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HE RESTORETH MY SOUL

NO.213

OUR GREAT COMMUNICATOR

We once had a president who was called “the great communicator.” He was gifted in expressing himself with ease and clarity, and as a result he persuaded peoples and nations to consider the ideas and terms of our country. Ronald Reagan was a beloved man and indeed a great president.

But we have an even greater Communicator who desires to invest that same gift in each one of us. We read, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” (Jn.1: 1) The Word is the Greatest of all Communicators. Without “word” it is impossible to explain our thoughts. God's thoughts are expressed through His Word. His Word is His Son. They are not separate from each other; they are very much “one.”

God's word created all things. Paul introduces the Son with these words, “*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*”

*In Whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for **by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him. And he is before all things and by him all things consist.***” (Col. 1: 12-17)

First, the Father has “made us meet” to partake of the inheritance of the saints in light. This means that “*He has qualified us and made us fit to share in this inheritance of the saints...*” (Ampl.) He has qualified us by the sacrificial blood of Jesus on the cross. “*The Father has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love...*” (Ampl.)

Through our redemption in Christ, we are not only forgiven of our sins, but we are delivered from the powers of darkness (sin and death) and transferred into the Son's kingdom. This is the only kingdom that is ruled by the One who is the image of the invisible God! “*He is the exact likeness of the unseen God- The visible representation of the invisible; He is the Firstborn – of all creation.*” (Ampl.)

There never has been a creature like Him, for He is the First. But there are many more to come, for He is also the Last and He holds many more within Himself. John tells us that in the beginning He was the Word. Now we see Him as the expression of the Word. He is the Word expressed through a Man. He is the Word made flesh.

The new creation is contained in Christ and He is the beginning of this new creation. This new creation is the Word made flesh. In Him are found all the thoughts and purposes of God, and they are expressed through Him.

The garden of Eden is that place within each one where we hear the voices of the spiritual realm. The

tree of life represents the Word of God. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents the word of the wisdom of this world spoken through the carnal mind. The first man Adam, partook of the wrong tree.

When the serpent appeared with his earthly, sophisticated wisdom, Eve was mesmerized and when she believed that she could be as God, she was deceived. As a result she became confused and the word of God that had led her each day became a mixture of good and evil. The Word that once gave her peace and joy was now a word that troubled her and brought sin and death in her life. She ate of the fruit and because it was ordained that her husband cling unto his wife, he followed suit. This means that they took this word within their being and became one with it.

It was as the parable of the good seed in the field. *“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.”* (Matt.13: 24)

The field of our hearts and minds has been sown with tares. This means that all kinds of thoughts and ideas have been spoken in our ears. We may have some true Word of God but along with it, we have a mixture of all kinds of ideas and doctrines. These are lies; they are tares. They are the floods that John saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon.

When the pure Word of God is polluted it no longer gives life; it leads to death and decay. We become double-minded, *“A double-minded man is unstable in ALL his ways.”* (Jms.1:8) The tongue is supposed to be a tree of life but it has become perverse and contrary to the truth. *“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.”* (Prov.15: 4)

When we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and filled with His Spirit, we receive a witness to the truth, within our beings. For a time, we seek Him in the congregations that are called by His name but little by little, we find that our witness within separates us from these. We never seek to be

separated, but the faithful witness leads us on. Then the day comes when we find ourselves separated from all and wonder if we are hearing right..

We finally realize that God's Holy Spirit will not tolerate our double-minded ways. We must separate from the traditions of the world and be firm. We know that we have many brothers and sisters in bondage to these and we love them but we can only pray that they will also take hold of the Spirit within them and be fully delivered from the attraction to a world of sophistication and deceit.

All need to face the truth and know that the wisdom of man and the glitter of the world are from the serpent. The words of the serpent are very subtle and smooth. They are the wisdom of this world. We must leave it all behind and learn to walk in the simplicity of the Son of God. May the Lord make us His example for men to follow.

THE TARES ARE THE CHILDREN

When Jesus explained this parable, He did not refer to the tares as just “seed,” He said, *“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.”* (Matt.13: 38-39) The end of the world, can best be translated as the end of the age.

It seems that it is easy for us to understand that as we find union with the word of God we become one with Him, but we must also comprehend that when we find union with the word of the prince of this world, we become as he is as well.

The children in the parable are “persons” who have fully received the seed in the earth of their hearts. Those who are the tares are the ones who have received the bad seed and have given birth to actions and deeds that are the offspring of that seed. Actions and deeds are produced by people, so the tares become these people. The righteousness of God leads us to the right actions and behaviors.

John the Revelator tells us that the Lamb's wife is arrayed in "fine linen." This is the new body that she receives when she becomes one with her Bridegroom. Then John explains that "...the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." (Rev.19: 8b) This means that our new body is the fruit of the righteous acts and deeds led by God's Spirit.

Paul wrote this powerful truth, "*Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*" (Gal 6: 7-8)

The new body as fine linen is the fruit of righteous sowing. The body of this death is the fruit of our corrupt sowing. We sow the seed of the Word in our souls and our acts and deeds accordingly follow. When we partake of the Christ, the Word of God within, we reap life eternal and in the end, the body of resurrection and immortality.

Paul explains, "*Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is **joined to an harlot is one body?** For two, saith he, **shall be one flesh.** But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.*" (I Cor.6: 15-17)

The Word enters the soul (mind and heart) and the body is one with the soul and acts accordingly. We become one with what we join ourselves to. If we join ourselves to false doctrines and ungodly behavior, we become the body of that seed. This is how "words" work. Words are seed that produce offspring or persons who believe that word and act accordingly. They become the children of that seed.

Our body is one with our soul. This is why John prayed, "*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*" (III Jn.2) He knew that when are souls are nurtured with the pure word of God, our entire bodies greatly benefit.

Denominations and nations produce children or

people that look and act as the ideas and tenets that have been instilled in them. This is so obvious when we watch and observe people. In nations, people that are in bondage to a dictator, are trained to think alike and become the image of their regime.

For example, when we look at the people of North Korea, we see the striking image of a people who have been programmed with the same thoughts and ideologies. They are brain-washed by the despots who rule over them. Their minds and souls are imprisoned and they are forbidden to think for themselves. They are never permitted to read or hear anyone else's ideas and surely not the Bible. They are kept hungry and even starving so they have no strength to rebel. They have become puppets of the regime. This sounds horrible and it is, but it is not far removed from the brain-washing of our own religions.

When God declared, "*Let us make man in our image and after our likeness*" He was speaking of a people who would express His Word and would be like Him in character and behavior as well. But He did not create puppets. When man received the seed of the serpent from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, man lost the Word and therefore lost the knowledge of God and the image of the Son.

BY FIRE

The only way to absolutely destroy seed is to burn them. Jesus taught that the harvest is the end of the world. This is the time when all seeds come to their fruition. In spiritual language, seeds are words. They are ideas and thoughts that are spoken to produce deeds and actions. They have produced the societies, religions and nations that we see in the world today. Some are the result of good seed (the Word of God), all others are tares.

Jesus says this about the tares, "*The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered to be burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of Man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them*

which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath an ear, let him hear.” (Matt. 13: 39-43)

Literally, we know how fire can destroy everything in its path and spiritually speaking it has the very same effect. Fire consumes that which is of hay, wood, stubble or tares. The only things that are refined rather than destroyed in the fire are made of gold, silver or precious stones. It means that all that is of the carnal man is destroyed and that which is of God and of Christ is refined by fire.

God made natural things to reveal the things of Spirit. This is why Jesus spoke in parables and why God speaks to us through dreams. Through the things that are familiar to us, He explains the workings of spiritual things. Therefore the laws of natural things can be applied in the Spirit. Wood is the symbol of flesh while silver and gold are symbols of Christ and God's nature. Natural wood is combustible, while precious metals are refined by very hot fire.

If fire destroys wood in the natural, spiritual fire will destroy that is of the flesh. If silver and gold withstand the heat of fire in the natural, the spiritual interpretation is the same. Tares are products of words that are not of God. Tares that are found in the fields or hearts of Christians are false doctrines or erroneous ideas. Tares are found in the hearts of people that follow false religious teachings. Tares are also in the imaginations of men and in the governmental systems of nations. Wherever tares are found at the end of this age, they will be destroyed.

Tares are words that choke the good seed. Years ago, when the Lord was teaching me this, I dreamed that *“I saw a large field with beautiful green beans ready to be picked. However, the beans were all tangled up into weeds that had grown and overtaken the field.”* This was a very simple teaching of the condition of my heart and of the time of harvest. Even when good seed has produced fruit in our hearts, tares have to be removed before we can reap the goodness of the harvest.

Indeed, even after we have been separated time and again from the false teachings of the traditional literal church, the enemy has come in the darkness that remains and sown tares among the pure rich word that we have received. Just as we naturally have to bathe daily, we must yield ourselves daily to the truth and be ready to wash away what is not of God.

GOD SAVES TO THE UTTERMOST

God is merciful. He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish. This means that God's plan is set to save to the uttermost. *“Wherefore he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* (Heb.7: 25)

God has set up His new priesthood in Christ to intercede for all who will come to God and save them to the uttermost. The Amplified version speaks of the “uttermost” as “completely, perfectly, finally and for all time and eternity. This is our perfect salvation.

The word says that He saves to the uttermost *those that come to God by him*. This does not mean that He saves the uttermost number of people, it says that those who come to God by Him will be perfectly and completely saved. This means that one has to come to God by Jesus Christ to be saved.

God in His mercy has designed a plan. Although it comes in different ways, God's plan is the same for all of us. It often takes fire and brimstone to get us there. It takes pain and suffering until we are able and willing to hear the still small voice calling us unto Him from within. This is what it took for me. It took years in the school of hard knocks followed by the final punch when I found myself in an identity crisis. I thought I was losing my mind trying to dig my way out of a “black hole” when finally I heard the still small voice calling me unto Himself.

If nothing works on this side of the veil, God, in His mercy may take one to the grave and deal with them in “the place of the dead” to turn them around unto Him. (See Rev.20:13)

At the end of the age, God will introduce His sons to the world and cover the earth with His glory. Then all will see the glory of God in a people that stand in His image and likeness. And so will be fulfilled the Scriptures that Paul quoted from the prophet Isaiah, *“For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”* (Rom.14: 11)

FOUR LEVELS OF LOVE

Recently I had a dream that puzzled me at first, but when the Lord gave me the understanding, it opened an entire area of study about God's love.

Love is a subject that has raised the interest of many over the centuries. We all know that “God is love.” However, one must be careful to not turn that around and assume that “love is God.” There are counterfeit loves. There are all kinds of “lusts” or strong attractions and appetites that disguise themselves as “love.”

The Greek philosophers had their day and time interpreting love. In the Greek language, there are four words that are used for our one translation of the word “love.” The four words are Agape, Philia, Storge and Eros. Only two of these are used by the King James translators of the Bible, they are Agape and Philia.

In the Greek, these four words define the nuances or delicate differences of the meaning of love. AGAPE love is a SACRIFICIAL LOVE. It is not affectionate; it is a deeper sense of true love and is not motivated by attraction. It is the love of I Cor. 13- It is the CHARITY that gives and gives and demands nothing in return. This is why it is called God's highest love.

PHILIA LOVE is friendship love. It includes loyalty to friends, family and community. It can also apply between lovers. STORGE means affection. It is the love felt by parents for their children. It is the relationship between family.

Because EROS is a passionate love with desires and longings, it has often been degraded to sexual love; but that is not its true meaning. Eros is inti-

mate love but does not have to be sexual in nature. It is also described as the appreciation of inner beauty or of beauty itself. It can have physical attraction but that is not a necessary part of that expression of love. C.S Lewis wrote a short book entitled “The Four Loves” where he deals with all these subjects.

THE DREAM

It was this recent dream that prompted me to do a little bit of research on “love.” *“I dreamed that I was visiting people on a large farm. They were gathering for a festival and “Love” was their theme. Their manner of dress reminded me of the Amish and they had black coverings on their head that reminded me of some of the Catholic nuns I knew in France.*

They held each other's both hands at arm length, and smiled at each other repeating, “I love you” as they shook both their hands. They brought food to share, especially vegetables that they had grown in their gardens. Beautiful vine ripened tomatoes and other vegetables were gifts to each others. I walked around among them and admired how they were doing all this.

One took my two hands at arm's length and shaking them he said, “I love you!” I thought it was all nice and admirable but I felt strange and uncomfortable among them. Then my husband showed up. He had real white wavy hair and looked so good. He gave me a kiss on the mouth and held me close with his right arm over my shoulder so I laid my head on his shoulder. We walked like that among them. The love that I felt from him and for him was so strong and so beautiful that I felt a little ashamed to show them this love. But my husband just marched with me that way in their midst.” (End of dream)

When God gave me understanding to this dream, I knew that I needed to share it with those who are on this walk. We have come so far in our relationships and love for one another, yet we still hold each other at arm's length. We give each other, the fruit of our labors of the land, but it is still as the

sacrifice that Cain offered and not the best love. The black caps or coverings on their heads show that our love for each other is still bond up in religious, ritualistic darkness.

To some extent, many of us have experienced true Agape love. We have given of ourselves to one another with no demands in return; I have received some of that love. We have certainly experienced the Philia love of true friendship and integrity when we can trust each other and depend on each other in times of need.

Most of us have experienced the Storge love, that is the affection for our children and between family members. But none of these is the highest expression of love that we are called to as the Bride of the Lamb. This love comes when our Bridegroom appears.

This is the love of the Shulamite for her Beloved as she declared, *“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.”* (S.of S.1:2) We have known a measure of this love as He faithfully speaks His word in our hearing ear. The kisses of His mouth are the very tender and special words that He speaks privately to us.

This love includes all other expressions of love. It is the love that we will feel when we see Him as He is and we are one with Him. It is the love that will fill all the voids in the depth of our beings. This is the love that I felt in the dream when my husband appeared and kissed me. It was the love that I felt when we walked side by side holding each other close.

This love is not a sexual attraction but it has the power of drawing us together as one. This is the love that makes us one as He and the Father are one. This love cannot be accomplished by rehearsing it with each other and trying to make it work as they did in the dream, and it cannot be obtained by sharing the bounty of our earthly labors (the beautiful fruit and vegetables that they offer each other). This love can only be worked in us in the secret place of the Most High.

Even when we endeavor to love one another, we are only able to extend an “arm's length” love. A strong bond is formed when we walk together through the hard knocks of life and it gives us compassion and love for one another but it is more like a “charity” or a Philia love than the love that desires His kisses.

The kisses of His mouth have to do with His Word. The depth of His love is found in His pure word. It is the Word that attracts us to His presence. It is the Word of His mouth that our souls yearn for *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”* (Ps.42:1) It is the pure Word that contains all things that fulfill our longings. That which begins to stir within is the need for the pure Word of God that was lost in the garden.

We have grown accustomed to think of the Word as the reading of the Bible or a sermon from the pulpit, but the Word is much more than that. He is the One that causes our hearts to beat. He is the One that whispers in our ear and gives us life. He is the One who is keeping the world in motion. The Word is the Truth and He is Life. He is our Husband, our Lover, our Beloved and we are His.

He is the Word that created all things and who sustains all things. He is the Word that is appearing in life from within. He is the Word that is the Peace for which creation is yearning. He is the tree of life that grows by the river of life within our very soul.

When Jesus taught the disciples that the day would come when they would suffer great accusations and persecution for the Word' sake, He said, *“Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer; for I will give you **a mouth and wisdom**, which all your adversaries shalt not be able to gainsay nor resist.”* (Luke 21: 14-15)

He said that the warfare they were going to face would be won by the words that He would give them to speak. But the word would not get them out of any bad situation, on the contrary, He continues by saying, *“And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and*

some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name' sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. IN YOUR PATIENCE POSSESS YE YOUR SOULS." (Vs.16-19)

WHO POSSESSES OUR SOUL?

Our God is a multi-tasks God. He gets many results out of one experience. As He perfects His Word in us, He also brings us to the cross. At the same time, He uses those who come against us to judge them or bring them to repentance. These trials and persecutions are just what it takes for us to patiently "possess" our souls.

The walk that Israel took through the wilderness to go possess their land is a perfect example for us in the Spirit. The land that they went to possess was a literal piece of ground inhabited by giants. Yet God had told them that He had given them that land. The giants thought that they possessed the land, but actually, God is the owner. As David penned, *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* (Ps.24:1)

God is the Owner of our souls but our souls have been overtaken by giant forces that bullied our minds, took control over us and enslaved us. Jesus redeemed our souls. He paid the price of re-entrance into the land where God rules. He took away the power that the enemy held over our souls; He disarmed the enemy for us but it is up to us to rise to the occasion, take hold of God's Spirit and throw them out. The problem is that we have become attached to some of these giants and it is often reluctantly that we show them the way out.

The strongest of these giants are the ties that we have developed with the religions and traditions of men. When Jesus told us to "possess our souls," He explained that even parents, brethren, kinsfolks and friends would betray us. Because they can exert more influence on us, they betray us by putting pressure on us to remain in their traditions. After all the family has always been faithful to this church so God could not be moving us on.

Jesus is explaining that when anyone other than

God exerts influence over us, they possess a piece of our souls. This is why Jesus said, *"Who is my mother and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, 'Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister and mother."* (Matt.12: 48b-50)

These are the ties that bind. The ideal is when our own families are also in step with the Word; this is a very special blessing.

Jesus did not mean that we should neglect our mothers and fathers or that we should not respect them and love them, but He meant that we should make them know that we will no longer be bound to their traditions. Our souls belong to the Lord; this is a marriage and we must cling to Him only and follow Him.

REDEEMING OUR SOULS

Our souls and bodies are one. In Gen.1: 27 we read that God had created man in his own image. This man in Christ was spirit. It was when God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, that man became a living soul. (Gen.2: 7) It was when man was given a visible body that God gave him the breath of life (soul).

The first Adam had not sinned and death did not enter his body until Eve met up with the serpent in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that time on, death entered into man's soul and his body became corruptible. This put the soul in jeopardy, for if the soul loses the body with the breath of life, she becomes lost in the realm of death and hell.

The work of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the soul with redemption and a new body; this is our lifeline. No other god or other product of man's scientific knowledge can provide the soul with a new body. Only in Jesus Christ do we receive a new body. He is the One who purchased it for us on Calvary. The spirit will return to God but, without a body, the soul enters the place of death and hell.

To obtain the new body, one must first come to Je-

sus Christ for atonement. His blood is the only acceptable sacrifice to God. When we receive his atonement, then we must receive His Holy Spirit to lead our soul into full restoration.

No one wrote more about the soul than David in his Psalms to the Lord. *“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?”* (Ps.89: 48) And again, *“O bless our God, ye people and make the voice of his praise to be heard: which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. For thou has proved us; thou has tried us, as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou has laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou brought us out into a wealthy place.”* (Ps.66:8-12)

David's experience with God was so rich. It was rich because God tried him in the fire and in the water. He was tried by men and by affliction and in the end he saw the wealthy place of eternal life that God had brought him to.

As I was pondering these words, my heart reached out to the Lord in billows of thanksgiving for the many difficult trials and afflictions that He brought me through. If it were not for these, I would not know Him today as I do. Note that we are tried as silver. It is not the old Adam nature in us that is tried. The old man is dead on the cross. There is nothing in him that was any good. It is that little bit of silver (even our faith) that God has invested in us, that is being tried by fire.

That silver in us is the Christ faith that calls out to us when we suffer in the flesh or when our emotions pull us to the bottom of the sea. The bottom of the sea is the depth of our souls. It is where our emotions are likened unto the weird and scary creatures that are found in the sea and that we never knew existed. It is where we meet up with powerful and strange emotions that we had never felt before. It is when we are in these places, physically and emotionally that we reach out for the silver that God has ingrafted in us.

The old Adam nature can only be dealt with by the

death of the cross, but the silver that God has placed in our souls is the lifeline to our souls and to our new bodies. David cried out, *“O God, thou are my God; early will I seek thee: **my soul** thirsted for thee, **my flesh** longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.”* (Ps.63:1) There have been times when we walked in dry places and times when we drowned in the sea of our emotions. These were all God's tools to restore our souls.

Everyone is acquainted with the twenty-third Psalm. It has been mostly read at funerals to proclaim the blessings of the departed. But David did not write this for funerals, he wrote it from the depth of a soul who had walked with His God and experienced His goodness. *“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. **He restoreth my soul:** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”* (Ps.23: 2-3) David was bursting with praise for the goodness and mercy of God to his soul!

The green pastures are the places of the Spirit where He feeds us with words of life. The still waters are the calming moments when He brings the soul that has been tossed and stressed by strong emotions into a place of peace.

He leads us in the paths of righteousness. Those are the paths where actions and reactions are in tune with God's Spirit. They will not damage us or others. This is where the Spirit leads us into right attitudes and behaviors. The soul is being restored. Faith is replacing fear and fury. This is the day that the Lord has made,

“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Ps.118: 23) Indeed we are experiencing that Day. The light is shining upon us and we know by the Spirit, not by the intellect, that our soul is truly being saved from the grave. This is the day of rejoicing! Blessed is the name of Lord! Forever. Amen.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*