

Fire Ministries

Newsletter

October 2013



**“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature:
old things are passed away, behold; all things are become new.”**

II Cor 5:17

Thank you, thank you, thank you... for all the support, prayers, love and fellowship in Jesus. My heart is truly full of gratefulness for your care every day, and I want to express that to each of you. I continue to pray for you, and welcome any and all prayer requests. I meet weekly on-line with a group of saints from Ireland, Arizona, and Minnesota who pray over your requests.

My “year of rest” is officially over the end of October, which is the date I first flew to Ireland fourteen years ago. In the up-coming months I will be highly involved with serving in regards to the “Hungering Conference” my local church puts on every year. I look forward to many opportunities to learn Christ in new areas of serving others.

May the rest of “2013” be filled with knowing Jesus in ways that pass knowledge and fill us with the sweet communion of His life within! God Bless You!!

“Sitting At His Feet”

As I have previously shared, this is my fourteenth year in full time ministry. I mention this now only to emphasize the amount of ministry “stuff” that gathers over that period of time! Over the years it has seemed that just about the time I want to begin organizing it all, I go on a another ministry trip, teach another course, or put together another bible club and add more stuff to the already enormous pile. After so many years of accumulation, that “pile” of stuff began looking more like a mountain. In the beginning of this year the Lord began to fill my heart with faith and a desire to organize it all. That initial burst of faith sent me head first into the mountain of material. As I looked up and surveyed the task before me, I began to feel overwhelmed to such a degree that I was tempted to give up before I even started. Where to begin? How to begin? It was at this point that the Lord spoke to my heart and gave me His game-plan. He told me that there was no way this could be accomplished in a day, or even a week. I needed to “walk with Jesus DAY BY DAY”. Each day God would give me my “daily bread”, or more specifically... my “daily task”. Each day He would show me a step to take, and give me His strength to take that step. Some days my task would be simply emptying just one box. The challenge was to look only at the one box and not become overwhelmed with all the boxes around it. Some days it has been gathering things together for a yard sale, other days it requires organizing a file cabinet or re-arranging office furniture. I have noticed that each day I feel an excitement, focus, and faith coming from the Lord to do that task. It is now October, and my office and storage places are being transformed! The big changes that I was dreaming about are actually happening, but only through little daily steps taken with Jesus... one mess at a time! Although this is a temporal example, I believe the same principles can hold true in a spiritual sense.

How can this “cleaning strategy” relate to our relationship with Jesus? Well, to me it speaks of keeping my focus on the Lord and not the “many things” that can distract me away from Him. There are many areas that my heart is crying out for Christ to be formed in me. I look at me and see the overwhelming need for more of Jesus. But I know that only Jesus can bring the changes my heart longs for because HE IS THE CHANGE!! I can either get lost in the need and become overwhelmed, or I can get lost in Jesus and watch Him transform my lack into His Life, day by day. In II Cor. 4:16 Paul stated that the inward man is renewed day by day, and because we know God is doing that daily work in us, we faint not even though the outward man is perishing.

There are times when my wayward soul wants to faint as it becomes overwhelmed with all the need. My heart, like Mary in Luke 10:39, just wants to be with Jesus sitting at His feet and hearing from His heart. But my soul, like Martha, keeps focusing on all the tasks that need to be done. It was as if my “Martha” soul wanted to pull my “Mary” heart away from Jesus. The “many things” that seemed so important to my soul were trying to keep me away from the “one thing” that was needful... to be with Jesus. Some people may feel that their lives are a mess and they want to return to Jesus, their first love. But many feel that they have to earn their position at His feet.

This creates an endless cycle of trying to enter in through works, while never being quite good enough to do so. It is easy to say, "I believe in the grace of God" while still letting guilt and condemnation keep us away from sweet fellowship with Jesus. That is proof that we are still functioning under the law. After a while that old taskmaster will beat us down, rob us of our faith, and make us feel hopeless and alone. Things will continue to get worse and the burden will grow heavier until we finally quit trying to fix everything and appeal to the grace of God! An old hymn says it perfectly; "Just as I am without one plea, except that my Savior died for me. And that Thou biddest me come to Thee... oh Lamb of God I come."

Many times our hearts are so anxious over the big mess that we can't settle down and simply be with Jesus Whom we love. We look into His eyes and then begin worrying and break gaze. We want to linger in His presence but the cares of this Life drag us back to earth. Yet what does the earth have to offer that God Himself cannot give? What can we truly accomplish apart from Him? Waiting upon the Lord is one of the sweetest forms of honoring God. Waiting for our answer to come from Him and our action to be His Life is an expression of loving Him. "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus". It is not lazy or wasteful to spend time with Jesus; it is the one thing that is needful. The relationship described in the Song of Songs can sound like a waste of time with so many important ministry needs to care for, but without union with Christ there is no ministry.

There is only ONE PLACE we can go that will bring healing, New Life, and order... and that place is in Jesus. There is only ONE FACE that can give us vision... and that is the face of Jesus. There is only ONE PACE that we can truly walk in and finally reach our transformation destination, and that pace comes when we walk in union with Christ. We must position ourselves at His feet, resting on His bosom and abiding in His heart. From within Him we will begin to find the answers and provision for the things our souls were worried about. Those answers will come from Christ Himself flowing into us, and not heavy burdens that we must accomplish in our own strength. Jesus said it in John 15:4, "Abide in me and I will abide in you." There is an order to that. He cannot abide in us until we separate ourselves from our needs to abide in Him. If it is answers that we are after instead of Jesus, then the moment He begins to share with us we will run away and start doing it in our own strength.

Before long we will burn out and be back at square one. If it is Jesus we want, then the One Who is sharing is the same One Who is the Answer and will perform it through us. We never have to leave Him to serve Him. We can stay in rest and peace while taking our daily steps with Him and by Him.

From our resting place in the heart of Jesus we will experience something wonderful... LIFE! That Life will begin to flow into all the burdens and needs. The Prince of peace replaces panic. Once we become quickened by Christ, we are able to take steps in the spirit of the Lord. We are able to look at problems with His eyes and deal with them in His attitudes and wisdom. Day by day, according to the supply of Christ within, we can approach anything with Jesus.

If only the worst thing to deal with in this life were disorganized ministry materials! In reality, the woes of this life can be devastating: overwhelming sorrow, broken relationships, shameful failures ... these forces can try to destroy us and break down our relationship with Jesus. May we "re-discover" the heart of Jesus that loves us, and at all times says "come unto Me". No matter how deep the sorrow, great the failures, or big the mess is; His death has secured your place in His heart, both now and forever. There is nothing that is impossible when you approach it with Him and in Him, one day at a time.



If you would like to support Kelly in her labors with Fire Ministries, or give towards upcoming mission trips to Ireland, please send your contribution to:

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