

THE NARROW ROAD

Contending for the Holiness of God

As we lean on our Beloved’s Bosom, in that place of intimacy, epignosis—revelation, will come forth: convicting us of sin, teaching us righteousness, forewarning of judgments, leading us into the truth that will set every part of our souls free.

TESTIMONY OF HIS LOVE

REVELATION 20:1-6

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Fear Not!

Last month, I shared how Philippians 4:8 must be a filter that we use to process our thoughts and our words through. For when we do, we will be taking every thought captive. We will be constantly renewed in the spirit of our minds. We will learn to abide in the secret place of the Most High—abiding in love. And when we do, we will become a testimony of His love—His light, a testimony of His name, a testimony of His mercy, a

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testimony of His miracle working powers—a testimony of His faithfulness in the midst of the darkness.

Persecution and martyrdom are coming, we cannot avoid it. The Lord does not want us to be fearful. Instead, He wants us to be prepared to overcome them by the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimonies, not loving our own lives, unto death.

In December 2022, I received the following word:

Persecution is coming. Fear not, persecution is coming to those who are and will overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony—who will not love their life, unto death. You will see an increase in 2023. It will only increase each year, until My return. Keep calling My people out of Babylon. Keep calling My people to repentance, to truth, to purity—to that place of undivided devotion. Most, who call themselves Christians are in name only. Very few love Me for Who I AM. Very few obey My Word—obey My voice. Many love Me for what I do for them. They are living the selfish, carnal life that is an enemy against Me—an enemy against the Cross. For the carnal mind is death—it is an enemy against Me, against My Kingdom. I AM coming soon. Keep watch, stay awake. Keep praying that you will have the strength to be accounted worthy to escape these things that are coming, to be able to stand before the Son of Man. For those who love Me wholeheartedly and who will follow Me wherever I may lead, it will not be easy – difficult times are coming, but I will be faithful to provide everything they need. My Light and Love will increase in them. They will be a testimony to My name—a testimony of My love—a testimony of My mercy—a testimony of My miracle working power.

Beloved, it is not going to be easy in the days ahead for those who will follow the Lamb, wholeheartedly. But we can be certain, He will be faithful to provide all the grace—His strength and abilities, that we need to overcome, His way. He will be faithful to pour out the rivers of grace that we need to become His love and light on this earth, enabling us to be an Overcomer—the Bride of Messiah, one who will sit next to Him on His throne, as He Himself overcame and sat next to His Father, on His throne. If this is our aim, to be a pure and spotless Bride, it is vital that His love and light increase within our souls. When they do, we will

be a testimony of both, to a lost, angry and confused world around us, who desperately need a revelation of His love.

Defining Love

How could we define love? Unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another; affection, lose one's heart to—undivided devotion.

We can further define love as follows:

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Love suffers long and is kind; it does not envy; nor parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, or seek its own, it is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

JOHN 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

JOHN 14:15-18

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

JOHN 15:13

No one has greater love than to lay down his own life for his friends.

PROVERBS 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

PROVERBS 8:17 AMP.

I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me early and diligently shall find Me.

REVELATION 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

1 JOHN 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

We can see that 'love' suffers long and is kind, in good times and in bad times. And that a friend loves at all times and will not take an offense, when in favor with

others, and when out of favor with them. Love is not puffed up or rude, nor self-seeking. Instead, love does not demand its own way, but puts the needs of others above their own. It is not about 'self-will' but a death to self, daily. All the while, seeking Him early. What does it mean to seek Him early? It means that long before daylight, we seek Him in prayer, before we do anything else [Mark 1:35].

To summarise: There is no greater way to demonstrate our love than to just obey Him. So that means that we must know who He is—His likes and dislikes, and be conformed into His likeness.

Epignosis—Revelation Knowledge

There are two types of knowledge: human knowledge and revelation knowledge. Human knowledge is not head knowledge. It not a bad thing but a necessity, if we are to do our daily task like: using electronic devices, cook a meal, drive a car, etc. Revelation knowledge, on the other hand, is by Divine impartation by the Creator Himself to reveal a truth that we could not see and understand, prior to that impartation.

How could we define knowledge? Familiarity gained by experience, truths, and principles, that give us a personal understanding of someone or circumstances.

How could we define revelation knowledge? The Greek word for knowledge is "epignosis." It is Strong's G1922. It means: precise and correct knowledge of things ethical and divine.¹ A personal experience with divine light that brings revelation [AP].²

We see an example of epignosis—revelation knowledge, used in the following verses:

EPHESIANS 1:17

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge [epignosis-revelation knowledge]** of Him...*

PHILIPPIANS 1:9

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in **knowledge [epignosis-revelation knowledge]** and all discernment.*

It is when we have an encounter with Light—epignosis, that changes us. It is not our Christian activities:

attending church services, bible studies or prayer meetings. It is when His Light enters our souls and illuminates that which we could not see or understand prior, causing us to have a personal experience with the only One Who can lighten our darkness. When this happens something of Himself imparts into our souls, transforming and causing us to become more like Him in our words, thoughts and deeds. An encounter with His Light gives us revelation knowledge of Him. It is His Light which purifies our souls. When that transaction takes place—epignosis—revelation knowledge, that is what changes us.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

*But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

1 JOHN 3:2-3

*...but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is **[epignosis-revelation knowledge]**. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

It is His Light inside of our souls that purifies and removes the darkness, the falsehoods and futilities. When it hits our souls, we personally experience a truth, which brings a measure of freedom to our inward man. It is an ongoing process in our lives and does not happen all at once. If we continue to die daily, in that place of death to self-will, epignosis will burst forth, causing a transformation to take place within our souls. We will come to that place where we will follow Him wholeheartedly: with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Position of Love

In the epistles of John, John's message is summarised in 1 John 2:10: That if we love, we are in light. And if we are light, then we will not stumble, for love and light go hand in hand.

So the more love that we become, the more light that is deposited into our souls, and the more we will become a reflection of the Son. As we travel the narrow road, we must not behold just anything. For what we behold is what we become, it is a spiritual principle. When we 'behold' the glory, we are changed by it because we experience epignosis—a personal encounter with Light.

ROMANS 8:5

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

We further see that John's message reveals that 'love' holds a position. That position is a leaning against our Beloved's Bosom. It is the 'position' of love. And when we come to that place of Sonship—maturing, in our relationship with Him, He cannot refuse to answer 'love.' Why? Because that position of love is not self-seeking and has no fear.

We see this at the final Passover meal with John and Peter. When John was leaning on the Lord's bosom, Peter asked him to ask the Lord who was going to betray Him. When John asked on behalf of Peter, or we could say, when 'love' asked, the Lord revealed to John what others would not ask themselves because of their fear. We see this position of love with the Lord, Who is in the Bosom of the Father.

JOHN 1:18

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

This 'position of love' is a place of deep intimacy, where we behold His love so His light can reveal to our souls His eternal purposes. John understood that position. And because of it, he became love, reflecting His light to those who wanted to kill him. John knew—epignosis, that there was no fear when abiding in love. He was the only disciple with the Lord when He was crucified. Death did not frighten him, for he knew no one could kill love! History tells us they tried to kill John by putting him in a boiling pot of oil, but it did not kill him. No one can kill love!

Years ago, a pastor shared that this is John's message to His Church: to become Love and Light. For when we do, we will not be fearful nor stumble in the darkness that wants to destroy us. That is John's message to the Overcoming, Bride of Messiah for the days ahead. John knew that we are not only going to need to survive, but to overcome difficult circumstances, His way.

I believe John was 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' because he got 'love' and came to that place of death to self, until 'love and light' filled every part of his soul. John wrote the epistles to help us to see how vital it is that we become love and light, today,

while we still have time. He wrote them to help us to become a testimony of His love and light—a reflection of His glory.

A Promise—One with Him

Yeshua's greatest desire is that we would become One with Him, and that He and the Father would be glorified in our lives. The greatest way for that to happen is by us completing the works which we are called to do, while manifesting His name—His character: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. When we do, we will not be an enemy against Him, against the Cross and against His Kingdom. We will not love Him for what we can get—selfish gain, but live the laid down life of the Lamb, for His fame and gain.

Many teach to become One is automatic, but that is not what scripture teaches. How much we are willing to die to our self-will and become perfected in love—abide in love, will determine if we are to become One with Him—to become His Bride.

JOHN 17:26

*And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that **the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.***

Union is about relationship. It requires our part, every day. It is not automatic for every believer to be One and to partake in the first resurrection and to rule with Him during the Millennium Reign. To be discipled in the King's college, that we may learn to reign with Him, may we make no mistake, the tuition is costly. It will cost every bit of our will, for His will.

To become One with Him is a promise for the Overcomers—the Bride of Messiah. It is for those who overcome afflictions and trials, His way. It is a promise to those who are a friend, who loves at all times, who lay down their life for others seeking no rewards. It is for those who will let His ways and thoughts become their own—who are humble, teachable and obedient.

It is a promise for those who will suffer long and remain kind; not envy; or parade themselves, not puffed up; rude, or seek their own way. It is for those who cannot be provoked, will think no evil; nor rejoice in iniquity, but rejoice in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, staying in that position of love that never fails!

It is a promise for those who love Him with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength—undivided devotion. And for those who discipline their carnal affections and worldly desires, who have a clear conscience, void of offense toward God and toward men.

ACTS 24:16

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

It is a promise for those who overcome, as He Himself overcame and sat next to the Father on His throne. Union—to be One with Him, is not for everybody, but for those who will stay awake, keep watch, praying always that we may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

A Wedding and A War

Yeshua tells us, in Matthew 7, that we are to strive to enter through the narrow gate, and that the road is narrow, and how few will find it. And that there is only one way to find it. By taking up our cross, surrendering our will for His: one word, one conversation, one email—one choice at a time, until it is no longer I who liveth, but Messiah who lives within me.

When we do, we will be a Bride, making ourselves ready, contending for the holiness of God to permeate every area of our lives. As we lean on our Beloved's Bosom, in that place of intimacy, epignosis—revelation knowledge, will come forth: convicting us of sin, teaching us righteousness, forewarning of judgments, leading us into the truth that will set every part of our souls free.

Beloved, in this late hour, we must pursue becoming love like our lives depend upon it, because they do. It is the answer for the turbulent days ahead, if we are to be prepared and not to fear them. That is the message John is giving to the Church for these last days.

The Lord is coming for a wedding and a war. He is coming for a company of people who will not have spot, wrinkle or any such thing, but who will be holy and without blemish. He is coming for a Warrior Bride, who will be found in the right wedding garments. One who will know how to labor with one hand, while yielding their sword in the other hand. He is coming for a Bride, who will be a testimony of His love that will cast out all fear in those around them.

In 2020, I had received the following word: *"It will be the best of times for those who are making themselves ready. It will be the worst of times for those who are not."*

May we not waste our trials and tears anymore. Instead, may we let them be redemptive, until we become a testimony of His love so that His light can be reflected all around us, while contending for the holiness of God to permeate every area of our lives. AMEN!

ENDNOTES

- 1 Blue Letter Bible, Strong's Concordance G1922.
- 2 Author's paraphrase.

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