

## Helping Each other Bring Forth Christ

Dear friends that we know and love in our union with Christ!,

We want you to know that we love you and stand with you in prayer and faith as Christ is forming and growing in you. We are together in this process as one Bride, and we hope that knowledge comforts your heart in knowing that you are not alone.

Tonight the Lord shared with us from Genesis 35: 17-18 “And it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing (for she died), that she called his name Benoni (son of my sorrow), but his father called him Benjamin (son of my right hand).”

In this passage Rachael is bringing forth her son in sorrow. It was not an easy time in her life. Her travail become so great that her soul departed and she died. We discussed how this is true in the life of anyone who brings forth Christ. We must lose our life to bring Him forth, for only when our soul departs and we die to self can we can finally release the Life of Christ. The whole process can seem confusing, discouraging and fearful. In the same place that Benjamin was born, Rachael died and was buried. As Rachael died and as Benjamin was birthed, her midwife strengthened her and helped her. She told her not to fear and encouraged her that she was going to bring forth this son. What a beautiful picture of the Bride of Christ. We can be together not only in life, but in the process of death and burial. We can hold to each other and strengthen each other to keep pushing, keep believing and keep dying to self until our soul departs and Christ comes forth.

Instead of being critical and standing afar off from one another during those seasons of “hard labor“, we can nurse each other through the process as members one of another. We can let the love of Jesus flow as our faith strengthens those who are pressing in to know Christ and are allowing the Cross to cut deep. In fact, In verse 20 of this same chapter, Jacob set up a pillar over Rachel’s grave that remains to this day. We would think that the memorial would be over the life that came forth, which is Benjamin. But God honored the place where the bride of Christ stood together and helped each other bring forth the son. He set the pillar over the grave, the place of her dying. Not only can our testimony be the coming of Christ from us, but also the spirit of His love that works between us in the process of bringing Him forth. When this spirit works between us it is beautiful and honored in the eyes of the Lord.

That reality that He must increase and we must decrease can be something we press into together as His one Body. We are standing with you as you embrace Christ and press in to know Him and bring Him forth. Fear not! You shall have this son also! Know that you are not alone, but surrounded by the Body of Christ!

Yours in the fellowship of His Spirit