

Being Established

Have you ever seen a field of wheat and there's a gust of wind that goes over it and the wheat bows to the wind? It's kind of what I was watching so far this morning – the ripple of the wind in each blade of grain, bowing – prophesying, singing, praising – just the response. It's a good thing. I don't want to do anything to interfere with that.

The last chapter of the book of Romans 16:24-27 – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Now to him who is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but is now made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith, to God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

What had been hidden was made manifest, so really the redefinition of that in more modern language would be “is now being revealed.” Paul's gospel unveiled what God had downloaded to him that had been hidden. It wasn't made manifest in the sense of seeing it in a physical form but it was made known to Paul by revelation. There was a progressive unveiling of the redemptive plan of God through Paul. It was articulated in a way through his apostolic ministry in a way that it had never been declared before. Nobody had ever said Christ in you the hope of glory. Paul pulled that straight out of the heavens. You can go back and find testimony to that through what was prophesied through the prophets; it isn't contrary to what had been written, but it was never defined in that way. So there was a greater unveiling.

It was just maybe 50 years prior to that revealing that the perception of the Lamb of God and the redemptive purpose of God for man was a four-legged woolly beast. That was all they knew. Up until the time that John the Baptist pointed at the river bank and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” Up until that time, that Lamb was defined as a four-legged woolly beast and within fifty years, not only had it transited to the testimony of a two-legged man, but was now being defined apostolically as the life of the Spirit of God in you that was quickened through the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. What a transition! What an unveiling!

The vast majority of the church today still doesn't have a grasp on what happened in their own lives when they were quickened by the Holy Spirit. So the admonition of Paul was that as you have received him, so walk in him. How did you receive him? By the quickening of the Spirit. How are you supposed to walk in him? By the quickening of the Spirit. Live by the Spirit. But all kinds of stuff have replaced that. Even when Paul poured out his heart to the Galatians, he had to write to them and say, "I think you are falling under the spell of a bewitching spirit. You started in the Spirit, and I know you did because I was there. It was great! What you are doing now is not that. It's something else."

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. And now to him that is of power to establish you according to what's been revealed... Boy, if that isn't where we are. You know, there was a day when a ministry could be established on a message. There are precious saints who laid down their lives and poured out their lives in significantly adverse conditions and in foreign countries, learning foreign languages and laying down their lives at the point of a spear on a sandbar of a river in an area that was certainly adversarial to the continuance of their lives. They went because they felt an accountability to the Spirit of God. They felt blown by the breath of God to bear testimony that there was a Savior that had come into the world to rescue man from his condition. The most definable aspect of man's condition that needed rescuing was "sin." We have to start somewhere, right? So let's start with sin. It can even be defined by the law – which is the purpose of the law, not to establish righteousness but to establish man as guilty and in the need of righteousness. So the gospel has some resonance to your condition, not just philosophy but a very practical answer to your condition. We know those things. They are historically documented.

Where are the Charles Finneys preaching revival so that when a ship sailed into a harbor in a city where he was preaching sailors, who hadn't even heard what he was saying, fell on the deck of their ship and repented? It was the prevailing Spirit that was released by the Spirit of God because someone was standing for the message that they were called to preach. Think of the remarkable things that have happened that God has done to certify those who were doing His will. The Gate Beautiful and a shadow and two people walking through get somebody healed. It wasn't because they were spiritual giants; it was because they were willing to stand for what God had them doing then, and God was there substantiating and testifying to them. It was far beyond what they could bring to the table. Their

own testimony was, “We don’t have anything to offer you, but we know someone who does.” In order to back their testimony, God proved that it was Him that they were testifying to. How do we know they weren’t spiritual giants? I mean, I’m trying not to malign anybody’s character, but Paul came up and unveiled what God had spoken to him and they were saying, “Well, we’re not sure about that.” There wasn’t enough spiritual substance in them to identify quickly and to pick up on the Spirit and the word that God had unveiled to Paul. They said, “Well, we don’t know about that.” They had to deliberate. If it hadn’t been that the Holy Spirit had broken out with signs in the places that Paul had preached, I’m not sure they would have broken through that day to even acknowledge him and his gospel. Then James the brother of Jesus stood up and said, “I’ve got to break this deadlock and make a decision here. We could be standing against God. How can we deny when the Holy Spirit has testified through signs that his gospel has a place in the Son? So it wasn’t that they understood; it was that they couldn’t deny the power of God.

Now to him who is of power to establish you... I had a phone conversation with Bill a couple of months ago. He said, “So how are you doing?” I said, “I don’t know.” He said, “What do you mean?” I said, “You know it has been obvious to me for a long time that I can’t do this. That’s not coming as a revelation at this point. It’s pretty obvious, but I don’t know that I’ve ever seen how impossible this is!” If I put 500 lbs. on a bench press here and say, “Who can press it,” some of you guys are pretty beefy, but I don’t think there is anybody in here that could do that. I know some people that can. I can’t do it; it’s impossible for me. I can’t do this, but it is possible. This is not just “I can’t do it,” but this is totally outside the purview of anything that we have on this earth to bring this to bear or cause this to happen. Now to him who is able – of power to establish you...

So, what am I going to do? The commandment of God: “I want the 500 lbs on the piano, and it’s up to you to get it there.” That’s a different dilemma. Yeah! “So now I have put this life in you by quickening. Now I want you to manifest it because the world is locked up in corruption, limited from the glorious liberty of the children of God until you manifest that life that you can’t make happen.” So there’s not much at stake! Pretty insignificant – just the next thing that’s supposed to come to this planet. That’s all! The access point for that is locked up until... no pressure... to be established according to my gospel...

This isn't the hour where we are trying to convince people of the truth. This isn't the hour to grab your brother and say, "This is the way; walk ye in it." If it's not in your heart, if there isn't a resonance of the Spirit of God from within you, you don't have a shot; I don't have a shot. According to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. I think: "How is that? What is the synergy; what is the mix of this?"

I was thinking about Romans a little bit. Earlier in the book, it says "if we have been reconciled by his death, how much more shall we be saved by his life?" Now the things about some of the details that attend to his death: he hung on a cross outside the city – the end of Hebrews in the 13th chapter it is referred to as an altar, not a cross – that's a nice transition, a better picture - not a Roman cross but the altar of God. It is an evidence of the renewing of the mind, maybe. So he hung on this cross and when he died, there were several things that happened. They were seen! Now, we know that there was a ton of stuff that happened that was unseen. It was a testimony to what was in the heart of God before He created the world. When was the Lamb slain? Before... yeah. So now there was a physical representation of what was in God's heart before the worlds were made that took place 4000 years before – minimum. I'm talking Biblical years not geologic years.

The veil was rent in the temple from top to bottom. Jesus didn't get off the cross and rend it, hop back on to die. It happened because there was an atonement – the justice system in the heavenlies; the pans were balanced now. There was something that took place that had consequence that had an effect on this planet. It wasn't widely known. The impact hasn't been widely understood, but it was nonetheless put in place because it was a testimony made because a man – not an angel – a man had so yielded himself to the breath of God that he had been reformulated from being made of a woman, made under the law to proclaiming to a woman caught in the act of adultery, "Go and sin no more." There was nothing in his environment; there was nothing that he was taught by man; there was nothing that he was raised in that formed that in him. Everything that was outside him was contrary to that. It was the breath of God and his flexibility to be moved by that breath from what he was born as to what God wanted to declare in the earth. It was a testimony to what was in God's heart from before the foundation of the world.

There were some other things that happened when he died. There were saints, apparently, that came out of the grave. And they were seen. It doesn't tell when they left; it tells that they showed up. It doesn't give us their names. It's an unusual thing. Some revolutionary things testified to the authority and impact of what happened when Jesus died on the cross. There was an influence that penetrated the veil of vanity that governs this world and brought to pass things in spite of the authority that was here. It transcended the power of this age. There wasn't anything in nature that said that people were supposed to come out of the grave and walk around the city. It hadn't happened. Stuff changed!

Last night the Spirit of God brought testimony and said that there are things that are going to change in this world. It is going to be totally new. What has been seen and known and the way it worked up until now is destined to change because that's what was hidden in God's heart before the foundation of the world. You know what? Please, forgive me. Before I say that, let me say this, and I'm not saying to be obstructive or denigrate or diminish in any way the testimony of our Lord Jesus, but what he did two thousand years ago on a hill outside the city didn't change the world. But it's in God's heart that the world be changed, not just that a message be disseminated; however, it can only be done by life. It can't be done by gospel. So we have to lose our lives for his sake and the gospel's - the full working of the good news to prove that this thing works because up 'til now there's just been religion in the world and you could say, "This is the truth," and they could say, "Well, that's your opinion."

I don't know if you've noticed, but one of the characteristics of religion versus spirituality is that religion won't stand for anything. It just flows into whatever you pour it in. The Jewish religion didn't have any problem with accommodating Roman rule. "Just let us bring our lambs and let us collect our tithes and we're good" But spirituality says, "There is no question, great king, that you could throw us in that fire, but we will not conform because we are more convinced that our God can deliver us. We don't know that He will, but that's His choice. But my choice is I'm going to stand for what I believe to be the truth." They had entered into a beginning encounter with the purpose of God, and they had subjected themselves to Him who has the power to establish a life that is the representation of the gospel - the good news that God has always wanted to redeem man and not destroy him.

God did not make Adam for destruction. He made him for redemption, to be

redeemed, to enter into Christ, to see his need and in seeing his need find the provision and in finding the provision, not only embrace it for the immediate solution of his problem but for the full expression of the purpose of God. To me, that is still hidden; it can't just be unveiled by verbal testimony. It has to be unveiled by manifestation. That's the "rod of iron." It isn't something that is harsh that you bonk people over the head with when they do something wrong, but it's a standard that's unassailable, unmovable, not subject to being varied because it's life. They will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years, sitting on the throne with a rod of iron. It's not for fear. It's to take away all the other options, to resolve all the other philosophies, to quiet all the other spirits, to make it no longer a subject for discussion. We don't submit ourselves to the breath of God for more than just a church service, but that we subject ourselves daily to the Spirit of God to be established as a testimony to the gospel that's been hidden from the foundation of the world.

We don't need to quote Romans 8 – I don't think, but if you look at the creation groaning and travailing together in bondage, take a picture of humanity sitting in a jail cell. They can see through the bars, but they can't get out. It says that those bars are corruption, right? The bondage of corruption. So the jail cell is made of corruption (and that's more internal than external, but we won't mix metaphors). What are they prevented from? The glorious liberty of the children of God. Set free so that they can enter in to the glorious liberty of the children of God, to be birthed of the Spirit, and by that same Spirit come to full stature, the full maturity, the full expression and exposure of the gospel, and the purpose of God from the foundation of the world, and inherit the life of God Himself.

Abraham was loved of God, and God befriended him before Abraham became his friend. If the scepter is not extended to you, good luck crossing the throne room. So Abraham became a friend of God and it was obviously a response to God's extension of friendship to him. There was some point at which God said to Abraham, and it wasn't at the beginning, but there was some point that He said to him, I am your shield and exceedingly great reward. Whew! "I'm your provision; I'm your protection; I'm your enablement!" Now unto Him who has power to establish you according to my gospel... "I'm your shield and I'm going to establish you in a position of righteousness, so you can inherit Me! I'm your great reward! I'm your shield and great reward! Exceeding great reward – Far beyond what you could imagine." So Abraham thought about it for a second and said, "Well, I don't

have a son!” Really? “You’re going to get Me, and you still want a son?” “Well, yeah, who am I going to give my stuff to?”

When things get unveiled, it’s not that we have a grip of them already. It’s not because we have a handle on this; it’s not going to come out of our sufficiency. There was a day in which Moses stood in some sand and had a sword on his hip – unfortunately for one of the Egyptians. He knew he was called; he knew he was of the house of Israel even though he had grown up in Pharaoh’s courts, and somehow or another he had perceived that he was called to deliver them from Egypt’s dominion. On that given day, it made sense to him in responding to God – it wasn’t because it wasn’t God – it was because of God in his life, that he thought the appropriate response was to kill an Egyptian.

So, Abraham said, “I don’t have a son.”

Joseph has a couple of dreams, and he’s already favored by his father. God didn’t give him only one dream because evidently he didn’t run to tell his parents and his brothers after he had the first dream, so God said, “Oh, give him another dream. Pour some more energy in there.” Fully misdirected. You know you would have thought that God would have foreseen that. He could have waited ‘til he was a little more mature and could have understood that what God had prophesied takes some seasoning and dealings in order to come to the life of what’s revealed so that you can get on page with God.

It seems like God could have sent Nathan to David when he’s standing on his roof top and he was saying, “Oh, I’ve got to have one of them.” He sends the servants, and the servants end up opening the door for Nathan, and he comes in and goes, “Thou art the man.” Seems like God could have done that. He didn’t do any of that. Why? Because He is of power to establish us. He is not trying to establish us in a better self.

How are we going to unlock for the world what has never been seen if we are not in the life that has never been lived? Hebrews talks about that when there is a change of the priesthood, there is of necessity a change of the law. Do we expect that things are going to change on this plane without a priest who is of the authority to do so? No! That’s the pixie dust religion. Somehow it gets sprinkled, and it will make things different. I just want to reflect for a second. In the second chapter of Genesis, which was referred to last night, it says that on the

seventh day God ceased from His work. I'll read it: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the host of them. So we had the heavens made and the earth made and populated. So the angels were in heaven, and man and the plants and the animals were on the earth, and that ended the sixth day.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

So what did God do on the seventh day? The second verse doesn't say what He did on the seventh day; it says what He didn't do. God ceased what He had been doing. "I got my 'go-to' list done; I'm done." But on the seventh day, it says that He blessed and sanctified it. Oh, that's nice! God has always wanted to bring the man that He created on the sixth day into the seventh day, so He could bless and sanctify what He created and through that man unlock all creation. That's what the intent of God was to begin with. Again - not much in the balance!

It says later on, seventh verse, same chapter, And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground. This is recounting what happened on the sixth day even though it is in the second chapter. He tells how He did this because up until then it says that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things appeared out of stuff that didn't already exist. But when God made man, He didn't by His word make him out of what didn't already exist; He took what He had already made, formed a man and breathed on him...and man became a living soul. Man since that time has been seeking to maintain a relationship with God in order to maintain the existence of his "living soul-ness," maintain his existence and temporality. Even the best, the oldest man Methuselah, didn't live a thousand years. I mean it was a long time but even then it was still temporal. We've been looking to extend our existence as a living soul, and Jesus said, "If you don't lay down your living soul, you're going to die! It might take a thousand years, but you're going to die!" Check the book! It's guaranteed. God had something more in mind but it has to be unlocked by a full testimony to His heart, a full manifestation of the salvation of God in Christ.

The testimony that Jesus was to the heart of God, which was the Lamb slain, unlocked things in earth's experience that had never been seen or heard before.

Then three days later, there was further testimony. Just his death did something significant, and the life did more! But the testimony to that by those born in sin and shapen in iniquity is going to have a greater impact on the appearance of what was in God's heart before He made the world than even what happened with Jesus because it's going to draw manifestation into earth's atmosphere and the natural existence of this planet where there is no evident testimony to nature being changed. There's no testimony to it. So you're born a leopard; you die a leopard. You aren't born a leopard and die a cheetah. It's going to bring earth under a government whereby natures can be changed. It's a different government, a different authority. The earth is going to willingly yield up its fruit. The lion is going to eat grass like the ox and the wolf lay down with the lamb. When a man dies at a hundred, he will be considered a child. The curse is going to be reversed. Satan is going to be restrained. We are going to be in a world that is governed both in the unseen and seen by righteousness.

We can hang on to our concepts and our philosophies, our ideas and our projections, and our analyses, but as long as this is what we are confined to and we prove it by "this is where we live and this is what we talk about, this is what we worry about, this is what we do..." Man is not defiled by his environment; he is defiled by what he brings out of himself because that is where his heart is. So "to Him who is able to establish you in the life that my gospel reveals." I know that isn't exactly what it says in the letter of the word.

In the seventh day, it says that He blessed and sanctified. That blessing - You know David is just an amazing, amazing intervention in Scripture. He, like Paul, said things that hadn't been said before. He said, Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Where'd he get that? It didn't come out of Moses. He didn't get that off the tablets of stone. Then, phase two of the blessing, he said, Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will impute righteousness. Even better! What's the point? You can't sanctify what hasn't been blessed. You're going to get blessed before you're going to be sanctified. You'd have to have your sins forgiven before you get sanctified. You have to have a standing in your conscience before God, having received the benefit of the blood of Jesus which is greater than bulls and goats not just that your sins be forgiven but that your conscience be cleansed so that you can actually serve God. If you don't raise an altar - actually, if you don't get on the altar (which is God's purpose and will for man), it's an unacceptable sacrifice. If it is an unacceptable sacrifice, God rejects it.

It's one of the early stories in the Bible: Cain and Abel. The most amazing part of that story is that when Cain offered the wrong sacrifice God tried to coach him up. He said, "Come on! You didn't get it to start with; that's ok. I had to reject it; I didn't want to but I had to for your good. I've shown you. Just offer the right sacrifice." Cain subjected himself to being destroyed. God didn't stop there. He said, "If any one tries to destroy you, I will be their enemy." Wait a minute; he just offered the wrong sacrifice. God should have said, "Bad seed," and got rid of him. God was trying to redeem him. He never quit. I don't care where you are. God doesn't care where you are. Respond to the breath of God whatever that looks like! I guarantee you that one of the characteristics of the breath of God or the response to the breath of God is going to have a heavy dose of repentance.

I'm not finished! If God hasn't given me a glorified body than there's something that's keeping that from happening. That's in me not in Him. That's what He wants to do! He wants a testimony to the life of God in human flesh. He had it for 40 days in a man but He covered it; He shrouded it so that it wasn't seen for what it was. I'm not saying that people didn't see him, but they didn't see what he was. The significance of that was not unleashed on this world so that it changed the government of this world. It's waiting for another testimony, for those who have been born in sin and shapen in iniquity to partake of the salvation of God and drain that cup to the end. The manifestation of that life is going to have an impact that will make everything else that has happened up until this time in earth's experience nothing, insignificant. It's going to wipe the table clean.

In Psalms 45, I just want to think a little more about David. Talking about those who are favored of God, the first four verses describe things that are going to take place in their lives. The fifth verse sets it up in particular and the sixth verse says, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

In Hebrews 1, there's a reference of that same verse in the eighth verse, But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

The right sceptre is a sceptre of righteousness. It's not just that it is the correct sceptre, but the sceptre is righteousness. If we think about Esther for a second, and it was referenced again last night that if Ahasuerus had not extended the

sceptre, she never would have made it ten feet inside the door because the guards at the door didn't have to be told to kill, they had to be told not to kill. The sceptre was the key. I mean if he coughed or got something in his eye - it wasn't just any sign; it was the extension of his sceptre. The sceptre was righteousness. That was the type and shadow that was represented there. The authority of our access to be established according to the grace and capacity of God to fulfill His purpose in some is if we will get right. I know it should be a lot more complex than that, but it is not. Repentance is the key to righteousness. If I were already finished, God would either have to take me or give me a glorified body, so that I don't have one is proof to me that I am not finished, and if I'm not finished, then I need the on-going work of God. If I stay where I am up to this point, and don't allow Him to do it, I retain my integrity and identity, so I have to repent in order for me to continually be joined to the on-going provision of God.

The breath of God comes, and I think we heard earlier in the convention in the closing of the first night that the voice comes, Today if you hear His voice, harden not your heart. So obviously there is something in the natural man that gives substance to the testimony of scripture that the carnal mind cannot handle the things of God; it's an enemy of God. The natural man does not know the things of God, and that also is speaking. So the breath of God comes, "Don't harden your heart!" Let it hit what its target is; that's repentance. Through repentance we are restored. There's no redemption accessible except through the door of repentance. It just can't happen. The sceptre of Your kingdom is a sceptre of righteousness.

He is going to cut the work short in righteousness. "To cut the work short" is that 'short' referencing time? It could be. But essentially it's talking about the same root word as 'circumcision' comes from - cutting. If you don't want to get cut, good luck! What cutting is for us is not what it was under the law. Under the law it was but the type and shadow or maybe better said an indistinct representation of what cutting is for us. Coming to the fulfillment of God's purpose is our destination, and we should be far more concerned with the progress of our hearts than the progression of time. The major contrast that Paul brings forward concerning this aspect of the gospel is that it is not the circumcision of the flesh with hands, but it's the circumcision of the heart without hands. That metaphor isn't just to say that I can't get to my heart with my hands, but it stands as a type and shadow that not only we can't do this, but if I don't present myself to a

comfortable, safe environment that I have invested in and proven that I trust, I'm not going to let Him touch my heart. Are you kidding me? If I can't even order my life according to the law of God – outward things, if I don't have any resonance to just even being nice....

The Apostle John said, "Look, you can tell me how dearly you love God, but when I see you abusing the heck out of your brother, I'm not too sure!" Why? We don't have to be careful to walk around saying, "Love you, brother; love you sister." It's not talking about doing something. We're saying that if your heart under the influence of the breath of God is being transformed through the work of the Spirit to be shaped and to be inclined to what He is inclined to, you are going to begin to love what He loves, and He loves your brother. If you do not, you are giving evidence to how much your heart isn't yet like His. Who did Jesus struggle with being civil towards more than any others? Yeah - the Pharisees because they were one thing on the inside and they wanted to portray themselves as being something else than what they really were. Now if my heart isn't like God's, should I anticipate any time in the near future getting a glorified body? He's not going to do that! Steve said last night that he could take a shower but if he didn't have clean clothes to put on – Phew! We're not looking to be unclothed; we're looking to be clothed upon, that we receive a body like unto his glorious one, the one that was shrouded and their eyes were holden, so they couldn't see him for what he was. Mary mistook him for a gardener. They approached him on the shore, and they thought he was a spirit. He said, "I'm not a spirit! Touch. Put your hand..."

Paul said in the beginning of 1 Corinthians 15, that there were over 500 that saw him. "Most of them are still alive; go talk to them." But it didn't get the job done. The world is still in bondage and God didn't create it for bondage; He created it for liberty! So there has to be those who are first. We, although we have the first fruit of the Spirit, groan within ourselves because we're not home yet either! But it doesn't destabilize the message. It's because your hope has been deferred; you allow your heart to get sick. You'll begin to squander the inheritance of God and dissipate the essence of the Spirit that is in you to change you and to conform you because you will follow after other gods and other spirits.

You know the essence of iniquity is not the obvious outwardly negative things. If we took a poll of what is evil, I wonder how many things we'd have on the board before we got to religion. Murder, lying, adultery, fornication....you know, but the

essence of the father of this race, “You are of your father, the Devil,” is a religious creature. He’s an angel of light! He quoted scripture to Jesus. “This is a mine field.” There is no way through it! Jesus said to Peter, “You know, I’ve got to go, so I want to leave this with you. It’s a personal word. When you were young, you zipped up yourself and you went pretty much where you wanted to go, and you thought you were bringing the goods when you got there; but in your maturity, you’re going to stretch forth your hands, another is going to clothe you in the right apparel, and – it does not say ‘and lead you’ - it doesn’t say ‘lead you’ – and carry you.” The breath of God! You put a boat on a mooring, leave the sail up and let the wind blow, it will show that the wind’s blowing, but it isn’t going anywhere. If we want to be anchored in the identity of what we are or worse yet what we’ve come from, the breath of God doesn’t doing us any good. We can recognize it; we can even witness to it. James talked about the essential problem of the natural man. It wasn’t that he couldn’t see what he was but that if he didn’t have it right in front of him, the witness of the Spirit would fade over time and he would forget what manner of man he was. Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, established not by the law of sin and death but by the law of the Spirit of Life that’s in Christ.

Unrighteousness is defined not just by being bad but just an inappropriate response to the breath of God in your life. You have to define that! No man can give you that. No man can foretell what that is going to be. It is an accountability to the Spirit of God. Now unto him who is able to establish you...

1 Cor 15: 45 – When Paul penned this chapter, he wasn’t talking about ‘the’ resurrection. The first ten verses of this chapter anchor the context of this chapter in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It says he rose, 500 saw him and if he didn’t rise, you are yet dead in your sins, so pack it in anyhow. There is the foundation. He closes the chapter by referencing a day when mortality would put on immortality, so that is ‘the’ resurrection of Jesus Christ and that is the evidence of ‘the’ resurrection of the saints or the unveiling or the taking off of the cover. When you take the cover off, you’ve got a show. It doesn’t happen much anymore, but back in the sixties they used to change body styles of new cars. You’d wonder what the new Corvette was going to look like. They’d have a show and they’d take pictures with photographers, and they’d bring it out and they had a big cover on it. They let out all the hoop-la, and then -whoosh! Everyone would go “Ahhhhh!” They weren’t making it under the cover. It was already made. It just revealed what was under the cover that had already been made.

Paul wasn't teaching on 'the' resurrection, he was teaching on resurrection. I want to just dwell on one part of it because leading up to the 45th verse, he said, So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption. Wait a minute! What is this? So who's the sower? God is the sower. He is sowing resurrection. What do you think brought you out of corruption? It was God sowing resurrection into corruption. God looked at corruption and said, "I've got a problem but I know how to solve it. I'll sow resurrection into corruption and it will bring it forth into corruptibility because you know that corruption cannot inherit incorruption. I've got to get them into a corruptible state because corruptible must put on incorruption." So it's sown in weakness.

Anybody weak? Jesus was weak. You know Jesus was no more capable than Adam. Yeah. Jesus was no more capable than Adam. Adam proved he was incapable. Jesus proved he was dependent. That's nice; that's good. He proved he could respond to the breath of God. God breathed on Adam after He made Adam and he became a living soul. He took the living soul and breathed on him again, and that soul said, "Man, those apples look good!" Peaches...whatever. God said, "Don't eat!" And he couldn't respond righteously to one breath! Jesus, on the other hand, it was testified of him, Lo, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I have come to do Thy will! I will respond to Your breath consistently. Did he ever have to repent? Yes, he had to repent. There's no redemption available without repentance.

Now for us, that kind of hits a roadblock for us somewhere because we've learned something about repentance because of sin, but the real benefit of repentance isn't just from sin; it's from self. Did Jesus ever have to repent of himself? Well, I'm thinking of a day when he was about 33 1/3 years old – the night he was betrayed. He was on his face before his Father for three hours in one hour increments, Not my will... Sounds like repentance to me – without sin and repenting! That's a paradigm shift!

God is sowing resurrection in you and me. It is the work of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the sanctifying presence. If we will allow the circumcision of our desire, through the operation of the Spirit of God... How do you think we are going to fulfill what Paul said, So set your affection on things above? How do we do that? By subjecting ourselves to the breath of God. God is seeking to fulfill in you and me through the work of the Spirit what His intent was before He made the world.

We have an opportunity to be connected on a daily basis to that which is of eternity – before time – in order to be a testimony, not to what is temporal and seen, but to what is eternal and unseen. So eye hath not... Neither ear heard...

1 Cor 15:45 – So it is written, that the first man Adam was made a living soul... We read about that: He took the dust, formed a man, blew His breath, and man became a living soul. He had an existence; it was a temporal existence. But the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Different. By what process? The same process! The breath of God! It was nothing else. The worlds were framed by the Word of God! It's a testimony. All things are of God by the Son – of the Father by the Son. The picture that I see (If it's helpful, fine; if it isn't, see it your own way.) is that God took of the dust of the earth and formed Adam. He's taking of Adam and forming by His breath a life-quickening spirit. He took of the dust and made Adam by His breath. He's taking of Adam and bringing forth another life by His breath. Yeah! He is redeeming Adam by His breath. Just as He made Adam a living soul by His breath, Christ is also fashioned by the breath of God – an appropriate response. Call it breath, call it word, anything that proceeds forth from God...whatever term you want to put on it.

In John 3, we are very familiar with the fifth verse where Jesus said to Nicodemus, Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That's Bible 101. The next verse is a little more than that. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. So it begins to define the difference between the first Adam and the last Adam. But then it coaches us up, "So if you are born in the last Adam, quickened by the Spirit of God so that Christ has been birthed in you," hear it in the eighth verse where it says, "The wind bloweth where it lists and you hear the sound thereof and you cannot tell whence it comes or whither it goes, so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." Responding to the breath of God doesn't come out of a definite doctrine. It doesn't blow from the same quadrant all the time. You can't tell whence it comes. You are not sure where it's driving you, but it doesn't matter because if you have the appropriate response, it will take you to your appropriate destination. Where God wants to take us isn't a location. He doesn't want us to do; He wants us to become.

To as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12

Amen

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