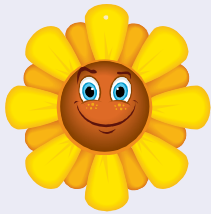


First Light Herald



February 2011



Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God. I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

The Hearing Ear

Hearing the voice of God is my greatest delight. There is nothing worse than silence when I'm in the midst of confusion and conflict. That is the time when I must choose to stop what I'm doing (normally spinning in my soul trying to figure out answers rather than hearing and obeying God) and get quiet. If things are too "loud" in my own head I have to shut off my own thoughts and search for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the patriarchs in the old covenant, we have the Holy Spirit residing on the inside of us. Back when they walked the planet only one man at a time could have the Holy Spirit rest upon him. The Holy Spirit would come and go and recalling what the law and the prophets shared, it was a hard thing to have His presence leave. The Spirit NEVER leaves or forsakes us now. He's in us for the long haul. We now have the ability to have the Spirit of God living within us and controlling (if allowed) our hearts and minds on a perpetual basis. Now mind you it takes discipline to be Holy Spirit controlled. It requires "knowing" God like a husband and wife know each other. It requires constant continual communion with Him. How else would we recognize and hear His voice?



Our God has promised to be with us in trouble. I continually repeat this truth to myself when trouble shows its ugly head. It doesn't say a thing about HOW the trouble comes; it simply says He is with us in trouble! Most of the trouble I am in is of my own design and making. Occasionally it's from some outside source, but whether I orchestrated the mess I'm in or it comes from the other side of the planet matters not. God is with me. I must choose to believe the truth and then if I really believe it I act on that belief.

So God lives in me. Giving Him full reign and letting Him use the reins is my next goal. That requires I learn to receive His words and again act upon them.

*John 10: 27 My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

Hearing.....continued



There are people who claim that they are Christians and also say that they NEVER hear God’s voice. I would say that they are in either one of two categories; either they don’t know God and aren’t His sheep OR they are His sheep, but have turned off their hearing button by ignoring Him early on. Either way I’m sure they do hear the adversary and feel condemned most of the time. There is a remedy for both situations. No one has to remain in the spiritually deaf category, whether through ignorance that God loves and has a plan for life and living or through stubborn rebellion God is patient and long suffering. He can make a way where they seemingly is NO way!

When we get in a place of spiritual deafness there are signs. Rebellion to God’s will doesn’t happen overnight. God doesn’t give up on us easily. His mercy is new every morning and He doesn’t want anyone to perish or live in misery. He is working in us constantly to will and to do of His good pleasure! (Philippians 2:13)

Proverbs 20:12 The

hearing ear, and
the seeing eye, the
LORD hath made
even both of
them.

Once there was a young man. He lived with his father, brother and their servants outside of a small rural town. He would travel to town from time to time to get supplies for their farm. The farm was quite large, but the town was not. His father was quite wealthy and he had many servants. He treated the servants with respect and loved both his sons. When they would travel to town the younger of the two boys heard the other boys talk about the “big city”. The more times he traveled to town the more interested he became in the “big city”. It sounded like a fun place with so many exciting things to do. He decided to make friends with some of the boys in town so he could learn more about the “big city”. The more he listened to his friends the *less he cared to hear what his father would say*. Before long his father’s words were *irritating to him*. “Son I need you to go into town and get some feed for the animals. Oh, and while you’re there don’t forget to stop and take this package to your grandmother. She’s very old and it has her medicine in it.” The young man could hardly wait to get to town, but not to do the things his father asked of him, but to see *his* friends and make *his* own plans. His father’s words simply gave him a reason to escape. He was planning to leave home and find *his* way in the “big city” and explore the world. When he got to town he quickly bought *some* of the supplies his father had asked for, but he completely *forgot* the package he was supposed to deliver to his grandmother. As soon as his wagon was full of feed, he parked it and ran to his favorite haunt to find *his* friends. Their plan was made and *he* resolved to tell his father after he delivered the feed that he was leaving.

Sound familiar? It’s my rendition of the prodigal son. Trouble comes as a result of a process of being enticed of our *own lusts*, turning off and tuning out to God and then following the voices that lured us away in the first place. Little by little

Hearing.....continued

the voice of the Father has less and less significance to us. We do our own thing and end up in trouble. We become cynical, bitter, and hard hearted. Because we “hear” with our hearts or spirits as believers, the adversary works to harden our hearts so we’ll end up only hearing with natural ears. He gives us sinful suggestions or temptations (specifically geared towards our own likes and desires) and if we entertain those thoughts takes us captive at his will. If we listen to the adversary he will basically sit down on the throne of our hearts and begins slowly to take over. In the beginning it is pleasurable, but in the end we can’t even see the trees for the forest of confusion. All the while the Father is calling us back home and offering forgiveness and reconciliation. The more we shut out His offers of reconciliation, the harder our hearts grow. Like little pharaohs ignoring the plagues of Egypt, we try to dismiss the warning signs. We grow more and more rebellious and determined to do things our own way. Young and innocent childlike faith is replaced by old, bitter, cynical unbelief. Our spiritual ears are blocked with the wax of apathy.



Good news, God is still there! When the money is gone, when the friends have scattered, when the belly is roaring with hunger and the pig swill looks appetizing, we can run to God and fall at His feet and He will receive us with a robe, a ring and a fatted calf.

There are always two choices in life; the choice to hear God and obey or not. God doesn’t tempt His children. He can’t sin so temptation being sin comes from one source. Sin is always selfish. If we are tempted to do something for selfish motives guess who is behind it? The job of God is to love, create, provide, protect, save, heal and deliver. Our job is to hear and obey. If we hear and obey we can easily receive the love, the creative provision, protection, salvation, healing and deliverance from God. If we don’t hear and obey we’ll end up working to get love, working to make a living, working to protect ourselves, save ourselves, heal ourselves and deliver ourselves out of trouble. Hearing God and obeying creates an atmosphere of rest. It’s far easier to simply start out doing what God wants than to get free from our self motivated plans, but in the event of doing things our own way we can run to God and obtain grace (favor) and mercy to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

*“We need to let
God be God, He’s
best suited for the
job!”*

The first step to turning back to God is recognition of how good God is. God isn’t the condemner, He is the Savior! He makes a way of escape from temptation. Run to the throne of Grace. Run to the Father. Expect to obtain grace AND mercy. He says to go BOLDY! He put all the consequences of sin upon Yeshua/Jesus! Another good place to begin to turn back to God is to ask Him to remind you of the LAST instructions He



Hearing.....continued

gave you that you ignored or refused to obey. Realize that it is GOD who is working in you even now both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure! Let Him work the work of reconciliation in your heart. He's ready to throw a party, but you have to attend it for the party to begin. You can truly hear His voice IF you're willing.

A Good Work



Are you looking for a place to sow your seed? Would you like to have a huge return on your harvest? I know if I'm going to plant a garden I want it to produce a nice sized harvest. I want every plant to be full of yummy fruit or veggies. I want every kernel of corn to be full and sweetly delicious.

God has many "gardening" tips in the bible. If you understand the concepts of spiritual and natural "sowing" and "reaping" you know you want to find good ground to sow

your seed into.

Proverbs 13:23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor...

Sowing into the lives of the poor is very beneficial.

Proverbs 19: 17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. (God pays rich dividends.)

There are three categories of people whose lives we can sow into with great results; the widows, the orphans and strangers in the land. When we do we are guaranteed to reap great results.

There is an orphanage on the other side of the border in Piedras Negras, Mexico. In this orphanage are many handicapped children and adults. We want those of you who are looking to sow into a good work to know about it. It is called "Casa Hogar Betesda" in English it means; "The House and Home of Mercy". It is run by Pastor Paulino Esquivel and his wife Betty. They took their retirement home and money and decided to take in the children than no one else wanted. Because they live in a border town they are close to the dangers of the drug cartels. For this reason fewer and fewer Americans dare venture in to help them. Pastor Paulino can receive money at

*Mark 10: 14 Suffer
the little children
to come unto
me, and forbid
them not: for of
such is the
kingdom of God.*

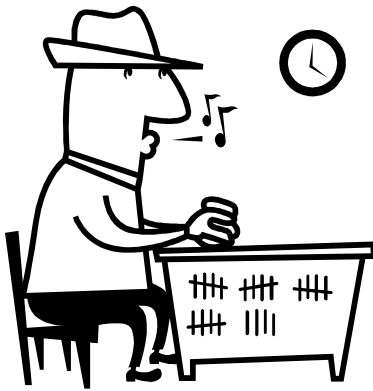
A Good Work.....continued

an American bank just on the other side of the border in Eagle Pass, TX. You can mail checks to a post office box in the United States and he will make the trip to retrieve and cash it. The money goes to feed, clothe and provide medicine for these needy children, handicapped adults and the small staff of women who help Paulino and Betty care for the children. Money is the best way to bless them as it has become so difficult to get actual supplies across the border. Please prayerfully consider sharing your riches (however limited they may seem) with those who have next to nothing!

You can write and send your check to:

Paulino Esquivel,
P. O. Box 3083
Eagle Pass, Texas 78853

Anticipation Is Making Me Wait



Have you ever waited with great anticipation for something in the mail? Every day you look forward to checking the mailbox to see if it has arrived? Even if the thing you're waiting for isn't in the box you will remain high in hopes of its imminent arrival? Have you ever planted a fruit tree and cared for it knowing that when summer comes you're going to get to pluck juicy and delicious fruit from its branches. It may take a few years for it to produce, but you know you've put the work into that tree and eventually

it's going to yield a harvest of deliciousness? You even imagine and plan things you're going to make with the fruit you harvest? Well you've just proved you are like your Father. The scriptures say,

James 5: 7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

God longingly, but expectantly awaits for the seventh day to be over. He longs for the adversary to be cast into the lake of fire. He longs for His will to be done on earth just as it is done in heaven. He is waiting for ALL His children to be returned to Him.

Selah

Isaiah 40:31 But
they that wait upon
the LORD shall
renew their
strength; they shall
mount up with
wings as eagles;
they shall run, and
not be weary; and
they shall walk, and
not faint.