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THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD SHALL FILL THE EARTH

NO.235

THE TRUE LIGHT

John the Baptist was not that Light. He came to bear witness to that Light. He introduced Jesus Christ as that Light. We read, *“There it was, the true Light coming into the world- The genuine, perfect, steadfast Light- that illumines every person.”* (Jn.1: 9 Ampl.)

What is it that the true Light reveals to every person? It is the true God. When men do not know the true God, they fumble and stumble in the darkness of their own imaginations. They create gods for themselves. They create the gods that will meet their needs and their fancy. Creatures become gods. The true Light came to reveal the true God.

In His prayer to the Father, Jesus says, *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”* (Jn.17: 3) This is the best definition of “eternal life.”

Light and Life are synonymous because the true Light reveals the true God and Life eternal is to know the true God. This true Light comes as a “revelation” to our spirits, not as knowledge to our minds. Because Jesus came in the flesh, every man that comes into this world is illuminated by this Light.

But as it was in the times of Jesus, not every man is ready to receive the true Light. Men prefer the darkness because their deeds are evil. They want to keep doing what they have set out to do. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were not about to let go of their position over the people.

But our God is longsuffering and He has decreed a day for every man to hear the call and face the true Light. Longsuffering means that He suffers long. God forebears. He endures our stubbornness longer and even gives us a way of escape.

Before we received the true Light, *“we walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience.”* (Eph.2: 2) But the moment we received Him we began a walk toward the purpose that He had for us. This is when we found the vision in our hearts.

I remember when the true Light finally dawned upon me, my heart stirred and I yearned for a world where there would be peace. I yearned for a world where life would be sweet and love would abound. I had not had much of that growing up and in my early marriage. I had not seen much of that in the people around me. Little did I know at the time that I was in for a lot of opposition and rejection before I could realize the scope of this calling.

In his great speech to the world, Martin Luther King Jr. declared that he had a dream. This was not a dream in the night, this dream was a purpose, a calling that God had set in his heart. His time had come and God was stirring up the vision that was within him for his people.

Martin Luther King did not turn away, he set out to do that which his heart called him to do. Even though he never saw his dream fully come to pass, he was the engine that empowered the great move

to make his people fully free from the stigma of slavery that was still upon them.

It is certain that the dream of Martin Luther King had stirred his heart with great anticipation long before he uttered his famous speech. He held on to the vision and kept it alive in his heart until the day came when it all came together, ready to be accomplished.

God has placed a vision in every man's heart but as long as man remains in darkness he cannot hear the call. When the time comes and he receives the true Light, the fulfillment of that vision begins.

ABRAHAM'S VISION

When Abram was a child in Ur of the Chaldees, he did not know the purpose for his life. He lived among heathens who worshipped many gods. Yet God had already placed it in his heart. So the day came when the true Light flooded his understanding and he heard the voice of God.

He went out looking for a city. It was a city that he had seen in his heart; it was the vision that God had placed in his heart. We are told that by faith he embarked on a journey not knowing where he was going. *"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* (Heb.11: 10)

Abraham knew that he was a stranger and a pilgrim in the earth. He was NOT looking for a city that was already built by men. When he and Lot separated, Lot chose a city that was already flourishing. It was a city built by men. He saw the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah and he was drawn to go and join their city. But Abraham wanted nothing that had already been established by men. God would build the city he was to dwell in. This is such an example for us.

For a time, we are like Lot. We seek to join ourselves to a church with a ready-made congregation and an established reputation among men. Perhaps we desire to be joined to an assembly that teaches an accepted doctrine and is vibrant in works and worship. One who has already built upon the foun-

ation. One who offers programs and missions that are admired in the world. But the time comes when God calls to come up hither and He shows us the true city whose builder and maker is God. Once we have seen that city, we are settled in our hearts; this is where we belong.

It took faith on the part of Abraham, his wife, his servants and the company that came out of Ur of the Chaldees with him to embark on such a journey. They dwelt in tents and were as pilgrims in the earth until God brought them into their land.

We as well have joined the ranks of those who look for the city of *"The living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven, to God the Judge of all an the spirits of just men made perfect"*

The Old Testament saints that have gone before us all had the same vision, We read, *"These have all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned."* (Heb. 11: 13-15)

They had received the promises and they did not settle for anything along the way. When they found a tantalizing oasis with many palm trees, they did not decide to stay there and build their city. They could have turned back from whence they came but they kept right on going. *"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he has prepared for them a city."* (Vs.16)

Is this not our own experience? We could have returned to where we began. Or we could have remained in a cool oasis with many palm trees along the way. But we left it all behind. This is not speaking of leaving the United States or France or any other earthly country; it is speaking of the groups and churches we join on our way to the true city of

God. The Heavenly Jerusalem, for the same writer gives us our destination, *“But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.”* (Heb.12: 22)

This is the city that Abraham was looking for and this is the city that John saw. It does not consist of any earthly gathering; we know it when it comes down from heaven. When it comes from the Spirit into our understanding. The city consists of saints who have been caught up in the invisible realm of spirit and who are being revealed as the church or the city of God. It includes the saints on this side of the veil who are being joined together with each other and with them. This is the city Abraham was looking for and it is the church we have yearned to join. This city is being revealed in us and to us. It is the city that we see coming down from God.

When I was a child, I lived in a very large city. The city of Paris consists of many neighborhoods where people live and have their being. I lived on a busy street with a dozen or so thriving little shops. My mother's shop was like a small variety store. She carried many things to accommodate the small needs of her costumers. She sold toiletries, shaving cream and ladies' stockings. She sold small toys (I used to play with the little lead soldiers) and some candies too. She sold magazines and the daily newspapers and much more.

Next door to us was a “creamery” who sold fresh milk, cheeses and butter. She also sold eggs and cold cuts. She had delicious ham and other fancy meats. Across the street was a “blanchisserie.” That was a dry cleaner but you could drop off your dirty laundry and pick it up a few days later all washed and ironed. This was not done on the premises but it was done. There was a boulangerie on the corner where you bought bread and mouth watering pastries too. A little restaurant on the corner invited you to the lunch of the day. The street level was made up of shops to meet every need while the entire six story buildings on the street were apartments. This is life in Paris.

In a city, the needs of the people are met by the

people of the city. So it is in the city of God. Each contributes their gifts to the city's needs. We are not all the same but we are all given something to share.

JOHN SAW THE CITY

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Rev. 21: 2) John compares the city to a bride ready to be given to her husband. She is “adorned.” This means that she is decorated with ornaments to enhance her beauty. She is dressed and attired like a bride with a head dress. She is groomed so that her inner beauty shines. This is what the word “adorned” means.

When John saw the city, he saw the entire church of the Living God, the same one that the writer to the Hebrews describes as the heavenly Jerusalem and Mount Sion. John compares her to a bride adorned for her bridegroom. She is beautifully dressed and groomed so that the beauty of “holiness” shines through her.

John saw the church as it is in the Spirit. He saw all the saints gathered under the same rule of Christ moving in unison with the Spirit. He saw her by the Spirit and this is the only way one can see the true church.

The greatest part of the church has gone behind the veil and cannot be made perfect or complete until those who are still walking the earth have totally fulfilled their part. *“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”* (Heb.11: 39-40)

When one of the seven angels talked with John he said to him, *“Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”* (Rev.21: 10) It was when John was carried on top of a great and high mountain that he could see the city descending out of heaven from God. It is as the Spirit lifts our minds

up above all that is earthly that we behold the beauty of the true church.

The Lord was opening the veil so that he could behold what had been hid since His resurrection. The Lord was letting John see those who overcame and are seated with Christ in His throne. *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* (Rev.3: 21)

This was the vision that John saw and that he wrote down for us so that when the Lord opens the veil that is on our conscious mind, we have the witness that it is true. The writing is a witness to that which the Spirit is revealing to us. The same vision that John saw has been placed in our hearts and when the Spirit quickens us, we see it and we know that it is true.

This is the way the witness of the Spirit works. We read the word or we hear the word and the same word that is in us leaps to life. The vision is then established in our own hearts. All of God's truth to us is established at the mouth of two witnesses. The Spirit within is a sure witness and is established by the written word which is a sure witness indeed.

LET THE VISION UNFOLD

Because God is omniscient and because His plan has been fixed from the foundation of the world, we came to earth equipped with a vision buried in our hearts. When our time comes, the Lord opens our understanding to the vision in our hearts and as we respond and follow Him, little by little, we find ourselves fulfilling our calling.

God always confirms His word. Samuel was raised in Eli's house. He was being groomed to become a priest and even though he was a little child, he heard God calling him. Three times, God called and each time Samuel thought it was Eli calling so he went to answer Eli.

However, the third time, Eli perceived that it was the Lord calling the child. *“Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call*

thee, that thou shalt say, Speak Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.” (I Sam.3: 9) Samuel received the witness through a ministry. Even though Eli was the one that Samuel would one day replace, God used Eli to train and confirm Samuel.

Joseph was called for the great purpose of saving many lives. God confirmed his calling through dreams. When he first received the dreams, he did not know how all would evolve, but he believed in the dream and shared them with his brethren.

David was called out by the prophet Samuel. He was chosen and anointed in the midst of his brethren. Whether it be Samuel, Joseph, David or any of God's called out people, they had no idea that their calling would cause such uproar and change in their lives.

When God first called us, we thought we were embarking on a glorious joyful new life. We had no idea that we would face adversities as never before. When we began sharing our new vision with the brethren in our church, we were shocked at the way they began to turn against us. As God opened the vision to us, we found ourselves being shunned by those who once loved us. And as the vision unfolds, the same process of rejection continues.

The dreams of Joseph had to be fulfilled. Abraham had to find the city of God. John saw the city by vision before he was joined to it. The word that God releases to us will all be fulfilled. It will not return to Him void.

Jesus came to earth knowing that He was called to save His people from their sins. There was a time when Jesus refused to heal a woman because she was not of Israel.

*“And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I am not***

sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” (Matt.15: 22-28)

It is obvious from this conversation that at the time this took place, Jesus limited His earthly mission to the House of Israel. As Jesus walked to fulfill the vision, things changed and the vision became much larger. God had ordained that the sacrifice of His Son be a much greater and more glorious work than that.

John declared, *“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”* (I Jn.4: 14) This is what John strongly believed and knew. Indeed, this was the vision of those who walked daily with Jesus and learned at His feet.

As we walk with the Lord we are led by the Spirit of truth and He leads us into all truths. We do not begin with all truths, but as we walk with Him we mature spiritually and He enlarges our vision. If for any reason we feel that what we see is so glorious that it is all there is to see and we close ourselves to more, we become stagnant. When we become stagnant, we die again spiritually and as Jude writes, we are twice dead, plucked up by the roots.

As overcomers we need to conquer the fears and the unbelief that keep us on the same level as the *“abominable and murderers and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars.”* (Rev.21: 8) It sounds impossible but actually this describes the unregenerate Adam creation. As long as we are not in Christ, we still harbor all these things in our hearts.

We often turn from the truth because it reveals our hearts. *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather*

than light, because their deeds were evil.” (Jn.3: 19) Jesus came and He was that light. He was the truth and His Spirit is truth. Because men did not want the truth, they crucified Him. As His Spirit leads us into all truths, He reveals our hearts so that we embrace the cross. If we turn from this work, we die again spiritually; we need another revival.

Those who refuse to move on with the Spirit, will come against those who choose to go on. This is the way it has been from the beginning and this is the way it is today.

GOD ANSWERS HABAKKUK

Habakkuk was a little known prophet in Israel. During his time, iniquity was rampant. Strife and contention were the rule and justice was absent. *“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”* (Hab.1: 4)

These were terrible times and Habakkuk was desperate to hear from the Lord. He repeatedly cried out, *“O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!”* (Hab.1: 2) God did not ignore Habakkuk, He reminded him that while he lived among the heathens, he had been called to stand upon his watch.

God gave Habakkuk an amazing word to write for all to see. *“Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously:(Look among the nations and watch- be utterly astonished! Ampl.) for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”* (Vs.5)

Then the Lord showed him the dreadful and terrible judgment that was coming. God was gathering the Chaldeans, a bitter and rash people, to march through the land and take over dwelling places that were not theirs. As one reads the first chapter of the book of Habakkuk, one can easily imagine the devastation that took place in that day and compare it to the violence and the many disasters that our world is experiencing today.

Still God had a prophet in Israel. One who could hear and receive the word of truth that would one day save the people from annihilation.

It is extremely important to remember that God declared, *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* (Amos 3:7) The words of the Old Testament prophets were vital to Israel but because truth is mostly hard to receive, they were often despised and their lives were threatened. This has not changed.

It was with great tenderness that Jesus told them, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent to thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”* (Matt.23: 37a) This has not changed.

The church of today still turns away from the true Light. The people still demand to hear what tickles their ears. They are as those who came to Jesus offering their many wonderful works, their prophesying in His name, their casting out devils, but Jesus said, *“Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Matt.7: 23) These things have not changed among those who have made themselves the shepherds of God's people.

Elijah ran from Jezebel who brought in all the false prophets of Baal to the kingdom. So God's true prophets were hiding in caves, running for their lives. Today, the false prophets of the Jezebel church system are spreading words of fear and selling themselves as leaders and protectors of the flock.

The word of God's true prophets has been rejected from almost all the churches and assemblies. The few that still remain in the systems have to submit to the rules of those who have taken charge. They are only allowed to speak what does not rock their boat. Yet God still has His true prophets. They are hid in the Son and they function in the true Body of Christ. God speaks to them and those who hunger and thirst after God's righteousness will hear them.

As Jesus prophesied, there are many false prophets and false Christs today at the end of the age. But God has prepared His elects for this; they have been sealed.

HABAKKUK'S REMARKABLE VISION

“And the Lord answered me and said, 'Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.’” (Hab.1: 2-3)

The vision that God gave to Habakkuk seemed far removed from reality. What was taking place in the lives of the people was indeed dreadful. Yet God had His Hand on the situation. *“Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts, that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall wary themselves for very vanity?”* (Vs.13) God was taking this people through fiery judgments so that they might run from their evil ways and turn to Him.

Then the Lord made this wondrous declaration, *“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”* (Vs.14) And *“... the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”* (Vs.20) The prophet was instructed to take this Word and write it so that those who would read it would be able to run with it. They could hold that word in their hearts and keep going with it. It was the word that could take them through these terrible days.

When the Lord answered his prophet, He did not dwell on the devastation that was taking place everywhere, He revealed His plan for the people and even for the world. God declared that the whole earth would be filled with the knowledge of His glory, even as the waters cover the sea!!!

We are now in times of judgment and **THIS IS THE WORD WE MUST HEAR AND HOLD UNTO** as well. Strangely enough this is the word that seems to offend the church's leaders the most.

It was not the first time that God had made such a proclamation, for unto Moses He said, *“But as truly*

as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."(Numb.14: 21) This is why Paul positively stated to Timothy, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* (I Tim.2: 3-4) God will not be defeated. He declared to Habakkuk, ***"The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him."*** (Hab.2 20) He was saying, "Do not argue or debate this with me. It is so."

Indeed, the Lord has come to His temple. He has taken His abode in His people and He is filling their earth with His glory. But the work has just begun. When God's fiery judgments have done their work in the world, the whole earth, the entire creation will also be filled with the knowledge of God's glory!

Beloved, can you not feel the Spirit stirring your heart concerning the things that God is doing today? Let our earth be silent...Let the natural carnal mind be quiet. Let every thought that is of the earthly man be still...Let us not doubt His word... Let us rest on this truth, "Our God reigns from His holy temple in the midst of us!"

God first showed His presence in the Tabernacle of Moses as He led them through the wilderness. He came through the voice of His holy prophets of old. Then He came to dwell in His Son Jesus- The first temple not made with hands. Now He is birthing the greater temple- The body of the Son. The mystery that has been hid from generations and ages is being revealed and made manifest.

Beloved, we are called to be OVERCOMERS. We are called to overcome the doubts and unbelief that would rob us from our calling. John wrote, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."* (Rev. 21: 7)

It seems harsh that those who are simply fearful and have trouble believing should be submitted to

the second death. But so it is written. The reason is that if after we have heard the truth and have felt the witness of the Spirit, we reject it for fear to be persecuted or even deceived or else we cannot believe it because we prefer to stick to what we have been taught in the past, then we need to go through another season of death with all its fiery judgments.

Very recently I had this dream, *"I had been given a thousand dollars. I took it, folded it and placed it in a little pocket of my purse by my cell phone. Then I went to visit people whom I knew very well. They were like family to me. Upon arrival, each one had placed their purse on a shelf in a little closet. I placed mine there as well. Later it was time to leave. All left before I did so I went to the little closet to retrieve my purse. All purses were gone including mine. I felt terrible because I knew that it had been stolen by someone from the group. I especially felt bad because of the thousand dollars I had folded into it."* End of dream.

I pondered this dream for several days. Over the years I had had several dreams of losing my purse or of my purse being stolen and as these dreams came to pass I knew that what was being stolen from me at the time was my identity in Christ. Perhaps through the thoughts of my mind or through someone who did not receive the word that God has given me, These things can temporarily rob us of our identity in Christ.

Many said about Jesus, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* It is written that Jesus could not do many works in His home area because they knew Him as the carpenter's son and they could not see Him as the Son of God. This is why many times, our own children or family cannot receive our ministry.

But the great concern I had in having this purse stolen was that I had placed a thousand dollars in it. I pondered this dream several days when suddenly the Lord gave me the answer. The "thousand" has to do with the "thousand year of ruling and reigning with Christ." This first resurrection treasure has been given to the "overcomers" in Christ.

In my first application of the dream I saw that because I had not been feeling well the last few days, my thoughts had mostly reverted to my natural way of thinking of myself. My “self” was robbing me from the inheritance that I had been given in Christ. That is the inheritance of the overcomer and the ruling and reigning with Christ over all the forces that were coming against me.

But as several days went by, the dream began to come to pass and the full interpretation unfolded. I was being robbed of my thousand dollars in yet another way. The dream was a warning. Some whom I know well and have fellowship with from time to time were going to reject me because of the word that the Lord was giving me. In reality, no one can rob me or you of your place in Christ, but they can kill your reputation among the people and rob you of the place that God has given you among them and the word you have for them. If I yielded to their pressure and changed the word to please them, I would lose my place as an overcomer and “my thousand dollars.”

Beloved, we must not be intimidated or afraid to follow the Spirit of God. We are coming to another crossroad and we are called to stand in what the Spirit is speaking unto His church.

JOHN'S GREAT VISION

While he dwelt in the desolation of his times the Lord showed Habakkuk the time when the knowledge of the glory of God would fill the earth. John the Revelator saw the great desolation that was to come at the time of the end. He records this, “*For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?*” (Rev.6: 17)

The answer to this question comes as John sees four angels standing on the four corners of the earth to hold back the adverse winds. He hears another angel give this command, “*Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*” (Rev.7: 3) So the people of the earth would feel the hurt, but those who would be able to stand were the servants of God who would be sealed in their foreheads. The

sealing in the forehead means that they have received the truth. God's called out people will be here during the fiery trials but they will not be hurt by them. When the time of God's wrath was fulfilled, this is what John beheld, “*Then I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. And cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb.'*” (Rev.7: 9)

Then John writes, “*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*” (Vs.13-14)

These are the multitudes of humanity are cleansed in the blood of the Lamb in the day of great tribulations. This is the day of purification and salvation that precedes the time when the glory of the knowledge of God's glory covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. It is the day for humanity to wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

This day has already begun. While the firstfruits are being sealed in their forehead, the wrath of God is stoking the fire that will turn great multitudes which no man can number of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues unto salvation. With John we shout, “*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*” (Vs.12)

Father, thank you for sending your Son for us and thank you for sending the Spirit of your Son to guide us into all truths. Help us Lord to keep our hearts open to your truths and not to be among the fearful and unbelieving. Thank you for your love and grace. Amen.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*