

# Overcoming Provision Within

When the floods come to carry us away from the Lamb we love, the Lord opens a fountain in our depths to bring Him forth from within. This coming forth of the Lord within us defeats all enemies that would come to quench the vital union between the Lamb and His wife. Throughout the scriptures, from the type and shadow of Zion/Jerusalem in the Old Testament to the New Jerusalem found in the New Testament book of Revelation, we find that God is in her. God Himself is her provision.

Through the scriptures and throughout our lives we find people who are pressed from without and within. The floods come upon us, the waves billow and try to carry us away into the chaos of the storm. This outward storm causes the storm within to rage in our souls. Attitudes and reactions rise to the surface instead of the Lord Himself. Because we are pressed, we get stressed. The floods without try to draw fear and overwhelmed-ness from within. If we live only from the surface, from our souls, then all that will come forth is a spirit of panic and haste. But the apostle Paul under intense pressure wrote in II Corinthians 4:1, "Seeing we have THIS ministry, we faint not". Paul saw that his true ministry was to manifest that One Who was in him. Paul went on to say in verse 7 of that same chapter that we are earthen vessels that have Treasure deep inside. If you dig past all the dirt you will find that deep inside of you is the Lamb of God (II Cor. 4:7-11). This Lamb that dwells in our mortal flesh is not whining and pouting because of the pressure; rather He is pouring out unto the Father and giving His life for others (verse 10). The same Jesus who endured all the pressures of Calvary is inside of us right now. He deals with stress now the same way He did then, by giving His life in love. **Yet, those fountains in our depths need to break open and release His Life from within us. The hard dirt of the earthen vessel needs to become broken up so the Treasure can come forth from deep inside.**

There is a need to enthrone the Lamb within. Yet how? Is it just a prayer or a faith thing? What if it requires a heart that turns, burns, cleaves, presses in and will not be deterred until it reaches Him and submits in oneness to His nature? The bride will not stop until she reaches the Lamb in this way. The book of Revelation shows us evidence of this being true because in her alone is the Lamb enthroned and reigning (Revelation 21:22-23, 22:1-3). Because the bride has pursued and embraced the Lamb in this way, she had rivers of living water coming out from her innermost being. But look closely at these verses: for the only ones who will have rivers flowing out from within are those who have enthroned the Lamb, and not just cried out for a miracle of deliverance.

*"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" Revelation 22:1.*

Psalms 46 tells us that there is a city that has God inside of it. It is a city with a river in it that springs up and makes glad the city of God (Psalm 46:4-5). This psalm tells us that this river and its springs come forth when the earth is quaking, the mountains are shaking, and

the waters are roaring and swelling. This psalm is not describing any old city in the realms of Israel; this psalm is describing Jerusalem/Zion, the Bride of Christ. Psalm 48:1 says, "GREAT is the Lord IN the city of our God." The next verse says, "Beautiful for situation is mount Zion... the city of the GREAT King (the enthroned Lamb)." Psalm 50:2 says, "Out of Zion, the perfection of Beauty, God has shined." Based on these verses you might surmise that the true ministry of the Bride is simply to let the Lamb shine out from her by His nature in the midst of the darkness of this earth life. As He is lifted up in us in His sacrificial nature, people see Him and are drawn to Him. He is beautiful FOR SITUATION (Psalm 48:2) because He is situated in us reigning as our Life. He is also beautiful IN OUR SITUATIONS for the very same reason, because He is in us reigning and thereby releasing His life.

We find ourselves pressed beyond our measure and despite our best attempts to glorify God, polluted waters come forth and that is NOT a beautiful thing. This happens when we do not dig deep for the pure gold of Christ in us and just respond from our souls. There has been no passion to press past the soul into the Spirit. There has been no passion to take the double-edged sword of the Spirit and apply the Cross to our soul and flesh until the Lamb possesses our inward parts. When that is the case we are simply living in this earth as mere humans who have no treasure within, and this ought not to be according to Paul (I Corinthians 16:13).

David spent most of his life trying to give God habitation and enthronement in Zion. He wanted Zion to fulfill their eternal purpose from the very heart of God. This purpose involves God finding His rest in Zion. We find evidence of this heart in David in Psalm 132:4-5; *"I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob"*. Psalm 132:13-14; *"For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it"*.

In the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, we find God laying forth a progression from seven churches stuck in the earth overcome with floods of issues and persecution to one wife of the Lamb with Him enthroned within her and flowing out from her. What helped the people of God to progress from freaked out churches in the earth to a great city in the heavens filled with God? The book of Revelation shows us that it is the tribulations they went through with this heart to marry the Lamb that made all the difference. Those saints did not pray away their problems but rather sought, loved, and manifested the Lamb in the midst of them. They were tried and true. All the pressures brought forth pure gold and precious gems symbolizing the formed Christ within (Revelation 21:18-23). She could shine forth Christ in all the radiance of His Being because she let Him be formed within her during crisis and tribulations.

Paul said, "In all things give thanks" (Ephesians 5:20). We can do that because through it all Jesus is in us in all His beauty. He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Through the fire and the water He is there (Isaiah 43:2). He is a very present help in time of trouble because He is in us (Psalm 46:1,5).

These same fountains that flow out from the Lamb deep within us not only give us life but also cleansing. This pierced Son of the Father's heart cleanses us from deep within. Zechariah 12:10; *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn"*. Zechariah 13: 1; *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."* When the Lamb is loved and exalted in us, we are cleansed deep inside. We are cleansed from our polluted waters and soulish, selfish ways. We weep over the Son we have rejected, the Son that was slain Who is the beloved of the Father. We weep because we have rejected Him and let ourselves live and reign instead. By the release of cleansing water from the pierced One we are cleansed from ourselves always being the issue and the answer. We are cleansed by letting Christ Crucified be preeminent in us.

*Our hearts need to break before Him. Our hearts need to melt before Him. The ground of our hearts and the fountains of the deep need to be broken up in us so that Jesus can take the throne within* (Genesis 7:11, Hosea 10:12 ; Jeremiah 4:3 ). There are times that we can become so hard and insensitive that all that matters is getting through the trials of today. There may be very little thought of the Lamb in the midst of those daily crises. Our hearts can be so completely swallowed up of our earth lives that we forget that our life is above this earth hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Like Israel of old, we forget Him days without number (Jeremiah 2:32). When this is the case the true crisis that we are facing is the loss of our first love and His light within us (Revelation 2:4).

Jonah needed to be cast into the depths in order to remember that greater than any "problem" he was having with the Lord's calling in his life, the real issue was to know the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection (Jonah 2:3-7). Fellowship with the Lamb in a greater oneness was God's answer to Jonah's dilemma, and it is the same answer for us today.

*"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."* (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Knowledge or works never made someone feel not alone or so full of Another that they could exist by a love that transcends all the dimensions of human ability. We are meant to exist by a union into Christ that redefines our heights, depths, width and breadth so that now we are measured by the fullness of His Life within us. The bride is defined by the Lamb within her (Revelation chapters 21 and 22). She has left all shadows and become One with Him who fills His own Body in ways beyond all religious and traditional comprehension.

*Have we experientially known the love of God in the manner of being filled with all His fullness?*

We seek to overcome the troubles and trials of life without seeking first the fullness of God within. The only way the Ephesian church was going to overcome (as defined in the book of Revelation) was to return to love. They had fallen from love. They had left the heights of love and union with the Lamb to a realm of knowledge and works that would leave them unable to endure that which must come to purify and prepare a wife for the Lamb. Some in Ephesus may have assumed their ultimate end was to deal with heresy, preach the Word, raise up a church and Bible school, protect correct doctrines, and share the gospel. Yet in all this John (once an elder in the Ephesian church) was directed by God on the isle of Patmos to write them a letter and warn them that God's end goal was to get a wife for the Lamb and this would require a burning hot first love above all they had been doing for God in the earth.

On Patmos the apostle John saw visions of tribulation that would require being full of God to overcome. John also saw a wedding feast, and the Lamb's wife manifesting His image from deep within the New Jerusalem, pouring out His Life from her, shining out of her like the fully risen Son in perfect clarity. This city that is also called "the wife of the Lamb" revealed Who He was, not by perfect teaching or tremendous ministry, but by being full of the Lamb (Revelation chapters 21 and 22). She was married. She was experiencing union. She was defined by His fullness in her and not just her works or knowledge. She sealed up the entire Bible and retains the final point of emphasis as ordained by the Author of the Book.

Have you seen her... The Lamb's wife? (Revelation 21:9). Have you entered into her and become a part of this Holy City? The foundations of the walls of this city do not speak of deep knowledge but of purified love and overcoming life as a formed Christ Himself fills her with the treasure of all His fullness, overcoming everything.

*Even so ... Come forth Lord Jesus. Fills us with Your Life.*

May we progress in real ways from living as overwhelmed humans to a wife of the Lamb that shines Him forth in all His beauty and overcomes by His rivers within her.

In Jesus' name. Amen.