<u>Going Deeper in Him, Yet Getting Out of His Way</u>

About the middle of November, the Lord gave my wife a night vision:

> *I was with the LORD, and the LORD was with me. The place was in old Jerusalem, and it was the time of His Crucifixion. And He showed me people, lots of people. He showed me leaders of the church in their fine apparel. He showed me followers of Him. And I saw Him on the cross, and then He and I became one; I was in Him and He was in me. I could see through His eyes, I could hear through His ears; His words became my words. And He said, "See their unbelief; their ignorance shall prevail unto the end of the age. Woe to them who are pompous and arrogant, and think they have the right answer for everything, for they have nothing. You kill Me over, and over, and over again with your lack of faith, your unbelief, your arrogance, your pride. I died once for all your sins, but you kill Me over, and over, and over again. I gave you My blood, I gave you My life, I have given you My Spirit – yet you reject Me. Woe to those who say I am not, for I AM! I will always be the LORD your God. I have given you power, yet you do not receive. Those who claim to be My sheep will take all that I give. I give you power; the Holy Spirit is Me – I am the Holy Spirit. I am the power, I am the strength. I give you Me, to walk as I have walked, to heal as I have healed, to live as I have lived, to see as I have seen, to hear as I hear. I give you language; I give you tongues so that you can spread My Word, so that you can speak boldly before those who you approach in My Name. I am the LORD; you and I are one.*

We who are believers are the Body of Christ; we present the Lord Jesus to others. We have different gifts for service to Him, and different roles to play, yet all that we are comes from Him. This is much the same as our physical bodies having different tissues – muscle, bone, skin, blood, etc. – yet all coming from the same instructions in our genes.

As the time of His return draws nearer, God is calling His Body (His Church) out for greater works. I believe there is one final Great Awakening still in store for this world and this nation before the Lord Jesus returns to call believers to heaven with Him as the End Times play out. To accomplish this, the Body of Christ must first grow deeper into Jesus, yet at the same time learn to let Him be the "head of the body," and simply get out of His way.

We are entering a time when many of the ways believers once worshipped God are going to fall by the wayside, as God calls His Church out of the churches. Believers are no longer content to merely meet one to three times a week and leave their relationship to God at that. They are increasingly desirous of the Church as it was in its early days; presenting the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, seeing sickness healed, demons driven out – in short, living the life Jesus promised us. They are also increasingly impatient with those who would set themselves up as leaders who are not completely sold out to God. And they are ready to take all that the Lord has for them to further His Kingdom, and give up whatever of earth is needed in order to see this happen.

I have been learning from the Lord over the past few years about the parallels between the development of our physical bodies (especially from the point of fertilization of egg by sperm and the growth of a baby from that point) and the development of the church. One thing that He has revealed in all this is that from the fertilized egg, two paths develop; one path brings a person to the point where they can function in the outside world and the other leads to the support structures that help develop the baby (such as the placenta). Both have the same DNA, and both result from the same act of conception. But at the point of birth, one will grow and develop further into adulthood, while the other will be regarded as no longer necessary and discarded. After all, outside of the recently-discovered potential benefits of cryogenic storage of umbilical cord blood, no one carries around their afterbirth throughout their lives as a souvenir.

The church is in a period of transition, and is reaching a critical point in its development as the Body of Christ. And it all hinges on a single question; *do we want the things of God or do we want God Himself?* Do we want to play with His stuff or do we want a relationship with Him? Not all that long ago, there was a time when this was one and the same. But the time for play is coming to an end as we are called to the greater works, to be used by God for the last Great Awakening and to prepare for Jesus' return. We can learn the deeper teachings of God, built upon His Word in both the *Tanakh* (the Torah, Prophets and Psalms and poetic writings, more commonly known as the Old Testament) and in the *B'rit Chadashah* (New Covenant or New Testament) or we can merely scratch the surface of the Kingdom of God and miss out on what promises to be the last, greatest move of the King Himself before we are caught away to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Or, worse, we can let ourselves be diverted into "churches" that emphasize material blessings as a sign of Divine favor, or focus on living your life to please yourself rather than God. The answer to this question depends on how much we are willing to submit to the Lordship of Jesus. Once again, this is not *submergence* of our individuality into a kind of collective "hive" consciousness (like the fictional Borg in the later *Star Trek* series), but willful, voluntary *submission* to His authority as God… just as we once willfully, voluntarily sinned against Him. When we do this, we let the Holy Spirit do whatever He likes with us, and use us how He pleases.

Do not misunderstand me; we who have accepted Jesus as savior will live with Him forever. Remember, Jesus Himself said that no one can snatch us out of God's Hand (refer to John 10:28). But we are now getting into the area of rewards – or the lack thereof – for our service to Him. We have the chance to either be His Body or the "scaffolding" that helped to develop His Body. If we remain in the latter, we will not be discarded like afterbirth, but we will miss out on the great opportunity to be used of God in these last days and will experience the great regret at our "service judgment" before the Bema seat of God (refer to Romans 14:10-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:10) when we learn we could have done so much more for Him.

For the Glory of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

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