion, then like Paul, you also connect with Him in purpose.

“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem ... And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father's House a house of merchandise!’ And the disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your House has eaten Me up!’”

The Psalms prophesy of Jesus, saying, *“Zeal for My Father's House has consumed Me.”* Jesus was so zealous in what He did that every experience was with the heart of His Father's purpose—His mindset determined to fulfill His Father's objective. If you are determined to know the outworking of His Tabernacle in the finished work of the Body of Christ, then you also discover your function and purpose in His House through the unfolding of His Word in you.

God *“knows the plan He has for you.”* He determined the meaning of your life before the foundation of the world! That means that you never have to fear doing something wrong, failing, coming up short, or having enough. He planned your future and determined your end—not by what you do or did, but according to His plan for you saying, *“I have purposed it; I will also bring it to pass.”* This is your great hope; God not only has a plan for you but vows to bring it to pass!

Once you know your purpose it should change the way you look at life, your job, even the things you do. The reason for your existence becomes your lens for seeing the world and how you function in it. Likewise you easily and confidently make decisions every day that affect how you live your life. Your zeal for life makes you determined to reach your goals!

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul was also steadfast in his approach and fixed goals saying, *“One thing I do ... I press toward the goal.”* He was determined to manifest the upward call of God in Christ Jesus and carefully set his course to reach his goal. Like Jesus he set his face towards fulfilling his purpose and was greatly used of God.

This was demonstrated in a vision of a fiery furnace. People with profound anticipation paused at a crucible—a pressurized gap in time that would subject them to an increase of function. They sought a breakthrough that would affect their future use in the Body of Christ and their concentrated attention attracted tremendous possibility.

At the precise instant they attained a breakthrough, the outstretched Hand of the Lord reached into the fire towards them ... and He compressed the container of their heart to fit His use. In that critical moment He formed the purpose of their heart into a handle. Man’s physical bodies became the hilt covering His Invisible Hand as He held the protruding handle of their heart. A blade extended beyond their backs—signifying their function in the finished work of Christ—God doing great exploits through them—*“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

God moves through you in ways that are not of your strength but His; *“for in Him you live and move and have your being.”* You may have been in a fiery furnace—a wilderness, but now God draws you out for extraordinary function. It is a transitional moment that hinges the advancement of His purpose in the risen Body of Christ.

David may have experienced a similar moment and passionately wrote: *“You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ... Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me ... Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”*

David’s Tabernacle housed the Ark of God, yet he designs special blueprints defining the function of another House. His son Solomon built the Temple and placed the Ark with *“the poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place.”* These were ‘handles’ that supported the transition of the Ark of His Testimony. Likewise you are God’s handles—you are the handle of His Word similar to the ancient scrolls—the Scriptures confirm that you are the written epistles of God. Many who cannot perceive the spiritual realm see His handles—they see God through your handling of His Word. You give them something to hold onto in the substance of His Word. You are a handle so when God moves He moves through you and they understand and use the revelation you unveil—you interpret the supernatural so they can see God.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

The transition from ‘doing’ the law into ‘being’ the manifested Word of God happens in a fiery furnace. If you put a handle on the Word of God so that others can grasp an understanding of the spiritual, then you are ‘being’ a handle *"fit for the Master's use"*—declaring *"a word in due season"* through your personal testimony of what you have seen, heard and handled that is true—forever strengthening their hand in God. You enter the timelessness of God and endless possibility unfolds as His grace releases the supernatural through you.

There is a baptism of the Father that we must be baptized with—it is a baptism of fire that purges the mind of ‘useless stuff’ and rekindles zeal *"to will and to do of God's good pleasure."* In the process of the fire you learn the full meaning of your life. Without the fire there is no depth of meaning for you to fall back on when life challenges you.

Everyone has a Garden experience and must choose which ‘will’ to follow. Those determined to lay down their ‘stuff’ and submit to a higher goal find that they are consumed with unparalleled zeal to fulfill His purpose with their life. You’ll recognize them by the determined set of their face towards fulfilling their purpose—they truly are the unstoppable!

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