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July 2014 - YOU ARE TRULY FORGIVEN

Dear Friends,

Every now and then during a time of prayer, God begins speaking to me in a very unique fashion. Sometimes, He speaks from the perspective of my Father; other times it may be from the vantage point of the Holy Spirit or Jesus. I type out what He says as He is speaking, taking note of any passages of scripture He references. I call these times of fellowship "Lessons From the Upper Room."

These Lessons From the Upper Room are actually prophetic words from God. Though they rarely address future events they are consistent with genuine prophecy, which is a declaration of the mind of the Lord at a given time.

In this letter I am sharing one of these lessons that I believe will be of tremendous benefit to Christians struggling to understand how much God loves and has forgiven them. For many, this is a major battle because they keep looking to their past, dwelling on sin, wrong choices and foolish actions.

As you read what the Lord spoke, I encourage you to look up all the verses of scripture listed; doing so will help you gain a deeper understanding of the message God is imparting. Also, pray before you begin reading and ask God to help you be sensitive to anything He might want to share with you. (A CD of the sermon in which I read this prophetic word can be ordered on the last page of this letter.)

In His Grace,

Jim



"YOU ARE TRULY FORGIVEN"

Psalm 103:10-11, Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:12 & Hebrews 10:17 In these four passages of My Word I have stressed the permanent nature of your forgiven state. Three times I said the same thing, repeating Myself twice. Should this not capture your attention? The reason I did this is because the tendency of My children is to live in the past where their sins, to them, are still alive. Your past is over. I am living with you in your present and preparing you for your future. I do not hold you accountable for anything of your past that the blood of My Son has covered.

When you sit and dwell on your past sins and failures, it is like watching a rerun of a movie: you know what is going to happen and the outcome is always the same. Just like you cannot change the ending of that movie, you cannot change the outcome of your past. But I do not hold you accountable for your

past sins; why do you insist on reminding Me of what I have chosen to forgive? Do you honestly want Me reminding you of how you failed in the past? Do you honestly want Me reminding you over and over how you sinned? Would you not rather that I lived by My promise to no longer hold you accountable for your sins?

You cannot move forward into My promised land for you if you are living in regret. Regret is a place of no ambition, no joy, no peace and no blessing. I will visit you there to deliver you from that place of darkness and despair, but I will not live there with you. Man will hold you accountable for your past and try to make you live in regret; but that which My Son's blood has removed is no longer valid in My presence.

In your legal system you have a principle called "double-jeopardy." Once a person has been acquitted or found innocent of a crime, he cannot be retried in court for that same crime. Yet, so many of My children live as though I am constantly retrying them for the sins of their past; sins that have been done away with by My Son's blood. Do you think My legal system is inferior to what you know on earth?

Romans 8:31-39 If you feel anxious, defeated, confused, condemned, guilty for your past sins or that I am not listening or moving, then you have been deceived into believing you have been separated from the love of Christ. My love for you is not based on what you have done, but on Who I am and what I have done on your behalf.

When Satan or people (Christians or the lost) try to declare you unfit to serve Me, I step in as your justifier and declare that you are qualified to serve Me. You *cannot* be separated from My love. Notice in these verses that the focus is on My love instead of anointing, power, blessings, and so on. But My love produces all of that and more. I see you as My perfected, eternity-companion.

1 John 1:9 Genuine repentance results in permanent forgiveness. Condemnation for the past comes from three sources: (1) the devil, (2) immature Christians, (3) your own, untransformed mind that really does not know or understand who I am as your Father.

1 John 4:8, 16-18 It is impossible to separate Me from My love, for I am love. When you draw into My presence, you are drawing into My love. The longer you stay there, the longer you are immersing yourself in My love. The longer you are immersed in My love, the more you will know I love you without reservation and you will identify the presence of My love throughout your day. Christians who tell you they cannot "feel" My love are telling you they are not spending enough time in My presence.

Because I am love, forgiveness is not an option. You are forgiven every time you genuinely repent. Hear Me: the very *instant* you genuinely repent, you are forgiven and the sin is permanently removed from your account, washed away by the blood of My Son. I am a God of love, mercy and grace. This means that those three characteristics - love, mercy and grace - are a part of My very

make-up, My very existence. I cannot be to you what I am not; and I cannot refuse to be what I am. I am not condemnation, but I am love and restoration. I am not unforgiveness, but I am mercy and grace.

If you are struggling with the memory of the sins of your past, wondering if you are truly forgiven, what more would you have Me do aside from what I have declared in My Word? I have declared that My Son Jesus went to the cross for you. I have declared that He died under the penalty for your sins. I have declared that His blood was the blood of the final and eternal sacrifice for sins. I have declared that your faith in Him as Savior resulted in His blood cleansing you from all sin and unrighteousness. What else can I do to convince you that you are forgiven?

The more you live in the memories of your past sins is the more you will hold yourself back from how I want to gloriously use you the way I used My Son on Earth. Do not allow a past I have forgiven to become the anchor holding you back from My plans for your anointed future.

The darkness for a lost person is the sin nature. The darkness for a Christian is the flesh. This is where many of My children make a huge mistake: they confuse the flesh with the sin nature. When you do not renew your mind to My Word, you will struggle with feelings of unworthiness and wonder if you are truly forgiven. My forgiveness is not dependant upon what you feel. Do not allow what I have declared in My Word to be overshadowed by what you feel. The more you mortify the flesh and renew your mind, the more you will live in a daily confidence that you are forgiven.

Remember: I am Eternal, Almighty God; there is none beside Me or above Me. When I declare a thing, it is declared and set in order for all eternity. Nothing or no one can nullify My Word. When I say I love you with a never-ending love, then I love you with a never-ending love. When I say you are forgiven, you are forgiven. Stand strong in Me and do not let memories of your past or a lying devil steal the joy of your salvation or the joy of your forgiveness.



WE ARE RETURNING TO KENYA NEXT MONTH!

Early next month Kathy and I will be returning to Migori, Kenya to minister in another Prayer and Power Conference. God was able to lay a strong foundation in our conference last August and will be build upon it when we return. This year, Pastor Bronc and Candy Flint of The Family Prayer Center in Immokalee, Florida will be going with us. I am excited about them joining us for this trip, as it will only strengthen the work that God is doing in that region.

Pastors and lay people are still emailing me as a result of last year's conference. I would not be surprised if the attendance this year is at least double that of last year. I have also learned that news of how God ministered last year has been spreading throughout the country. I have already been approached about conducting what you might call a "pastor's conference" in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya (Nairobi has a population of

between three to four million). Though unable to extend my trip, hopefully those pastors and their church members can attend the conference in Migori.

Conferences in those areas of the world are quite different from what we experience here in the United States. Some people must walk for days in order to arrive when the conference begins. They bring clothing for the week because once they arrive, they stay the whole week at the location of the conference. You see, there are no hotels like what we are used to; and even if there were, the people do not have money to stay in them.

The ones hosting a conference are responsible for providing both sleeping arrangements and food for those attending. The sleeping arrangements may be under a tree or, hopefully, on straw or mattresses on either bare ground or concrete flooring under a roof. Very often, the mattresses must be rented for the week. If a pond or stream is not nearby, bathing is often done using pans filled with water that may or may not have been warmed over an open fire. Restrooms are similar to what we would call an outhouse; but in some cases, the restrooms may simply be areas behind bushes or large trees.

All the food is prepared on-site. Cooks labor over a fire pit for hours to prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner. Daily trips to the open-air market are the norm. Chickens are often killed and cooked just prior to lunch or dinner. Case after case of purified, bottled water must be brought in so the people have something to drink. Many times, cooks are hired for the week so those attending the conference do not have to miss any of the services.

Rarely are any of the churches large enough to hold all the people attending a conference. This requires the hosts to rent a tent or a meeting hall, such as a local school auditorium. They may or may not have electricity available for the tent; if they rent a meeting hall, the hope is that it will have electricity. Likewise, the hall may or may not have running water and indoor restrooms. However, renting the tent or meeting hall is just the start; they must also rent the chairs used in the tent or hall. Sometimes, the owners of the meeting hall will also rent the mattresses to the conference hosts and those attending will stay the entire week at the hall.

Many attending the services do not have a Bible. In fact, Bibles are often considered a luxury as many of the people do not have the money to purchase one. Think about it: How in the world can you teach people about studying and meditating in scripture if they don't even own a Bible? When so many of the people in the congregation do not have a Bible, a little different approach must be taken while preaching.

Renting a car is not as easy in African nations as it is in the U.S. When ministers travel there they often must hire a driver for the length of their trip, paying him for both his time and the gas for his car.

Though offerings may be received during these conferences, rarely is much given because so few people have money. All of the expenses for what I have shared above (and more) are the responsibility of those hosting a conference, which is typically the host pastor. They pray and seek God, trusting Him to provide what is needed. It is a faith challenge the likes of which few pastors in the United States have ever faced.

Those of you who have received my monthly letters for any length of time know that I do not use them to pressure people for money. In fact, it is extremely rare that I ever focus

on offerings in my letters. But this month I am asking you to pray and see if God would have you send a special offering to help with the expenses of the upcoming conference in August. This offering will not just be to cover the expenses for Pastor Bronc, Candy, Kathy and me to make the trip, but I want to be able to send money ahead of us to help cover at least some of the many conference expenses I have described.

This year's conference will be held Sunday, August 10 through Sunday, August 17 at the Kakrao Mixed Secondary School. The rent for this facility will include boarding facilities and mattresses, electricity, a kitchen with clean cooking water, separate restrooms for men and women, and more. Cooks are being hired to prepare three meals each day. There will be a morning and evening service on Sunday, August 10; morning, afternoon and evening services Monday, August 11 through Saturday, August 16; and a morning service on Sunday, August 17.

Further, I want to be able to send money so that Bibles can be purchased prior to the conference and given to people who need one. It is very expensive to purchase Bibles in the U.S. and ship them overseas. If you do ship them from here, you must pray that they reach their destination and are not stolen along the way. The better (and wiser) thing to do is to send the money so that Bibles can be purchased there and properly distributed.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us. Thank you ahead of time for your help. But most of all, thank you for your prayers concerning not only our travel and safety, but also for the conference.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PASTORS IN KENYA: Last year I was approached by several pastors who asked me to extend my trip so I could minister in their churches in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. I was unable to extend my trip last year and will be unable to extend it this year. I realize this may prove to be disappointing to some; but as a pastor, it is very difficult for me to be gone for extended periods. This is why I encourage you to not only attend this year's conference, but to bring the members of your churches.

For more information about the Migori Prayer and Power Conference please contact Pastor Kenedy Oluoch at childrenshope2007@yahoo.com.

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