



*"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." —Matthew 24:14*

May 12, 2010

Dear Brethren and Friends,

How should we prepare for the Day of Pentecost, which the Church of God will observe within less than two weeks? What should this annual Holy Day mean for us?

In critical moments those who have sought help beyond their own abilities have turned to God. They did so by first seeking to do those things that would be acceptable to God.

A starting point is to seek God with an attitude of humility.

We might wonder how to apply this on a personal basis. How can we, individually, hope to establish that special relationship with the Father that speaks to our own critical needs?

The disciples of Jesus were called upon to cure a man's son, and they were not able to do so—even though they had been empowered to cast out demons as a part of their ministry. Jesus explained to His disciples that more was needed when He stated, "...this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21).

In other words, His disciples did not at that time have the same kind of relationship with God as Christ did—there was more for them to do, and Jesus stated that the need was for prayer and fasting, specifically for the challenge they faced!

Here is the way Paul addressed the issues Christians face:

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

In light of Paul's declaration, consider what Jesus said: "...In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus also said of Satan in respect to what He, Jesus, had accomplished: "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out" (John 12:31).

Jesus carried out monumental works during His short lifetime as a human being here on earth! He did so because He relied on help that only the Father could give. In fact, Jesus said that He could do nothing on His own—and this is something that He stated many times (compare John 5:19, 30; 6:38; see also John 14:10).

When Peter and John healed a lame man, Peter, too, acknowledged that neither he nor John were the source of this miracle, and said, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3:12). Notice to whom Peter gave the credit—to God the Father and the resurrected Jesus Christ: "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all" (Acts 3:16).

A few days earlier had been that momentous Day of Pentecost, during which the Holy Spirit of God had been given to the early New Testament disciples. Leading up to that time, those faithful to the Father and Jesus Christ had "...continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14). And we have this additional record: "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1).

Paul also acknowledged that his accomplishments were because of God's help: "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

The Church of God has been scattered in recent times: blown about with self-appointed ministers, including those who give titles and ranks to themselves; those who make merchandise

of the members in order to secure their own livelihood; deceived by those, who, like the infamous Diotrephes, love “...to have the preeminence” (3 John 9); and, as Paul warned, treacherous self-righteous leaders have been “speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:30).

This does not fulfill the kind of unity that was experienced as the Church of God began on the Day of Pentecost!

Nonetheless, our challenge remains undiminished, and Paul sets it forth with ringing clarity:

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU WERE CALLED, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the UNITY of the Spirit in the bond of PEACE. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:1-6).

This year, the Day of Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 23, 2010. Some will keep it on another day—or not at all—thereby only adding to ungodly confusion. But God is not the author of confusion. Rather, it is Satan who destroys and divides. We have noticed, dear brethren, that Satan has been VERY busy in recent weeks and months. And you should never think that *you* could not fall prey to his evil devices.

If we have individual problems; ongoing trials in our lives; encounter feelings of depression and dissatisfaction; if we are unable or unwilling to forgive others or let go of long-held grudges; if we are tempted to blame others for our own shortcomings; if we withdraw from regular personal fellowship with our brethren or diligent and continuing participation in the Work of God; then we must draw near to God, and Satan will flee from us. If we try to solve our problems on our own, or if we choose to continue to ignore them, we will fail, and we will be unable to withstand against the wiles and schemings of the devil (compare Ephesians 6:11, 13)

Brethren, there is obvious and urgent need for all of us to prepare ourselves as we observe the High Day of Pentecost at the correct time and in the right manner. Therefore, the ministry is asking you to individually set aside a day on which to fast—before Pentecost.

In another time, Hezekiah became king over Judah, and he was moved to observe the Passover—something that had been abandoned by former leaders. Please note how God helped the whole nation when they committed themselves to seek Him:

“Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them SINGLENESSE OF HEART to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD” (2 Chronicles 30:12).

For the Work given to all of us who are members of or who support the Church of the Eternal God in the USA and overseas, as well as its corporate affiliates, the Global Church of God in the UK and the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, in Canada, singleness of heart is an absolute need! We must not allow ourselves at any level to become resentful—even to the point of bitterness. This is the time to be watchful and increasingly ready for what is happening right now in the world, in the Church of God, and also in our own personal lives, and we must become prepared for those things we surely know that will be occurring.

Remember to ask God for His help in everything, and especially ask God to help all of us to participate, fulfill and to finish the Work that He has committed to us—to faithfully preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with ever increasing might and effectiveness! God’s warning, as recorded in Hebrews 10:38, must be on the forefront of our minds: “... if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

In Christ’s Service,



Dave Harris