

## Joe LaTour—“Time to Grow Up” Tucson Zoom 11/20/22

It's so good to be gathered together again. I know that so many are shut in and can't get out. So this provision of being able to gather anyway that we can either through Zoom or face to face is still precious for us. I've got something on my heart I'd like to share with you from Ephesians. It's been captivating my attention lately and the Apostle Paul who penned 2/3 of the New Testament really lays it out here in this book for us. I know it's familiar to many of us, in Chapter 1 how he starts off by saying that God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places and that He has chosen a people on Christ-Ephesians 1:4-before the foundation of the world how that the counsels of the Godhead before the foundation of the world actually chose a people, put them in Christ, called them by name, put their name in the Lamb's book of Life and predestinated them, gave them to Jesus to be conformed to His image. And he lays that out in chapter one so beautifully. So many wonderful things in chapter 2 that I want to jump into here in just a second.

In chapter 3 I want to read something to you in another translation. Ephesians 3:5, "There has never been a generation that has been given the detailed understanding of this glorious and divine mystery until now" Think about that. That which has been kept hidden from ages and generations is being made known to a people. That which holy prophets desired to look into, were not able to, is now being revealed. Is being made available to us through the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. The purpose, the eternal purpose, the heart of God, the intention of God is being made visible to us and to our understanding. It said He kept it a secret until this generation. And God is revealing it only now to his sacred apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit, and here's the secret, that the gospel of Grace has made you, non Jewish believers, into co-heirs of His promise through your union with Him. And you have now become members of His body and one with the anointed one. Members of His body. Bone of His bone. Flesh of His flesh. Spirit of His spirit. You are of His kind because of your born again experience. Now let's go back into chapter 2 because that's where I really want to jump into and get started. But I was so impressed with how this translation laid it out concerning the mystery that had been kept hidden from ages and generations but is now being made manifest to the church.

Chapter 2, and I think just for the sake of time I want to start in verse 10. "For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God has before ordained" before what? Before the foundation of the world. Brothers and sisters, there's a calling on your lives. There are good works that have been ordained before the foundation of the world that you should walk in them. And I can tell you today that if you continue on in Christ you will walk in the good works that God before ordained that you should walk in. "Wherefore remember that you being in times past gentiles in the flesh who are called uncircumcision by that which is called circumcision in the flesh made by hands, that at that time"-OK, this is times past-"at that time you were without Christ being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise having no hope and without God in the world." In times past, this is in the framework of time but in the framework of eternity you were chosen in Christ. It's only in time that you were strangers and foreigners to the promises and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.

"But now"-and here's where it's important, friends., and I hope that this ministers to you today that right now wherever you're at, whatever situation you're finding yourself in, this is true concerning you-"but now in Christ Jesus you who were sometimes far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." I don't know about you but there's times when I mess up, there's times when I may stumble in something, I may say something or I may think something, whatever the case may be and I need to be brought close. And there's nothing, friends, today that will bring you close except the blood of Jesus Christ. And if you find yourself in that condition today- I don't know what, maybe you had an argument with your spouse or your friend or somebody or maybe you thought a bad thought or whatever the case may be that you may have stumbled in some area-you are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Turn to Him today and take advantage of the provision that's there to keep you connected to the living God. There's no reason for you, Christian, to be under condemnation or to be separated from God. The Blood, the provision, is there to keep you clean, to keep you joined to the Lord. So please, don't let the enemy beat you up, turn to God, repent from whatever it is you need to and receive the cleansing. Receive the benefit of the provision. 'Bless the Lord' Psalm 103 says 'oh my soul and forget not all his benefits'. And these are some of the benefits of the blood of Christ that are there to keep you clean and connected to the living God. Because you can beat yourself up all you want but

apart from God you can't do anything by yourself and the only thing that can keep you connected and keep you clean is the the ongoing sprinkling of the blood. And Hebrews encourages us, 'Let us draw near' and if you've been far off you have been made nigh. 'Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith'-now know this that if you don't come in full assurance of faith, if you're sitting in unbelief, you're not going to get anywhere with God. 'Let not him that doubts believe that he receives anything from the Lord. With a true heart and full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from a guilty conscience.' And I want you to know that wherever two or three are gathered He is in the midst. And He is in the midst as the High Priest. And even though we are separated by space we're getting together today over this cyber communication, the High Priest is in the midst of us today and He is sprinkling hearts and He is living inside of you. And if you turn to Him today in faith He will sprinkle your heart, my friends, from an evil conscience, from a guilty conscience so that you don't have to go on in any kind of condemnation and you can go on knowing in full assurance of faith, a blessed assurance, that you have a relationship with the Living God.

Vs 14, 'For he is our peace who has made both one'-now we're getting into it here-'and have broken down the middle wall of partition between us. Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in himself of twain one new man.' Now what's he talking about there? He's talking about the middle wall that at one time was between Jews and Gentiles. In times past you were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. You were aliens from the covenants of promise. But now you are made nigh and what he has done, he is our peace. He's broken down the middle wall of partition and what he's doing is of the two, both Jew and Gentile, He is making one new man. Hallelujah! I'm excited about this. Ya know it's funny, and maybe you run into this, but I have a lot of Christian friends from different flows and different levels of God's house out there and people are so enamored with the natural Jew, with natural Israel. It's like they've got them up on some golden pedestal. But I want you to know something today, brethren, I don't care what your nationality is. It does not qualify you for anything in God. The Jews are going to have to come and get in Christ. Otherwise they're not going to get anywhere with God. Jesus said to them over in Matthew 21:43, "Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. They did not receive, they stumbled at the stumbling stone. And now He has become the chief cornerstone." And so today

brethren circumcision won't avail you anything, uncircumcision won't avail you anything, Galatians says, but a new creature. It doesn't matter whether you're a Jew. It doesn't matter whether you're a Gentile. The only place that you and I are going to find acceptance is in Christ. That's a good place to say Amen.

Let me just read you some other scriptures and you can take notes if you want but I'll jump around here. But in Colossians 3:9, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" Now listen, "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all." There is none of that in Christ and really the Israel of God, the Prince of God is Christ today. It is the one new man to where circumcision doesn't do anything for you, uncircumcision doesn't do anything for you, but a new creature. That's what God's looking for. And the natural man, regardless of what your nationality is, receiveth not the things of the Spirit, but they are foolishness to him. So if you needed something else go to Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Where there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." I already quoted that but circumcision doesn't avail anything. Nor does uncircumcision. He has broken down the middle wall of partition and this is the mystery, that God would take us who were Gentiles in time part of this one new man. Wow!

Now this man is who I want to talk about today, this new creation man which you became a part of at your new birth. And basically every born again believer is a part of this new man but at varying levels of maturity. And it's time for us. I don't need to tell you if you turn on the news and look at how quick, how accelerated the mystery of iniquity has become. Have you ever seen anything as crazy as this world has gotten? Think about it, when you've got leaders of what is supposed to be the greatest country in this world can't define what a woman is. Or you have teachers and things that have such a gender confusion. You know Bro Sam decades ago warned that it would get bad but I had no idea that in my lifetime I would see things as twisted and perverted as it is. But you know in all of that I am encouraged today because whenever there's an acceleration of the mystery of iniquity you can be sure that the mystery of Godliness is also being accelerated by God. And God is going to have this new man appear upon this planet because all

creation is groaning for it and I believe there are going to be those that come to maturity first. I believe there are many beautiful brothers and sisters at different levels of life throughout the church of Jesus in the world today. But I believe that God is going to have a people that come to maturity first, you can call them the first fruits if you like, because they come, they are harvested first, and you only harvest the mature fruit first. So he says in vs 15, back to Ephesians 2, "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both"-that is Jew and Gentile through Christ-"have access by one Spirit unto the Father." So I want to ask you today, Christian, are you taking advantage of the access that has been given to you? Do you get with God daily? Do you come into His courts with faith knowing that you are accepted in the beloved? Knowing that you are received there? Knowing that he said 'All that the Father has given me, all that has come, I will in no wise cast out.' It's only when you come to Him that you can be equipped and be strengthened.

Ya know I was raised Catholic and I was always taught that in order for you to come to God you had to come through the priest and any number of various saints in order to be able to get anywhere. But I'm here to tell you today, brothers and sisters, that you don't have to wait for anybody. You don't have to wait for a preacher. You have access directly to the father yourself. And God is calling for us to take advantage of that. To spend time with Him. To know Him and for Him to know you. You know the worst words that we could ever had hear is when He appears would be if He would say "Depart from me. I don't know you. You never took advantage of the provision. You never took advantage of the privilege of being the redeemed of the Lord. You never took advantage of the access that you have to me." So I would encourage you, friends, today to know that the way has been made open. The door is wide open. That veil has been split from top to bottom and it was God that actually opened the way for you. And it says 'let us enter with boldness into the Holiest of all. Now some may believe that we can't get in there but I'm telling ya that my Bible says that you can get in there. He has opened the way for you to come boldly to the throne of grace in your time of need. What is your need today? Are you waiting to get with a ministry of some sort to counsel with them? Let me tell you, wait no more. The only veil has been

opened and the scepter has been held out to you because of the blood of Jesus Christ and the invitation has come to come near. So let us draw near. Come close in your time of need. Come to the mercy seat and find grace to help in your time of need. Whatever that need is. "For through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And ye are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:" Let me emphasize "fitly framed together groweth in to a holy temple together." Don't you love the Apostle Paul here? He calls us a building. He calls us a man. We're called so many things in the scriptures, especially right here in Ephesians—"In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Another provision that I think we overlook on a daily basis is the provision of the Holy Spirit. The one that Jesus said 'I am sending you another comforter. I'm not going to leave you alone. I'm not going to leave you as an orphan. I'm going to send my spirit to you.' He's going to be with you forever. He's going to bring you into all truth. He'll convict you if you get out of the way, if you get in a wrong state of mind, so that you can repent. But he will not leave you. He's there to bring you to the tents-as Bro John Basalyga spoke on recently-to the tents of the father and the son. Into union with God, into all that God has for you. Listen, living in your house is something so wonderful, someone so wonderful, so precious, the very Holy Spirit of God, the spirit of Grace himself. And how often do we wake in the mornings and jump into our day and run right past Him not acknowledging that He is even there? Friends, when your eyes pop open in the morning I would connect with Him immediately, 'Holy Spirit I know you're here. I know you're here. And I'm going to need power to walk through this day. I'm going to need your spirit of grace. I'm going to need the ability to walk through this day. Help me. Help me walk in the spirit. Help me not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Help me not to get out of the way. Teach me and take the things of Jesus and show them to me.' Are you enjoying this one who was sent at such a great price? Do you understand that ages and generations of the past did not have access to the Spirit of Holiness that you and I do today? Prophets and different ones did not have the access that He would actually dwell in you. Are you enjoying Him? Are you, to use the term, employing Him in your life, friends? I'm just here to remind you of some of the things that belong to you so that you can use them. But I want

to tell you something, it doesn't turn out good for people who take all the provisions, whatever measure that you've given. If you just bury it in the ground and don't utilize it. If you don't take advantage of it. When He returns He wants to see what He gave and He wants to see it having grown and increased. But if you take it and don't utilize it it will atrophy on you. Come on church! It's time to start utilizing what you have. Amen? And you know who I'm really preaching to today? ME! And if you're getting anything out of this listening to me preaching to me, then good. You can take it.

I want to jump into Ephesians 4, and I hope this is OK. That this meets somebody. If one person goes away and they've been fed or encouraged to take the next step in faith then it will have been worth it all.

Ephesians 4:8, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Now let me just say this, because you and I have come out of many different backgrounds. And some of us have come out of some major bondages. And maybe there might be some even listening today that perhaps some kind of captivity has you held. And you're a believer in Jesus and you love the Lord but there's still this thing that seems to bring you captive. Can I tell you today that Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, has descended. And what He has done is that He has led captivity captive. And even that captivity that you may find yourself in is actually captive to Him today. And if you will turn to Him, He's the one that sets prisoners free. He's the one that led captivity captive. And if you begin to start first of all giving thanks for what he's done for you. Raising your praises up to Him. I don't care if you're in the midnight hour. I don't care if you're like Paul and Silas and you're in the deepest prison down in the depths of the prison and it's darkest midnight. If you'll start raising your praises to God then those things that are binding you will fall off and not only off you but in all those that hear you worshiping and extolling and exalting the living God for all He's done, then their prison doors will be opened. Praise is the power of heaven, giving God thanks, extolling Him for the fact that He's sent his son to do what He's done for us. Think about all the times in your personal life that He's been faithful to you. Instead of complaining. Instead of just bringing God your problem first try this, start praising Him. Spend 10 minutes worshiping Him, extolling Him and I want to tell you something, you will find in that captivity that you have been brought into the chains falling off, the prison doors being opened, the ground being shaken and even those that you come around watch their prison doors fly open too. He's led captivity captive and He gives gifts to men.

Now listen to this because this just really hit me recently and I saw it totally different. Ya know I've passed over many things. Vs 9, "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things." I got to thinking about that and the Spirit of God said, remember Philipines 2. He that ascended, what is it but that he first descended. If you stop and think about that it made me fall in love all over again with the Lord Jesus Christ today. Let's just take a minute and go over to Philipines 2:1, "If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love,"-because you are part of one body, friends-"*being* of one accord, of one mind. *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory;"-seeking something, seeking to be something when you already are something. Seeking to have something when you already have something. That's vain glory-"but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." You know something? That's part of the nature of who you are in the new man. That's not natural to your old man but it is natural to the new man. You start seeing others better than yourself. You start seeing that you're just a part of many. That Christ is not one member but Christ is many. It goes on, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you,"-and what this literally says and I've said this before, is that that Greek work 'let' is the Greek word phroneo which means to exercise. It doesn't mean to allow. You don't have to allow, you've already got the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:26 tells you you have the mind of Christ. OK? So exercise the mind that's in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Now listen to this, "Who, being in the form of God,"-there was a time in eternity past and that is an oxymoron since past has got to with time and eternity has nothing to do with time but let's just say for the sake of explanation in eternity past he was in the form of God. So much so that he thought it not robbery to be equal with God but he made himself of no reputation, which we know, we've heard it in this flow of the spirit by many mighty preachers that the Knossos which means he emptied himself of being in the form of God. And look what he did. "He took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men and being found"-how?-"in fashion as a man." OK? It's important that we see this here. It's his descention He that ascended first descended. He was in the form of God, He descended into the form of a man, took upon himself the form of a servant. "And being found in fashion as



a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Wow! So he goes on to say because of this, vs 9, "God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." Do you see what happened here? Why did he have to descend into the form of a man? 1 Corinthians 15:21 tells us that by man came death. By man came also the resurrection, this had to be done by a man. The turning of this thing around had to be done by a man. I think that is so awesome, so glorious.

1 Corinthians 15:45. It's important for you to know who you are today because of what Jesus Christ has done. "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;"-that's what you were in Adam, you were a soul. The dominant characteristic of your nature was the soul. But when we come into Christ and as we grow in Christ the dominant characteristic of our life, read this, "the last Adam *was made* quickening spirit." The dominating attribute that defines the new man is that he is no longer a living soul. He is totally a different kind of creature. He is now a quickening spirit that has a soul, that has a body, that he's going to bring both soul and body into immortality. And even the soul itself. There was a time when the soul was like the woman. In John 3, the woman at the well, she's had 5 husbands and we know the soul is the picture of the woman. David said my soul has made her boast in the Lord. And so our soul was married to the 5 senses which is influenced by the god of this external world and that's how he makes his way to the woman, the soul, is through those five husbands. And Jesus said, Well yes, that's right. You've had five husbands and the one that you have now is not your husband. You see, when you're joined to a harlot and the soul, the woman has been joined to the old man, the first Adam, and it says he that is joined to a harlot is one flesh. And so what comes out of that is nothing but a flesh nature. But listen, now that we're redeemed, now that we're dead to that old husband, as Romans 7 says, we're free to be married to another. And he that is joined to the Lord is what? One spirit. So what God is out to do is draw my soul and your soul into union with himself from inside the holiest of all. And when he says, 'Open to me my sister, my spouse' over in the Song of Solomon or when he says in Revelation 'Behold I stand at the door and knock' he's not outside of you somewhere. He's in your spirit wanting to draw you into spiritual union, the soul into union with him into an internal marriage union so that the soul loses it's soulish characteristics and she becomes one spirit with Him. And so that the soul is also characterized by a spiritual nature and out of that union life comes forth and is saved in childbearing. The soul in relationship. How is it with your soul

today? Do you feel him drawing you? No wonder the Shulamite would say, 'Draw me and I will run after you.' But you can't run after him unless he draws you. Lord draw me, that's my prayer today. Lord please don't turn the magnet of your spirit off. Draw me and I will run after you. Hallelujah. "How be it that which was not first spiritual but that which is natural and after that which would be spiritual. The first man is of the earth earthy, the second is from heaven." You are a heavenly being now. You've been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Ephesians 2 says you are seated with him in heavenly places. Philippians 3, your citizenship is in heaven. So just like the one that was the first born among many brethren, Romans 8 says, it's true of you as well and that's the other characteristic of these two men. The one was created or formed of the dust of the earth, as it goes on to say the first man was of the earth earthy. Formed from the earth. The second man was not created, he was born. And it's a beautiful thing to see what God is doing and in Philippians he says because Jesus humbled himself in that way that God has given him a name that is above every other name. And then in Revelation 3 he says this, 'To him that overcometh will I write upon him the name of my God, the name of the city of my God and I will write upon him my new name. Do you understand today that Jesus has a name that in eternity past he didn't have that name. Why? Because now he took with him humanity. He took upon himself the form of a man. And you know what? He never laid that off. He took that right into glorification. And when Stephen was being stoned he said, 'I see the Son of Man standing'-there's a man standing on the right hand in all power, in all authority standing in the power of God. In the place of all authority as a man, a glorified man, a God man, a new kind of man. That word 'new' is kainós. I keep saying this and I like saying it. Unheard of, unprecedented. Look it up. If any man is in Christ he is a new creature. "Strong" it and you'll find out that that word new is the Greek word kainós is unprecedented. Never heard of before. This new man that you are part of has never been seen on this planet before outside of the Lord Jesus Christ and is being followed by you and I who are growing up in our particular places, our Nazareths, until the time of the appearing of the Lord in many sons.

OK, I want to go back now, I'm still in Ephesians 4:11. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." In the Amplified in vs 12 it says "His intention was the perfecting and full equipping of the saints, his consecrated people, that they

should do the work of ministering toward the building up of Christ's body that it might develop until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension and in the full and accurate knowledge of the Son of God that we might arrive at really mature manhood, the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ and the completeness found in him." So, I hear different ones and I've heard different ones talk about the 5 fold ministry. I've heard different ones say we don't need that anymore, but see if this witnesses to you. I believe the five fold ministry is in operation until everyone of this corporate body, every child of God comes to maturity. Can I tell you that in the lives of some the operation of an external ascension gift is not necessary for their growth. The closer that you come to maturity you no longer need external teachers. Yes, we preach to one another, we inspire one another but you have something going on with God yourself. Can I tell you that there are some in this move of God-and can I say this to you-I've talked to young people in a place recently that they were born in this move of God and they are in their 30s and 40s and there are some of you sitting out there listening to me today, that maybe you've been in this 2, 3, 4 even 5 decades. Can I tell you that Ephesians 5 could be applicable to you? For that when the time you ought to be teachers you have need that one teach you again. The first principals of the oracles of God and have become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat. Why? Because strong meat belongs to those that are of full age who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern between good and evil. And there are some that are sitting here today that you would rather the preacher have a surrogate relationship with God for you. You know milk is a food made when another eats food and it's digested and broken down and milk is produced. So what you're getting on the milk of the word is what somebody else has eaten and is digested and it's broken down so that you can digest it. But when you grow up you no longer get it through another vessel. You have access to the father yourself. And if your heart is set on doing his will, Jesus said my meat is to do the Father's will and yes we inspire one another, we encourage one another, we lay line upon line. It changes. What happens is varying levels of growth, and some of you out there have this going on, you're mature. You're solid. You're getting it straight from God. And then the preacher comes on Zoom or your local meetings and he or she simply confirms exactly what you've been getting from the Father because it's in the mouth of two or three witnesses. And what we have is an accountability. We have a corporate body of mature believers in Jesus that are there not to bring you on but to confirm, to be

accountable to. And you see, everyone put the five fold ministry on a pedestal but you know it's 'by that which every joint supplies.' It's not just what the apostles or the prophets or the elders or the teachers or the evangelists are doing. It's by 'that which every joint supplies.' It's time for you, brothers and sisters, to take your place not in this organization called 'the move' but in this organism called the body of Christ by that which every joint supplies, by the effectual working in the measure of every part. Every part. And you know, it would be weird, I have a 26 year old son and a 31 year old daughter and I can't work with them like I did when they were 15. First of all they're not going to put up with it. And even if they would put up with it it would be weird, right? It would be weird if they were still depending on mom and dad, and you see this in the world today. You got guys that are 40 years old and they're living in mom and dad's basement and they're still living off of their parents. Can I tell that it's time that you are not just a consumer but a supplier? I want to challenge you today. Don't just be a consumer that sits back and takes in what the preachers have to say every Sunday after Sunday, meeting after meeting because God has not called you just to be a consumer. God has called you by that which every joint supplies. He's called you to be a supplier. And in order for you to do that you've got to get with Him. It's time.

Verse 14, "That henceforth that we be no more children." I'm telling you we are on a transitional period in this flow of the spirit that we call, that has been labeled The Move. We're in a time that we're in transition and it's time that we be no more children. This thing is not going to always go on like it has. It's not going to look like it has in times past. We don't know how we shall appear but we know that when He appears we will be like Him. You don't know what it's going to look like and if you're stuck in the past or if you've built a monument to some thing, whether it be community or the trappings that God has done in this move. And you know what. I live on community and I love it. I'm not against community. I'm not against many of these other things. But there are things that are scaffolding. Do you hear what the spirit of God is saying to the Church? "It's time that we be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lay in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love may grow up into Him in all things." Now I've got to tell you that my son respects me as his dad but he's more of an equal. He's in my business and sometimes he knows more than I do. He's getting it quicker as we go for advance training and everything, he gets it faster than I do.

And you know that's the heart of a true parent. It's weird if you want your kids to stay dependent upon you when they're adults. It's weird, ministry, if you want the congregation dependent on you when the time they ought to be teachers is at hand and when God is saying it's time for us to be no more children. Because He wants to write on you His new name, to him that overcometh. I'll tell you that I used to hear that all the time, to him that over cometh, you've got to overcome to get in and I was like 'Oh God, I'm not doing too good with that' because I wasn't doing it in faith. You know what the scripture says in 1 John 5? "He that is born of God"-what does he do? He overcomes. It's the intrinsic nature of who you are in Christ. If it's allowed to grow you will overcome. We used to hear and it used to be preached 'well, you're not born of God until you come up in resurrection' but you look at 1 John 5:1, 'Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God' so what is lacking? Well, we need to grow. We need to keep growing. Can I encourage you today? You are growing. And what is happening is that new creation nature, that quickening spirit, last Adam life inside of you is gaining ascendancy over the old. And God is, through the cross, letting you and I see the old is gone. He doesn't even recognize it. Keep growing. Keep feeding yourself faith food. I'm challenging you today to be who you are. To take advantage of what God has provided. He doesn't intend for you to be a performer all your life, he's called you to be a son. And you have a part in this whole thing of seeing creation set free. But only the mature, only those that grow up, not the preacher dependent, will ever do it. "Speaking the truth in love may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ from whom the whole body fits joined together"-that's almost like the temple that groweth together. Only this is a man-"fitly joined together and compacted by that"-I've said this and I'm going to say it again-"which every joint supplies according to the effectual working of the measure of every part maketh increase"-by you doing your part you're making increase-"of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." So God is bringing forth this man and all creation is waiting for the manifestation of this man. This man is the promised seed of the woman that God told the serpent 'you are cursed above all' in Genesis chapter 2 'you're cursed above every creature that there is. And I've put enmity between you and the woman. Between your seed and her seed and it shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.' This seed is Christ. It's the seed of Abraham it is this new man that has left their kindred. The kindred of Adam. Left their country, an earthy country, looking for a heavenly country. You see 'Jerusalem which now is' Galatians says 'and is in bondage with her children.' The natural Israel, she's in bondage. She's a picture of

the bond woman, Galatians says, 'but Jerusalem which is from above who is the mother of us all', the heavenly Jerusalem, the one that's coming down from God out of heaven. And the people of God those that are part of the heavenly man, that man that fulfills Genesis 1:26, which is interesting reading. Read it in Genesis 1 all the different times, write it down, count it, how many times he said he made this one after their kind and this one after their kind, everything after it's kind and the last time he uses that phrase is in Genesis 1:25 and 26 when he says 'Let us make man. Let us make him after our kind. Let us make him in our image, after our likeness.' You see it was never God's plan that the natural man should be that man. He was only the figure of him that was to come. A heavenly man. A God man. A people that have his new name, his kainós name, same word.

Unprecedented. Never heard of before. He's waiting for you and I to come up and grow up in him. Just like Joseph was waiting for Benjamin to come up. And he said to all the rest of them, 'you won't see my face unless Benjamin is with you.' But just as soon as Benjamin came up Simeon was loosed-Simeon means hearing-and I want to tell you just as soon as this younger brother, of whom he's not ashamed to call brethren, when they come up, when they grow up to the full stature, to where the ministry has done their job of equipping, to where they've now taken their place in the mature man and are suppliers and not just consumers, and the body is increasing, there's an appearing that happens, and Joseph makes himself known to all the brethren. And their ears, where they could not hear before, now hears. Simeon is loosed. It's all contingent on a people growing up. Allowing this born again life in you, the fulfillment of everything God has spoken to us over the past several decades. The time of the fulfillment of all of it is at hand and we're standing on the precipice of the harvest, of a first fruit harvest. I believe that. I believe that with all my heart. I'm not interested in just being a preacher. I want to take my place in this corporate son. I want to grow up, I want that new name, I want this soul of mine to be one with Him and therefore to be one spirit.

Before we go to Isaiah let me say this, and I was saying it previously, Paul goes on in Galatians 6 and he talks about 'finally my brethren' and he gives instruction on spiritual warfare because you and I have an adversary that does not want to see this man, this corporate man, caught up to God and to his throne. And so the dragon is out to resist, as Revelation 12 says. Resist this seed of a woman that's going to bruise his head to where the governments, and again, if you were looking for something to happen here, a red wave or some kind of political situation, if you thought that was going to help out-it might have put a band aid on things, we might have had a little bit of help in our economy or whatever-but folks it's not

going to fix anything. Whether there's a red wave or a blue wave it doesn't matter, it's not going to hinder one second the plan of God from being fulfilled. I don't care what party you vote or whatever, it's going to take the appearing, the manifestation of this many membered man. The manifestation of the sons of God in maturity. That's what this world is looking for. Not the next great president. Not somebody who thinks they're Cyrus or whatever. Get off of that stuff. Get your head out of this world. Jesus was here and the world was in terrible shape politically. It was in terrible shape ecclesiastically. And yet the purpose of God marched on. Can I tell you today it is marching on ever strong and there is nothing you can surprise God with. You can't surprise somebody who has foreknowledge, it just doesn't happen. He already knows everything that's going to happen and has worked the solution into the whole fabric of the plan to every problem that might arise insomuch that the Lamb slain is actually in the foundation of everything. So no matter what happens, no matter how the god of this world tries to resist those coming forth it's going to come forth.

Isiah 13:9. Bro Andrew recently at the convention ministered out of Luke 21 talking about the signs in the heavens and all the things that will be going on before the appearing of the Lord. But look at this in vs 9, "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." This is all going on. You can see it out there. There was a 14 year old girl speaking on the news, who was punished because she was speaking against some guy that was identifying as a girl and was part of the girls soccer team that was allowed to go into the girls locker room and watch them undress and she was the one that was in the wrong. You don't think that the time is at hand that God is going to appear and set things right? It is, and that's what these verses are saying. But then in vs 12 it says, "I will make a man"-the same time all this is going on-"I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." God is about to unveil the appearing of the Lord and the manifestation of this new man are the same thing and folks it's about to happen. There's about to be a first fruit harvest.

Isiah 32:1, “Behold, a king”-do you have a king today? Is there a king in the house? Oh, you bet there is. You bet there is-“Behold a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes”-sons of a king-“shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, as a covering from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place,”-and to you that believe, out from your bellies, from the threshold of the house shall flow rivers of living waters that wherever these waters go they shall bring healing. And it’s coming out of this land, rivers of water in a dry place-“as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.” And then what is going to happen? Well,”the eyes of them that see shall not be dim. And the ears of them that hear shall harken. The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.” Hallelujah! “The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said *to bebountiful*.” Folks, we are at the precipice of this. I want you to be encouraged today. I want you to take advantage of those things that have been given to you in Christ that you might, like Timothy, “Timothy give yourself to these things that your profiting may appear to all.” Because if you give yourself to the things that God has given you you will grow.

My last scripture\_Romans 16:20, and this is my heart for you. For all of us. For all of us that have been in this move. For all of us that have been in this flow of the spirit for decades. The hour of transition is at hand. “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”