

# Word of Prophecy Fellowship



## THE GOOD NEWS - LETTER

# A TIME OF REFRESHING

## Part 1 of 2

The title of the lesson is, “A Time of Refreshing”—a time of refreshing from the Lord. I will get to the subtopic scriptures first, and then I will go on to the text. David, a man after God’s own heart, made this succinct statement in Psalm 69:13: “But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.”

### AN ACCEPTABLE TIME

I want to call your attention to what David said here: “My prayer is unto thee, O Lord, *in an acceptable time!*” Dealing with God is not the same as dealing with a man. Job made that very evident in the great book that was written about his terrible experience of God’s testing of his faith. Here is what Job said about God (Job 9:32), “For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.” In other words, *God is not a man that we can go and contend with him! We cannot go in and present our arguments with God, like we would with a man.* We have to realize that in God’s dealings with men and nations, there is a timing for everything. In fact, Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “To

every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

### GOD’S TIMING

In the Ecclesiastes 8 there is another beautiful scripture in connection with this, beginning in verse 5: “Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man’s heart discerneth both time and judgment.” You see, a wise man’s heart can discern God’s timing and judgment about matters that relate to our lives and all the things that we are involved in, whether in business, family matters, or life in general. Now listen to the next verse (v.6): “Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.” You know, the average man does not know anything about God’s timing or God’s judgment—and there are a lot of Christians that are like a goose in a new world every day! They do not discern those things either, but the scripture says that a wise man’s heart will discern both time and judgment, because to every purpose there is time and judgment. To every purpose God has in dealing with men and nations, there is a time when God visits. Sometimes He is merciful, showing mercy; and other times He is visiting with judgment. We have to recognize and somehow

be spiritual-minded enough to discern both God's timing and God's judgment.

## REFRESHINGS

Now let's go to the New Testament, please. In Acts 3:19 there is a great scripture that I use when teaching about Restoration, but it is also related to this subject. This is from a message that Peter preached prior to a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost that I call "the second Pentecost." He said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." There are times that God visits his people with **refreshing**, and these refreshings are definitely spiritual in their content; therefore we need to have spiritual discernment so we can recognize the timing of God's visitation, and the time that he will choose to bring a refreshing. A wise man will discern these things! And the Bible tells us plainly in these scriptures that we need to repent, and be converted, so our sins will be blotted out when a time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, and it is not just anytime...it is God's time.

## REVIVAL

Trying to get a reviving—a revival fire burning in your heart and soul—just anytime, is just not possible. A preacher cannot carry God's timing in a suitcase or a satchel, and go from church to church having revivals one after another, *unless it is God's time*. It must be God's time to visit that congregation, and to work a mighty work of restoration, or the converting of that church. You see, the word "convert" does not mean to be "born again." *Convert* means to be turned back, to be turned away from a purpose that is less than godly, or to be turned back from a way that has wavered, or is wrong—something you failed in.

## REPENTANCE

There are three things the average Christian never wants to admit: *I've failed, I've been wrong, and I've sinned*. If you get a Christian to admit to just one of those things, you have performed a miracle! And the Spirit of God is the only one who can perform that miracle. That is the only way you are going to get God's refreshing, and get God's divine favor. You have to admit that you have failed, or have been wrong, or that you have sinned. That is **repentance**! And the only time you can carry out the best intentions of your heart is the time when God chooses to send a refreshing upon His people. It is God that does it, and not us. We can not turn ourselves to Him in repentance unless He first visits us! I can prove this from the words of a man after God's own heart—and that was none other than the Psalmist David, found in Psalm 80:3 (I love this, and you will love it too): "Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved." *Turn us again*...that is repentance!

## WANDERING

A church, and sometimes an individual Christian, can get off course with God. You can read about that in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, how the seven churches of Asia had done something God had to rebuke them for. When Jesus said, in Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent," who was he talking to—a sinner that had never been saved? No! He was talking to churches that needed to be converted, and turned back into the path of holiness, and the path that God had chosen for them, which they had wandered from. David was also talking about a **wandering** group of people when he said, "Turn us again, O God,

[*turn us back—convert us*] and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.”

## GOD’S MAN

You will find another outcry the Psalmist made, in Psalm 80:17, which is also important for us to consider: “Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.” That means, if you are to have a refreshing from the Lord, somebody has to lead the way! And that turning back is contingent or dependent upon God touching and using a man that he has chosen to stand at his right hand, so that he can use him in this business of refreshing, and the turning back of God’s people.

## SHEEP

God’s people are like sheep. Isaiah 53:6 says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Sheep wander; and sheep go astray! A well known pastor said: *sheep are lazy, they stink, and they are dumb*. Lord, help us realize we are like sheep, and that without a good shepherd, the wolf (that is, the devil) will catch us. Jesus said, in John 10:11-13, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.” A hireling will see the wolf coming and leave the sheep so that the wolf catches them. But a good shepherd does not live for himself—he lives for the sheep’s sake. You have to have a good shepherd.

## GOD’S MERCY

King David, in his youth, was trained to be a shepherd, and he questioned God in Psalm 85:5-6, saying, “Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? [In other words; *Lord, aren’t you ever going to revive us? Refresh us? Renew us? Restore us?*] Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.” We have to be careful that God sends us mercy, and I want to tell you something—a refreshing, a renewal, a restoration, a reviving, is not something we get because we are so worthy and so great. **It is because of God’s mercy and grace.** And then in verse 8 David said, “I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.” This is God saying, *I am going to visit you again, and I am going to revive you; but you had better not turn back to a bunch of foolishness again, once I have turned you away from it, and helped you to get back on the straight and narrow path!*

## FINDING GOD IN TIME!

I never get enough of searching, reading, and meditating upon the writing of David found in the word of God. In Psalm 32:5-6, this man after God’s own heart is speaking to the Lord, acknowledging that he had sinned, and had done wrong, and had failed: “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin [*that is, the rebellion that resulted from that sin*]. Selah. For this [*because God is merciful*] shall every one that is godly pray unto thee **in a time when thou mayest be found**: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.” There is a time when you can find God—and there is a

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time when God will not listen! There is a time when God will not give heed to the cries and outbursts of a person who has wandered away from Him. You have to come back to God when that time of refreshing arrives, that time of God's visitation—when he turns and visits us again—**and that is the only time we can do it!** David said, “surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.” That means when the storm hits us, *it is too late!* You need to cry out before the storm, when you see the storm descending, and when you feel the cold winds that precede the storm. When that twilight comes, that precedes the darkness, and you begin to realize through a sensitivity that there is trouble brewing; that is when you call on the Lord; because David said that when the waters are great and that trouble finally comes, you will not be able to come nigh God then. We have got to remember that **God wants us to call upon him in time.** During the height of hurricane Katrina, people were crying out for help: too late!

## **RESTORATION**

There is a great scripture that comes rushing to my mind in Isaiah 43:18-19. “Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” When you get in the wilderness where you cannot find your way around, or you get in the desert and you are as dry as a Texas wind, you need a reviving, a refreshing, and a renewing. Restoration! That is the purpose of revival. That is why you ought to get in the center of God's will and stay there; *get revived, renewed, refilled—Restored!* Praise God!

This message will be concluded in our  
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