

A LIGHT IS SHINING BRIGHTER

**“Thank God for making things plain even those things
He has placed within my heart”**

May 15, 2008

It's always a joy and blessing when the Lord shines His light of revelation into your soul and gives you a deeper look and confirms those things you've pondered for many years that you know only He could have placed there anyway. This has been happening of late but such an uplifting feeling washed over me yesterday when He confirmed something I have always felt to be truth.

There was always a feeling of safety if you will and a deep affinity for the things of God in me but I never liked the traditions of the “church.” As a child it was a pleasure to go and hear the singing (especially if it was good), we memorized speeches, verses of scripture and the like but as I look back there is only one sermon that really sticks to me and it was “Go Home Another Way.”

On Sunday evenings long after I had “dropped out” of regular attendance anywhere, there was always this drawing in me to hear the 9pm broadcast of this particular church we used to attend. It was Pentecostal Temple and the pastor's name was Bishop J. O. Patterson; oh how I loved to hear his voice for he had such a love for God's people. I can't remember one sermon he preached but the love of God was always present. I know now it was Father all the time ever beckoning to me even in my sense of unworthiness, guilt and shame.

This brings me to my point. God never intended for His kingdom to be an organized conglomerate of denominations, religions, and manmade structure. This was the thing that I always hated and on yesterday He showed me this is why it never tasted good in my mouth, why I always spit it out. In 1982 he spoke this scripture to me “as in Adam all died so in Christ shall all be made alive and every man in his own order.” I bought that scripture hook, line and sinker and have never looked back. Oh, it took time to erase the old order from my heart but it is plain enough now that it could never really settle in because there were too many issues unanswered for me.

Ok, I'm beginning to ramble somewhere else (smile). It's one thing to hear about the kingdom of God, to believe that you've entered there (even in a measure) but a whole different matter if you don't really understand it (if you will) or have a good vision of what it really is. What He showed me on yesterday was what I had always believed and that is “what man has established (even hundreds of year past) simply is not God's kingdom, His intent for His kingdom but it is all man's doing.” They tell you first of all that you can't really see the kingdom until you “die and go to heaven.” That surely contradicts the word of truth that Father said. Because of the double mindedness and duality of their understanding I can only imagine is the reason for the current set up of the church and certainly the reason it will surely crumble.

It was always my belief that not only was the kingdom of God living within me but even more it is a way of life. I tried to obey all the rules of the order, pay my tithes (which I could never get the hang of) go to church every time the doors opened, etc. but my spirit was only grieved the more. In time, I remembered what my dad always said, "it is better to sit under an old tree and meditate in peace than to be in a nice building miserable." I stopped my attendance anywhere and asked Father to instruct me in His scripture and open my eyes. I went so far as to tell Him if He could reveal Himself to Moses who never saw a verse He could surely do the same for me. By then, I had lost a real hunger for scripture which brings me to another confirmation.

It has always been my contention that as powerful and important as the scriptures are they were not God's only way to reveal Himself. I study to show myself approved but only by God's spirit in relationship with Him, knowing who He really is, experiencing His love, mercy, grace and truth will He be revealed to me and anybody else. All the reading in the world, all the concordances you can study, all the Greek and Hebrew words you can pronounce and figure their meanings will not reveal Father and even more who you are in Him as His Christ. The greatest lesson in God's mercy was not revealed to me by way of reading but through demonstration when Father directed a young man to my home one night about 9:30 pm. I understand what Des Walter means when he says "parabolically" (I love to hear him say it) because if you think about it most of the lessons you've learned have been experientially.

I may have wondered in the wilderness (I used to tell the Lord that I was one of the most ignorant ones He made, but not anymore) a lot of years but looking back it was perhaps the best thing that ever happened to me. When reading the scriptures now it's not just looking at stories that happened thousands of years ago it's reading about me, seeing myself in those pages as a son of the most high God and reckoning that it's me in the volume of the book and not only me but all of creation in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah.

Psalm 40:6-8 says "sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire, mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering has thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." I can remember every Sunday running down to the altar and repenting for last week's transgressions, hearing the preacher ask if any needed to rededicate themselves to the Lord still believing myself to be a sinner, etc., etc., etc.

But what a wonderful revelation to know that because I'm in Christ and because of His shed blood (His life) I don't have to make anymore sacrifices or offer anymore sin offerings because I agree with Romans 12 where Paul says "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice....." Jesus sacrificed His life on a tree; I've taken up my cross and given myself that as one of His firstfruits company, I'm on my way to not only a complete transformation and restoration but all of creation with me. His word (the Christ) is hidden in my heart and I cannot sin against Him. Thy Kingdom has come, O Lord.

In His Light and Love,

Gwen Riley