

**July 19, 2006**

***This is a word to the leaders in alliance with us.***

***First, a story...A few years ago I was holed up in my New Zealand office, without my family, working on a manuscript. I was struggling. I am used to powering through fatigue and willing my mind to concentrate on my duties, but that week it was beyond me. I went out into the city parks and began to walk. I didn't know what to say to God so for many hours I released the gift of tongues or sang in the spirit. For over a week I accomplished very little work, however my spirit communed with God's spirit in moves of intensity, joy, travail, and rest.***

***"For He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for none can understand him, however in the spirit he speaks mysteries." 1 Cor 14:2***

***Around the sixth day I began to hear God clearly, not stuff related to the strategic book I was writing, it was immediate personal stuff. For instance, I had a strong impression that I was to buy a particular used van that I noticed was for sale. It turned out to be inexpensive and an excellent choice for our ministry. Hear God, obey God, prove God in the details. Things like that.***

***Several days later the Holy Spirit led me on a complex journey through city streets and far into a remote country district. Just when I thought I must be imagining the whole thing I looked up and saw a small sign on a farm house with the name of a man I had not seen or talked to for thirty-seven years. When I knocked on the door nobody was home.***

***"What now Lord?" In my spirit, I heard ... "Go home, pray for this man, return tomorrow and bring my word to him." That's what I did. It was a remarkable convergence of a man's need and a message from God. It was also a reminder of the importance of both waiting on God and the exercise of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.***

***"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Cor. 13:13 and 1 Cor. 14:1***

***Last week we ministered at the first annual gathering of Morning Star Ministries in Charlotte, North Carolina. For twenty-one years, Rick Joyner and his companions have worked to restore prophetic ministry to the church. I went away refreshed and renewed by their lives in God.***

***I was asked to speak to them about their calling and identity. When I held up the mirror to their community I saw:***

- 1. A vision for the whole church and the coming of the kingdom of God.***
- 2. Reminding people of the awesome realities of the unseen realm.***
- 3. Childlike faith and obedience to what Jesus is saying now.***

4. **Wholeheartedness. Doing everything with intensity, passion, discipline and excellence.**
5. **The warrior bride.**
6. **Earthy, exuberant, hilarious, uncompromising holiness. Hating evil. Intoxicated with the pleasures of knowing God.**
7. **Magnifying God in worship and radical faith. Doing violence to strongholds of unbelief.**
8. **Despising an undue reverence for money. Reckless generosity. Overcoming the fear of want.**

**Prophetic encouragement flows from the Morning Star Fellowship to the ends of the earth. I was a witness to that in both Indonesia and Singapore in June. Movements like this remind us of the basics.... "pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts..." 1Cor. 14:1**

**Yesterday we took a nine-year old friend of our daughter, Rachel, to church. Her parents are not believers. She decided to follow Jesus, asked for the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. Both girls were so excited because they could feel God. It was wonderful to see and so simple really.**

**How do you feel? Do you need to be refreshed like I do? Do you need to move from anxious activity to a few things that originate in God and bring life and peace? "For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?" 1 Cor. 14:8**

**Renewal starts simply, when the tongue is yielded to the Spirit of God. Speaking of stricter judgment for teachers the apostle James says, "We all struggle in many things. If anybody does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man able to bridle the whole body." James 3:2 Let's discover again the refreshing simplicity of a life yielded to the Holy Spirit, beginning with that little member, the tongue. "For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people. To whom He said, 'this is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest,'" and "This is the refreshing: Yet they would not hear." 1 Cor. 14:21 and Isaiah 28:11-12.**

**Set your affections on the things above, pray more and work less. This is a year of great changes in the heavenlies and tremendous changes in the earth. Many people could miss their inheritance in God if they are not aligned with God and helped by the strong function of the five-fold gifts within the church. It is a time to exercise apostolic and prophetic authority as we lead and protect God's vulnerable children.**

**Indonesia is a case in point. You may remember my terrifying experiences in May, 1998 in Jakarta as a remnant of national intercessors gathered in a violent burning city at a point of regime change. A few days ago I helped to express remorse and repentance over European Colonial abuses at a huge prayer gathering in Central Java. I was told that more than 2 million people were gathered to pray in 140 cities that night. It is awesome to see what's happening. We must be at the right place at the right time and I found myself to be perfectly positioned to serve God's purposes. This only happens in my life when I walk as a companion of the Holy Spirit.**

***The great theme on my heart as I travel through YWAM is the delight and privilege of waiting on God. I had my family camping out together in our California home a few weeks ago. Eleven people, now including our grandchildren, one more to be born in December.***

***At first it was happy chaos. Everybody needed to be heard, to be embraced, especially the daughters-in-law, both young mothers. Then it was work on a host of survival issues. Banking, visa and immigration requirements for five different countries, arrangements for deputization, newsletters, shopping for and shipping ministry equipment. Finally, there began to emerge times of stillness before the Lord. That's when deep unity and clear direction was established.***

***As grandparents, Julie and I found that our most important function was to anchor this process. To me it's a picture of the larger family of YWAM. The grandparents exercise limited domain, yet gently lead the family toward seasons of waiting on God. It's those sweet moments, gathered around God the Father when the kingdom of God is established in all its clarity of vision, unity of heart and power to implement.***

***I see a lot of leaders, both young and old, that either need strengthening in that which God has genuinely spoken or to desist from good ideas that are just good ideas. Many senior leaders seem to have no idea what it means to lead people in waiting on God. This process is at the heart of what God is saying about eldership in a new apostolic season and is at the foundation of all other aspects of restored integrity.***

***I am on my way back to Australia, then to Europe, then to West Africa, and then on to Israel. More details about that later. My heart cry is "Holy Spirit come! Come upon me, come upon all my friends who labor in the service of Jesus. Live your life through us, Lord."***

***Yours always,***

***John Dawson***