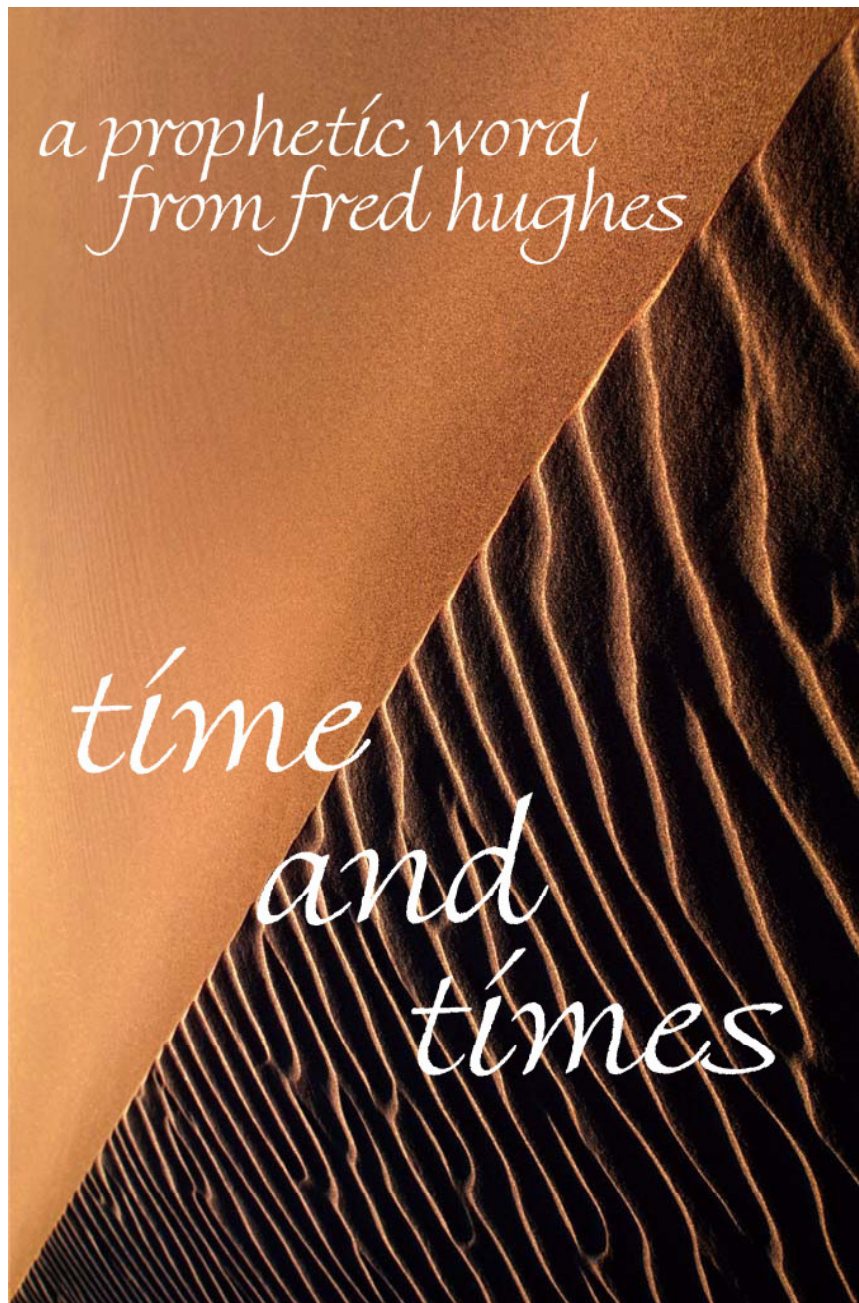


(Click on the cover)

[<Return to Home>](#)



time and times

A prophetic word from Fred Hughes

Forward:

*He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.
(Proverbs 21:21)*

I am indeed honored that you would read these words that God has given me to share with you. My hope is that this will not be another book you have read, but that it will become a resource to remind you of your purpose and destiny. I pray that these few pages will strengthen and encourage you in your daily endeavor to do the will of God in this time in which we live.

I want to thank my loving wife, Irene Hughes, who is an incredible partner in life, in ministry and in love. Her contributions to this book and all that I have ever accomplished are beyond description. Thank you Irene, for your unfailing love. *What a man desires is unfailing love. (Proverbs 19:22)*

Cover: I have chosen this cover design photo, because it represents a great illustration of the prophetic times in which we live. There is a line drawn in the sands of time. On the one side are the scars of difficult times in the winds of circumstance. The erosion of these difficult spiritual times have cut deeply into the lives of many believers, but the texture of those scars is beautiful in God's eyes. Across the line there is a smooth sprinkling of sand, an even and glorious, untouched sea. The promises of God await each of us just over the summit of the hill. A call to protection and renewal is in the voice of the spirit of God. The cry of encouragement is in this day. The oasis of God's love is just ahead of us. The climb has caused us to expend great energy and has been very long. The thirst for His living water has been great. God has made a way; He has directed our steps and guided us to this place. From here we can see the oasis, the prize just ahead. We have almost crossed the summit to start the decent of the final hill. Jesus is coming soon, and we have not far to go. We cannot give up now; if we fall down, we must get back up. This is the time of times, the prophetic finish line of all times. We were created for such a time as this.

My desire and purpose in writing this booklet is to interlace the prophetic word of scripture to the prophetic promises that are in our immediate future and attempt to provide helpful insight with living in the opportunity of today!

time and times

A prophetic word from Fred Hughes

Error! Not a valid link. •

[Forward](#)

[Section 1](#)
[God's Wonderful Word of Promise](#)

[Section 2](#)
[Looking Forward to It](#)

[Section 3](#)
[Tough Training Produces](#)

[Section 4](#)
[Negative Now or Possible Wow](#)

[Section 5](#)
[Sprinting to the Finish](#)

[Section 6](#)
[Closing Thoughts](#)

[Section 7](#)
[Prophetic Word](#)

[Last Page](#)

Section 1

God's Wonderful Word of Promise

The foundational step to understanding and possessing God's wonderful promise is to understand God's love for you. If you do not have a full grasp of His love and desire for personal interaction, you cannot endure the hardships of difficult times. You will lose heart. Hopelessness rolls over you like a cloud, and your day moves to a dreary and dismal experience.

Too many Christians have moved to the teachings of men and religious ideologies and have never really discovered true relationship and worship by the Spirit of God. Basically, we are lazy! Relationship requires effort, entertainment does not. Even in some of the most Spirit-lead churches, a large number of people who participate in worship and the Word return home entertained, but unchanged, unmoved, and ultimately unfruitful in their lives.

Why? Because they are not motivated by an event, even if other people at the event are worshiping God in spirit and truth. People are motivated by love, or a lack of love.

We can love a lot of things; some are good and others are not so good. Jesus once said in *Luke 18:19*, "***The Father alone is good***".

Romans 2:4, tells us that the goodness of God (God's love) leads a man to repentance.

The word "repentance" means - to turn around and go the other direction. That is what we must do, if our love is in anything other than the Father of Promise. He alone can cause the promise (His prophecy) to become reality in our lives.

When we look to the author and finisher of our faith, we discover love!

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love (1 John 4:8)

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:16-19)

God loved Abraham, but he went through some stuff!
God loved Joseph, but he went through some stuff!
God loved Jesus, but he went through some stuff!
God loved Paul, but he went through some stuff!
God loves You, but you are going through some stuff!

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. (Galatians 5:6-8)

The stuff did not come from God, but God will see you through the stuff!

Have the faith of God and love will do its perfect work through you.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. (1 John 4:10-16)

My dear Christian brothers and sisters, we need His Spirit, whether we speak in tongues or not, whether we lift our hands or not, whether we sing hymns or songs, whether we are circumcised or not. No matter what our church doctrine is, we are in desperate need of the Holy Spirit. The One sent along side us for help is needed right now! The Spirit of His great Love.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1 Thes. 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The greatest word of prophecy that I can point out to you in all of the scriptures is that God has, is, and always will be, completely in love with you.

Each and every story of the Bible clearly points to this prophetic fact. Even when we are completely unlovable, God loves us anyway! Not you, me, the church, or any other person or thing in this earth can ever reach perfection until we are perfected by His Love. By His great love we move from death to life, from imperfection to perfection, from mortality to immortality, from shame to glory.

Matthew 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Luke 20:38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

Those who have died before us have finished the race. They succeeded, or they failed. Those who live after we are gone will succeed or fail. The cloud of witnesses are gathered to watch those of us who are serving God now! If you can still fog a window with your breath, you are still in the race!

The good news is that love never fails! My version of what Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14 is: "I have been on top of the game, and I have been dead last, but there is one thing I know. I can always count on God's unfailing love. I am forgetting what is in my past whether good or bad. I am living in the now. I refuse to be distracted from my goal. I am reaching for the true prize, the highest calling anyone can have, the richest prize of all, Love Himself."

We too often seek new revelation or new prophecy, but, my friend, we have not yet apprehended what has already been given to us.

"Time and Times" is more of a rediscovery than a recovery. When we rediscover our first love, we will recover from most of what has pressed down upon us. In Him we live and move and have our being.

"for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent," because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
(Acts 17:28-30)

My challenge to you is: Ask your heart if love is motivating you in your actions, attitudes, and decisions, or is your mind working hard to justify what you really want? Does the Holy Spirit and the Word of God agree with your responses? Can you follow after love?

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:11)

"Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (Matthew 7:17)

"Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:34-37)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; (Romans 12:9-12)

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

David said in *Psalm 139:23-24*: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

God's everlasting way is Love!

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:15-24)

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. (1 Thes. 5:24 KJV)

God's love will never fail you, as you follow after love.

As I close this first section, let me demonstrate to you first hand what I am saying. I want to use your own life experiences to prove how powerful love's work is in your life and how you can follow after it, get into it, time after time after time.

Think of your greatest experiences serving God, your relationship with God, your best times in the church, and your most memorable personal experiences with family and friends. Do you have some of those times in your mind? What motivated those times? Was it not love? Love produces a bi-product called unity. Unity produces power to move into the possible (remember the tower of Babel). Think of the great things that were possible when you were in that unity produced by love. Can you find that place again? Sure! Just follow after love. Love never fails!

John 15:13-17 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in

My name He may give you. "These things I command you, that you love (agapao) one another.

*agapao, ag-ap-ah'-o; perh. from agan (much) [or comp.; to love (in a social or moral sense):--(be-) love (-ed).

God's Wonderful Word of Promise is Love!

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 2

Looking Forward to It

New Testament Prophecy is well defined in the Word of God. It may help you understand the purpose of present and past prophetic words both from scripture and from persons who speak prophetically today.

First, let me say that wisdom is often prophetic. Any person from any Christian denomination, who operates in Godly wisdom may well be speaking to you prophetically.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Prov 1:7-8 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;

Prov 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding..

We can clearly see that wisdom is from God.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-13 clearly defines several of the gifts given to the New Testament church, among them is the prophet. There are many who teach that the prophets and the apostles all died, and we do not need them any more. To that I ask, "Where do the two prophets of Revelation 11:3 come from?" Although there are many assumptions, there is no clear scriptural proof of their origin or who they are. I contend that they are mere men of God speaking the messages the Holy Spirit gives them at that time.

Not unlike, Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Oral Roberts, James Robinson, John Maxwell, Max Lucado, Rick Warren, or your local pastor, elder or deacon.

2 Peter 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Holy men of God are still able to hear the voice of God today, and their words of prophecy will never disagree with the Scriptures.

Romans 12:5-9 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Has ministering, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading or showing mercy passed away? I think not, nor has prophecy!

Let me remind you that prophecy works through love (charity), as do all the other gifts given to the church.

1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

This verse also tells us what prophecy is! Read it again! Understanding mysteries - things only God knows. All knowledge and faith - all qualities I would like to possess for being a good father, husband and friend.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Cor 14:3 But he (*or she) who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

*Many women in the scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are noted as prophetic: Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, Luke 2:36, and Acts 21:9.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

Prophecy then is for edification, exhortation and comfort. Prophecy edifies the church. Does the church today need these things? Prophecy is indeed a great and needed gift and a wonderful promise of God.

Acts 2:17-18 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

The Bible tells us that the last days will be like the days of Noah! This is a very profound prophetic picture that will help us discern the times in which we live.

There are many things that we know of Noah's day; the most important is that it was not unlike the days we live in now. The people of his day were entertainment-centered, prosperous, violent and sexual. These attributes also describe the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well. The people saw no real need to change or to fear anything or anyone. They especially did not pay attention to someone saying they had heard from God.

Genesis 6:13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth..

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Faith and the prophetic are indelibly linked components. By faith Noah applied action to a prophetic (not yet seen) word from God. By faith he heard God and by faith he acted upon what he heard God say. It would have been much easier to join in with the politically correct crowd of his day than to build a boat where there was no water. Noah told the people, "It is going to rain," when the people did not even know what rain was. Besides the rain, there was the accumulation of the zoo!

How is your faith to hear God and do what He says? Will you make the Hebrews 11 list?

It will most surely take faith and love.

2 Pet 2:4-11 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds); then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

God has not changed his mind to make our generation the exception to the rule. No, indeed we need the prophetic word of God revealed in our life so that we can act upon it in this present day.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

1 Peter 4:7-8 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Prophecy is a little like a math problem.

If you know how to do the math, work the problem, and you will have the answer.

If you do not know how to do the math, you cannot have the answer.

If you know how to do the math, but you don't work the problem, you cannot have the answer.

The Good news is, you know the math and still have time to work the problem!

Jesus said in John 9:4-5, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

The Bible tells us that we are the light of the world. Jesus gave us the responsibility to be the light to the world. He also supplied us with everything we need to do the job. Like Noah and Lot, people may not listen to us, but we must preach and prophesy what God has given us. We must let our light shine in the darkness with the message of hope, faith and love.

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Christ alone is our strength in these days. His Spirit lives within us.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Christ is not a child anymore. The prophecies of the scriptures concerning His first coming have been fulfilled. Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The prophecies of His imminent return are very near to fulfillment. If you have received him as Lord and King of your life, you are of His kingdom and have access through faith to all that is His.

Ephesians 1:19-23 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

To the believer these last days are not a dread but a great expectation and a final opportunity to proclaim His great Love to a dark and dying world.

Time and times. Now is the time. All of time is pointing to this pivotal moment in time in which you now live!

John 4:23-24 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Romans 13:11-12 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light..

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Time and times! There is no greater event in all of life as the time in which you sit with another person and explain the simple truth of God's great love for them. The response to His love is receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior. A new creation is born into the kingdom of light. You have a new brother or sister in Christ. Greater than healing, greater even than raising someone from the dead, greater than any miracle Jesus, or the disciples, or the prophets of old ever performed, the greatest miracle in all of life is... New Life for all eternity! Wow!

The exciting part is that you and I can tell someone else today and someone else again tomorrow! I do not know about you, but I am looking forward to each day God gives me. I want the powerful, prophetic word of God flowing into and out of me every day.

Looking Forward to It

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 3

Tough Training Produces

The United States Marines have a code and from that code this bold statement has emerged as a trademark, “the few, the proud and the brave.”

What have you been through to be ready to carry the light of the gospel? The Christian life is not hallmarked by “the many, the appreciated and the everything positive”. Our call to arms is similar to the Marines. Christian life is not necessarily easy! It requires faith, hope, love, sacrifice, and much self-discipline. A true Christian believer is anything but a wimp.

I, along with a great many other Christians, can tell you that you have not been through the real boot camp training until the religious folks get a hold of you. “No Worry!” You are in good company! The prophets, Jesus, the disciples, and a few thousand early Christians can identify with you.

Jesus said:

Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

Paul said:

2 Corinthians 3:6-9 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

The law is devoid of love. The New Covenant is better, because it is built on a better promise, Love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Why? Because He Loved, He added grace! The New Covenant includes the law, but it operates out of the Spirit of Love.

The problem in the church today is that there has been a lot of leaven growing. It is in every church. Yes, it is in your church and even in you, too! That is why Jesus said that we must “be aware” of it!

After receiving this revelation one morning, I was repenting and crying out to the Lord. “How do we get it out of the church, Lord?” In His “Father-knows-best,” quiet voice, he said, “You bake it! The flames kill the works of the leaven and produces an even better loaf that is pleasing and good.” My response was, “But Lord, it is me that has been in the flame!” His loving response was, “Exactly!”

It has been my observation over the past decade or so, that many, if not all, of the strong men and women of God that I have known have passed through the flames. Some, have recovered, some have not. Some, are still in the flame. I began to realize that if this next revival, or move of God, that we have all been praying for is to be lasting, something has to change. I believe (figuratively speaking) that God is looking for a few good men! He is testing the steel of our faith. He is testing the loyalty of our hearts. He is challenging the depth of our devotion, and He is pricing the level of our sacrifice with the fire of His Spirit.

Will we emerge with glowing faces, as did Moses under the old covenant? We have a better covenant than Moses had! Can we indeed come out of the flame and not smell like smoke as the Hebrew children did? We have a better covenant than they did! When we find that we have been thrown into the presence of predators as Daniel did, will our prayer of faith shut the hungry mouths? We have a better covenant built on better promises.

Under the new covenant the chains fell off and the jailer and his whole family are saved. That is better! (Acts 12:7)

Under the new covenant the man of God is transformed from one place to another in an instant, and two continents are effected by the Gospel he preached. That is better! (Acts 8:27)

Under the new covenant the church was forced to split up, and they were scattered. The result was that the Good News went everywhere. That too is better! (Acts 11:19; James 1:1)

Instead of bitter church splits, perhaps it would be better to scatter! Or better yet, to send!

We are living in the land of better; we are the generation of prophetic promise. The fire of the Spirit of God is ready to transform us into something better. These are exciting times! You were made for such a time as this. Time and times are coming together and you are an eyewitness to the greatness of God's divine plan for all the ages and the beginning of His

eternal reign as Lord of All! You are a chosen generation! The soon coming King loves you!

That is better than any light and momentary trials you may be facing. Attitude has much to do with living successfully as a Christian. When we know who we are, what we are doing, and where we are going, we can endure to the end.

Joseph is my favorite example in Genesis 37:2 - Genesis 46:19. Joseph had a clear vision, but he had to endure some tough training and testing to be ready in attitude, wisdom, and heart. Joseph moved from test to test and from training to training to be equipped for what God had planned from the beginning. In great faith he endured to the end and in great love he saved his family and nation from sure destruction.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD,

Tough Training Produces

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 4

Negative Now or Possible Wow

Isaiah 40:31 is one of the most encouraging scriptures to me. It brings to image so many of the stories of the Bible that demonstrate the power of waiting, renewing and then mounting up.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

I think of Noah. He waited upon God in the midst of a wicked generation. He surely had to renew his strength many times over the 100 years he preached with not one convert. Then came the day for him to mount up. I think of David at Ziklag: ***So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep (1 Samuel 30:3-4).***

There are times in the nasty here and now when we are pressed down and hope seems so far out of our grasp. It is then that we must remember God's great promise of love. We must turn aside and wait upon His love and renewing power to fill and refresh and restore.

1 Samuel 30:6-8 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

David waited, was renewed, and then he mounted up!

How often do we try to mount up without waiting and renewing? Our flesh cries out, "rise up and fight back, speak your mind, get your revenge!" Our minds say, "They will never I can never It is a hopeless situation!"

Even our friends reject us and turn upon us in times we need support the most.

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother..

What a friend we have in Jesus!

The “negative now” is really hard to deal with. None of us will escape this weight of rejection, loss, disappointment, lust, anger, and the long list of evil that has been designed to defeat you. We do have an enemy that seeks to steal, kill and destroy.

John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

I was reading this passage one morning, and I ask the Lord, “Steal and kill I understand, but why did you also say destroy?” The Greek word for destroy is *apollumi*, (ap-ol'-loo-mee); it means to destroy fully. In other words, Satan and his crew want to steal everything you have: health, influence, possessions, but especially he wants to steal the authority that God gave you and make it his own. He wants above all to steal your birthright as a believer.

Then, when he has what he wants- you off of this planet - you cannot reclaim your birthright. After he has accomplished that, his hatred for you extends to the point of “fully destroy”. That means he wants to destroy any trace of your existence, as though you had never existed. He wants to destroy your physical children and your spiritual children. He wants to destroy your influence that has reached into another person's life and any enduring work or influence you may have remaining in the world. His goal is to fully destroy, as though you never existed.

Most Americans have a hard time conceiving of this kind of deep hatred. We are today learning more about it as we battle with people who think quite differently than we do. So also is the life of the believer, we are not of this world. We are of the kingdom of His great love.

Matthew 5:44-48 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who

spitefully use you and persecute you, "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Do we then love the devil? No, but we must love the people whom the devil is working through! Young Saul was zealous in his persecution of the church, but God turned him around. Can God do the same thing in those who oppose and persecute you?

What if those who were persecuting you suddenly turned around as young Saul did and God gave them a new name, like Paul? Christ died for all, even for Paul. What would your response be? Will the love of God manifest in you through forgiveness and grace?

Could your Saul-transformed-to-Paul ever teach your Sunday school class? Pastor, could he ever rise to be your armour bearer?

Listen to what Paul has to say.

Ephesians 2:1-7 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Shall we then stand in the spirit of the Pharisees or in the Spirit of Christ?

Negative Now or Possible Wow!

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 5

Sprinting to the Finish

Paul admonishes young Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:2-8 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

There is a finish line. These are the last days. Christ will come for His bride. Time and times will come together as a flash of lighting in the sky.

1 Corinthians 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The word moment, in this verse is the Greek word atomos (at'-om-os). It means uncut, or indivisible, [an "atom" of time] a moment, the smallest unit of measurable time, at the atomic level. Now that is fast!

There will be no time to make any last minute adjustments. The door of Noah's ark will be closed, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are cleared of Lot and his family. The day of decision has closed. In a moment of time Christ will return. We were created for such a time as this! This is our finest hour! We are sprinting to the finish, and a great prize awaits us! We must finish well.

God's love is the "power drink" that will sustain us in the race. The Holy Spirit is our coach and confidante. Our helper! Our passion is revealed as we wait upon the Lord for His eternal plan and strategies for our success. Our training and testing will be evident in the final sprint to the finish. The prize is greater than we can possibly imagine.

Sprinting to the Finish

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 6

Closing Thoughts

My great hope in producing this booklet is that you will be made aware of the time and times in which you live. As mortals we are bound by time but as spiritual beings we are not; we are eternal. When we understand that our short life here has eternal consequences, we can stay focused on following after love. Love will motivate us toward good works and unity. As we build the kingdom of God on this earth, our needs will be met and we will have a lasting legacy both in this life and in the life to come.

Hebrews 13:21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

May God's richest blessings be upon you in this time and for all times.

[<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Next Chapter>](#)

Section 7 Prophetic Word

1 Corinthians 12:9-11 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

“There has been a dispensation of time wherein several of the gifts of the spirit have held prominence, “ says the Lord. “I have reserved for this time two gifts that I will now raise up above the others, suitable for the church in this day. The gift of faith and the gift of discerning of spirits are now needed. I will heighten in you all of the gifts in the days ahead, but these two will I honor above all the rest. Greater exploits of faith, than has ever been known to man - Greater eyes to see into the realms of the Spirit I will now bestow upon the sons of men.”

The gift of faith and the gift of discerning of spirits: the New Testament church has experienced many of the gifts in wonderful ways. However, we have yet to see the might of the Spirit, as I believe we will see in the days before Christ's return.

At first I was astonished at this word from the Lord. As I considered the times in which we live, I have a better understanding why God has reserved these gifts for this time frame.

***Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.
(Joel 3:14)***

[<Return to Home>](#) [<Return to the Outline>](#) [<Last Page>](#)

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**Multitudes, multitudes
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