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### January 2020 “WILL YOU GO TO GILGAL?”

Dear Friend,

How incredible it is to be entering the year of 2020! Years ago, most Christians I knew believed Jesus would return long before 2020; yet here we are, entering another decade of the 2000's. I have seen many things change in my lifetime, just a few of which are:

- Stereo sound replaced monaural; then multi-channel, surround-sound began filling our living rooms.
- Air conditioning, seat belts, power steering/brakes/door locks/windows, and more became standard on cars.
- Telephones moved from our kitchen walls to our pockets.
- Computers went from science fiction movies to desktops everywhere.
- Vinyl records, eight-track tapes, cassette tapes, and VCR's all went the way of the Edsel.
- Instead of watching grainy, black and white images from two or three local stations on heavy, cathode ray televisions, we now watch hundreds of channels on massive, flat-screen TV's hung like pictures on our wall producing life-like, high-definition color.
- Christmas shopping can be done without ever leaving home.

Yes, much has changed. But some things never change: God's Word, Jesus, and human nature. From Genesis to our present day, God has remained the same, but so have people. If we study the behavior of humanity as revealed throughout the Bible, it becomes very easy to predict what will happen generation after generation. In fact, examine your own life: what has changed in your life and behavior from five years ago...ten years ago...20, 30, 40 years ago?

I realize many people could answer, “Well, I got saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and started attending church. I quit drinking, smoking, cussing, and doing other bad things. I got married and had kids. I would say quite a lot has changed.” Before all that change, how did you utilize your time? Here's what I'm getting at: We all have 24 hours each day; what we do with those hours determines our future. For example, before you got married, you used your time for certain activities; but once you met your future spouse, you rearranged, diminished, or canceled those activities in order to spend time with the one you would marry.

As Christians, it can become all too easy to allow the fire and excitement of our initial salvation experience to fade to the point we are *living* as Christians, but not *growing* in our Christianity. Becoming born again is being delivered from the lost, sin nature that was condemning us to an eternity in the lake of fire. However, growing spiritually as a Christian requires a rearranging, diminishing or canceling of other activities in order to facilitate what is necessary to develop into the fullness of who we are in Christ. To put this in computer terms: for many Believers, this requires them to reboot their lives.

In the book of 1 Samuel, God answered Israel's demand for a king and appointed Saul to be their leader. However, there was discord among the people, and some were not in favor of submitting to him. After a potentially devastating uprising was settled, the prophet Samuel intervened:

***Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. (1 Samuel 11:14)***

Gilgal is the place where the Israelites camped after crossing the Jordan river into the Promised Land. (Joshua 4:18-19)

Some may wonder what this has to with rebooting their lives. Samuel told the people to go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there. Consider what scripture says as it pertains to Christians and the Kingdom of God,

***<sup>12</sup>Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: <sup>13</sup>Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son  
(Colossians 1:12-13)***

***Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:21)***

For Christians, returning to Gilgal is renewing our awareness of His Kingdom life in our spirit. It represents returning to our first love. It means remembering how lost we were, how much we needed Jesus, and how wonderful it was when we first got saved. It is drawing close in fellowship with Him and allowing Him to restore unto us the joy of our salvation (Psalm 51:12). Setting up camp at Gilgal is us dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and abiding under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

After crossing the Jordan River, Gilgal is also the place where God instructed Joshua to circumcise all the males who had been born during the forty years of exile in the wilderness.

***<sup>2</sup>At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. <sup>5</sup>Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. <sup>9</sup>And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. (Joshua 5:2, 5, 8)***

The word “reproach” in verse nine comes from the Hebrew word “cherpāh” and it means:

- a) Shame, the object of reproach; scorn; contempt.
- b) Figuratively, someone or something that is despised.
- c) The connotation of blaming others, i.e. pointing the finger.

It is at Gilgal where we, as Christians, make a willing choice to circumcise ourselves of the weights (distractions) and sin that we may have allowed to graft into our lives. For adult males, physical circumcision is said to be extremely painful; for Christians, some of the greatest pain and suffering we’ll ever experience is when we begin to cut away those things which appeal to our emotions and flesh; things that steal our time of fellowship with our Father. Romans 8:13 refers to this as mortifying the body (flesh) and its deeds.

Along with circumcising our lives of distractions and sin, Gilgal is where we stop blaming others and accept full responsibility for the decisions we make. Scripture plainly reveals that we make

wrong choices when we allow emotional desires to influence our decisions (James 1:12-16). Furthermore, God has promised that we will never face a temptation that is too strong for us to resist (2 Corinthians 10:13).

After all the Israelite men had been circumcised, Gilgal is where God had them stay while they healed.

***And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. (Joshua 5:8)***

Though the Believer's Gilgal is a place of great challenge and discomfort as the flesh is brought into subjection, it is also a place of great deliverance, inner healing and restoration. God's presence at Gilgal engulfs us with a fulfilling joy that is greater than all sorrow (Psalm 16:11). As we direct our mind and thoughts toward Him, He bathes us in peace that is so perfect, it cannot be overcome by adverse circumstances (Isaiah 26:3). Broken hearts are healed by the anointing of His supernatural presence (Psalm 147:3). As we linger before Him at Gilgal, feelings of emotional weakness and despair are replaced by the strength of His immeasurable glory (Isaiah 40:31).

Another interesting fact about Gilgal is that it is one of the three cities where Samuel traveled each year to deliver the Word of the Lord.

***<sup>15</sup>And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. <sup>16</sup>And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. (1 Samuel 7:15-16)***

Gilgal is a place of separation unto God where we can hear His voice. All too often Christians complain about not being able to hear God speak. But as we are dwelling at Gilgal, the turmoil of life's bombardment of clamor gives way to the inner stillness of His presence where communing with Him begins to take place (1 Kings 19:11-12). In the refuge of Gilgal, our confidence in Him grows and we realize more and more that He truly is the Omnipotent God Who can be trusted in all things (Psalm 46:10).

After the time at Gilgal, Israel was ready to advance and possess their Promised Land. Beginning in Joshua chapter six, king after king was defeated and city after city was conquered. Joshua chapter twelve reveals that thirty-one kings and their strongholds were vanquished.

As Christians spend more and more time at Gilgal – especially when a church as a congregation dwells there – they will be equipped and prepared more and more for a release of God's glory in their community. Spiritual strongholds will be torn down. Believers will be empowered to go forth and do the works of Jesus. Many hearts will turn to the Lord. In short, we will see revival.

On the next page I have included two prophecies that flow very well with this letter. Additionally, you may want to order a CD of my sermon, *Come to the Upper Room*, which goes into more detail about seeking God and His presence. (To order this CD, please use the form on the last page.)

The upcoming year can be the greatest we have ever known. God is calling us to Gilgal for refreshing, renewing and repurposing. Dwelling at Gilgal will indeed be one of the most life-changing experiences we have ever known! Glory to God!

In His Grace,

*Jim*

### **FILLED WITH GLORY**

I have said in My Word that My glory will be known throughout this world, just as I have also said in My Word that judgment begins in the house, My house, the house of God, My glory must first be known in My temple. I'm speaking of you, those of you who have My life, those of you who have chosen to accept My Son Jesus as your Lord and Savior. I want you to know My glory first; for you are the vessels that are to be the containers of My glory, the vessels through whom My glory is to be poured.

For My glory to be known throughout this earth means that not only will the people of this world know that I am God, but also that My glory can be poured into human vessels, those who have totally surrendered themselves to Me. You can know My glory, but there are many of you who don't know the fullness of what that means; don't know what My glory is really all about. But I would say unto you that there are very few in My Body who truly understand what My glory is all about.

As you grow in Me and as you mature in Me you will come to the place of knowing what My glory is all about and what it really means. You will also know what it means to be filled with My glory. This world will be filled with My glory, but I want My glory to first fill you; for you are truly the temples, the temples in which I dwell. As My glory begins to fill you, then My glory will begin to fill your churches. As My glory begins to fill your churches it will begin to spill out and spread throughout this world.

As I have said in My Word, "Come ye out from among them," you must separate yourselves from this world, from the things of this world that do not line up with Me. The more that you do that, the more that you come into My presence, is the more that My glory will fill you. And the day will come, that if you will do this, you will have an experience with Me that far surpasses anything you have ever imagined in your mind. It will far surpass anything you believe you have witnessed in others. For I will make Myself known to you and you will have a personal encounter with Almighty God, the Creator of the universe. I will make Myself known to you and you *will* experience Me. So seek Me, seek Me with all diligence. Seek Me and allow Me to fill you with My glory so this world will know that I truly am God.

### **I HEAL HURTS**

Hurts and pains are dispelled in My presence. I'm referred to as the Balm of Gilead. You bring yourself to Me, bring the hurt, bring the pain, bring the wounds; I'll heal, I'll make the pain go away and I will give you peace in its place. I will dispel the hurt and give you My joy. Come to Me; don't sit and hurt and despair, come to Me, come to Me, come to Me with all that baggage,

come to Me. I'm waiting for you; you come to Me. I can begin My work of restoration in you even this day and you will feel new all over again.

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### SPECIAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Our ministry conference for 2020 will be Sunday, April 19 through Friday, April 24. There will be morning and evening services each day. Our host hotel information is as follows:

Country Inn and Suites  
3971 Colonel Glenn Hwy  
Beavercreek, OH 45324  
(937) 429-2222

Email: cx\_fabo@countryinn.com

When you call to make reservations, be sure to ask for the Grace Christian Center conference rate. Looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

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☐ Please send me a CD of the sermon, *Come to the Upper Room*.

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My love gift for this month is: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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