



Alabaster Ministries

He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work." 2 Tim 2:21

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Dearest Partners and Friends,

What is the reason for my salvation? I believe that we, particularly in the West, look first and foremost to the benefits of salvation. Come forward and God will heal you. Come forward and God will deliver you. Come forward and God will prosper you.

We have some amazing services and talk about the fact there was a visitation from God at the meetings last week. Everyone excitedly discusses the "goose bumps" and whatever else they experienced but by this week everything is beginning to fade and church becomes "normal."

I went across the road to visit my friends and had a wonderful time with them. We talked and laughed for hours and it was a great "visitation." I am still telling other friends about it and it is probable that it will happen again in the near future. I do not stay at their place but return to my own home. It is not a lasting happening even though it could be something I will experience from time to time.

God does not want to visit us every now and again and then return to His home when the hour gets late. He wants His home to be in you and me. He wants to tabernacle in us – He wants us to be His habitation and He wants something that is lasting and for all time:

"for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God and they will be my people." 2 Cor 6:16.

Just think for a moment at the awesomeness of such a statement. The God who created ALL things lives inside the temple He created which is you and me. Which He says is more glorious than the temple of Solomon with all of its riches, beauty and glory and there were major amounts of glory in the temple of Solomon especially at the opening. At the opening ceremony there was a "visitation" from God and that later waned just as it does with us. God wanted a place to abide just as He always has done. He created man so that He could walk and

talk with them in the cool of the day. The reason for salvation is so that He can tabernacle in you and me for all time.

I should not cross back and forth when it suits me. I should not tell Him that he had better leave this evening because I am going to a bar down the street with my worldly friends where I plan to get drunk. 2 Cor 6:17 goes on to say,

"Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

When He becomes resident in me, *"I am a new creature, the old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."* 2 Cor 5:17.

Sometimes when He comes in some of the trash just miraculously goes out. Sometimes it takes time to get the residual remnants out because we have become comfortable with it. However, the more we allow Him to tabernacle in us, the more we allow the light to shine into all the deep, dark corners of our lives, the easier it will be to get rid of the old creature.

When we realize that the true reason for salvation is for Him to make us His habitation and we allow Him access, then all the other blessings and benefits follow. Deliverance from all that hinders my walk with Him, healing so that I can be a fit vessel for Him to use. How effective is a 300 pound man in the mountains of Peru? If God wanted you to go there it would be an impossible feat. Prosperity, so that I can be comfortable but also so that I can bless others. Please note that all of the benefits are so that I can serve Him better.

Out of this situation we will gradually begin to hear His plans and purposes for us. They may

CONTENTS

THE CALL OF GOD	2
MALAWI.....	3
WHEN CHEFS BECAME CELEBRITIES	4

very well not be what we want to do. You can imagine how I felt when I realized that He wanted me to minister to the elderly. He drew me kicking and screaming into that arena and as I submitted I began to fall in love with each and every one of them until I realized that it was His love for them which was flowing through me. You cannot allow prejudice of any shape or form to prevent God from using you the way that He wants to. I was prejudiced against elderly people because of a few that I had met that had soured me. God took that and turned it around and if He can do it for me then He can do it for you. If we are not open and turn things down because of our prejudice or because of how we feel, then God may not be able to use us as He sees fit.

So many of us think that we must be busy doing something for God but it wasn't until Moses drew aside at the burning bush and was in the Lord's presence that God was able to give Moses a purpose in the way He (the Lord) wanted to. God told Moses to take the Israelites into the desert so that they might worship Him. The Promise Land was but a secondary thing. They could never go to the Promise Land until they met the One who had saved them at the Passover and who had delivered them from the bondage of slavery. What a stiff-necked people but are we really different today? At the opportune moment when they could have met with Creator God they went and built an idol and began to worship it. So, it took a whole generation of wandering around the backside of the desert before they were ever allowed to enter into the Promise Land. Even so, think how gracious our God was because in that thirty plus years He supplied all of their needs and a good deal of their wants too. The purpose of God's deliverance is so that we die to self and allow Him to tabernacle in us. When He is in us we will discover what His purpose for us is. I know of many who do what they are doing because they want to have purpose but when we have God's purpose for us we will not strive and it will be God that ultimately does it.

When Nehemiah stood before the King and laid out the plans for the return from captivity he had spent

time at the burning bush or the altar of the Lord and the God within Him had directed and purposed His plans. All that Nehemiah laid before the King were the plans of God. Nehemiah had been in the secret place with the Most High God and had received the blue print for the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem from beginning to end. Does that mean that everything is "plain Sailing?" No because we have to deal with other people, the devil and our own flesh. Even though we have allowed God to come and dwell inside of us it is a daily process to put down the flesh and allow God to have His way. When we do it is oh so glorious.

We need to be careful of the feeling that we always need to be in control. Just allow God to take over and to be in control. I remember years ago being in really powerful meetings. People stay home from work to attend the morning sessions and in the evening it was dynamic and the air was thick with the anointing. This went on for numerous days and lives were really changed under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Finally the Pastor decided that there should be a Saturday night break which I believe was a mistake. When he walked onto the platform the next morning it was church as usual. It was almost as if he had reached up into the atmosphere and grabbed on and said, "I am taking back control of these meetings." The whole couple of weeks of powerful meetings became a visitation because someone was not willing to continue to allow the Holy Spirit to have control not just over the meetings but in everyone's lives.

Let us meet God at the burning bush and allow Him entrance to abide in us and to direct our lives and to give His purposes for us no matter what they might be. Don't let's wander aimlessly in the wilderness for thirty years when the answer is only a week away.

Thank you God that You have made me your home. That I am the temple that You choose to abide in. We cannot earn it no matter what we do. It is only by Your grace and favor and your great sacrifice in Jesus.

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MALAWI

It has been a busy couple of days getting the supplies together for the conference. I changed money and had to carry the Malawi currency in a big bag as the exchange rate is about 400 to \$1. It took about an hour just to count the wads of bills and then when we arrived at the milling company to purchase the meal for the elderly it was another age while they counted out almost 1 million kwacha. It makes my head spin. At one place the bill came to 400,000 kwacha and I tried to hand over 40,000. He just laughed at me. I don't know how they managed to work with these outrageous figures day in and day out. Imagine what it was like in Zimbabwe when there were 50 trillion dollar bills and that would only buy you a loaf of bread. You definitely have to study to understand economics when it comes to super inflation like that and Zimbabwe is talking about reintroducing the Zimbabwe dollar again after they had to do away with it some six years ago and resort to using three or four different currencies.

All that is left to purchase now is the fresh vegetables which we will do at a large outdoor market the day before we leave for the conference in the South.



This is the Chididi area up in the mountains where we have almost 120 elderly. Some of them will walk through the mountains and down the other side to get to the conference as our truck will only carry 80 and we cannot make two trips. Anyone under the age of 80, unless they are badly handicapped will make the walk. After the conference they will walk back each carrying with them 22lbs of corn meal along with blanket, pail, mug, spoon and plate. Can you imagine anyone in the West hungry enough for the Word of God to make a trip like that? I so look forward to the time when we have the finances to be able to build a home for ourselves so that

we can spend more time with them and impart more of the Gospel into them. They soak it up like sponges. I will be traveling with my Malawi Director, Linda and with faithful James who is ordained but who also drives the truck for me. We are being joined by Penny from the U.K. who is going to help with the teaching and Jane who is originally from Southern Sudan and who worked in our kitchens there and ended up marrying Pastor Navaya who is on staff with Kalibu. She is a powerful preacher in her own right. When the conference is over we are going to take Penny and Jane to a safari camp for the night. They do have lion and leopard there so we will take a night drive in the hopes of seeing both. Penny and Jane have not had the opportunity of going to a camp so we had better see both plus any other animals they have. Please pray!

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WHEN CHEFS BECOME CELEBRITIES

I just spent a week in South Africa with family on my way to Malawi. My brother was telling me that he had recently watched and interview with a man reputed to be one of the world’s most renowned authorities on the Roman Empire. I know that Henry Ford made the statement that “history is bunk” and perhaps he is right in so far as we seem to change the facts to suit ourselves. However, I have always stated that if we studied history more closely perhaps we would not make the mistakes that so many made before us. Two of the world’s greatest nations that the West is

aware of are Rome and Greece. When we look at the downfall of both nations we see that they were debauched. Many say the downfall was the upswing of pedophilia and homosexuality, drunkenness and adultery. Of course it was numerous reasons. Rome found that it was cheaper to have its slave states do all its manufacturing rather than have the Romans do it so that caused major unemployment issues in Rome. Having fun at the arena was more important than having a job. Blood sports became more and more spectacular with the gladiators becoming more and more highly paid and with more and more women



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throwing themselves at these gladiators. Sounds kind of familiar????????? If they aren’t killing each other in the arenas of the world they are certainly doing it in the arena of the television and film world. We seem to think that we are justified because it is only a movie and it doesn’t really happen in the world that way. How big a step does it take to cross over? I asked the people in the villages about the plight of the girls one time: “when is it okay to drop the level of child bride from fourteen to twelve and then to ten?”

To get back to the interview with the authority on the Roman Empire and the fall of Rome..... When he was asked by his interviewer at what stage did it become apparent that Rome was in total decline he replied, “When they began to make chefs their celebrities.”

Wow! How many of us (me included) seriously watch the cooking channel and all the competitions that take place on all of the channels. There are more and more of them and the purse gets larger and larger along with making incredible names for themselves. In some circles I have noticed that when visiting various cities people talk about which celebrity’s restaurant they were able to eat at and then they start a long discussion on the menu and how the meal was prepared and plated.

Of all the things this authority could have chosen and yet he chose the celebrity chefs.....