



***"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart."
(Psalm 24:3-4)***

***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"
(Matthew 5:4)***

Dear Friend,

I pray that your breakfast this morning was as sweet and enjoyable as it has been the past 40 days with the Lord. He has so enjoyed these meals with you and does not want you to tarry in meeting Him at His table on a regular basis. May this new-found lifestyle of depending on and pursuing God become the standard that you now live by.

For many of us this day is bittersweet. We find ourselves in a place of wanting to take that next step the Lord has laid out before us, and yet we hesitate, not wanting to leave this place of security and intimacy that we have found familiar these past 6 weeks. In the beginning, these 40 days seemed like an insurmountable length of time, but now, it feels as if they have not been long enough. Be encouraged and take courage - the journey has just begun!

We have a mountain in front of us (many of us may feel as if we have been standing on top of the mountain these past 2 months) that, from our human perspective may seem insurmountable, but with the new sense of clarity you have gained from your recent journey you will soon see that this mountain is God's holy mountain. It is a "high and holy" mountain, but He has prepared a well-worn and beaten path for us to follow as we ascend its glorious heights.

Two years ago, when I trusted the Lord for my first 40-day fast, He led me to a specific verse in the Bible that would become the foundation of the Trumpet and Torch ministry and the driving force to accomplish His plans for restoring His Church:

***"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."
(Isaiah 58:12)***

As you meditate on these words, consider those Scriptures that have stood out to you during your journey. What has the Lord revealed to you through His Word? It is through His Word that we receive the confidence we need to step out in faith and accomplish what God has put in front of us. With the promise and power of His Word backing us up, there is nothing we can't do!

Our Lord is in the rebuilding program. He is a jealous God who will not allow the messes we make of our lives hinder His great and glorious kingdom-building plan. When He sees that work has stopped, or, that progress is not being made, He will move the hearts of His children to rise up and return to work!

The Lord did this when He moved the heart of Nehemiah to journey to Jerusalem and bring His message of restoration, ***"Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.' I also told them about the gracious hand of God upon me and what the king had said to me"*** (Nehemiah 2:17-18).

God's chosen nation was living in a pile of rubble that was a constant and visible reminder of the discipline they had received for turning their backs on God. Can we relate? If we are being honest, and we need to be, there is much in need of repair in our nation. The people and leaders in Nehemiah's time had resigned themselves to living in rubble. They surrendered to the idea that this was just how things were going to be and they saw the mess in front of them as a massive mountain too difficult to climb. We too, can survey the morally and spiritually bankrupt landscape that lays in a heap before us and declare that we should just leave well enough alone. We can throw up our hands in surrender and fall asleep in our complacency and "pray" for someone else to show up with a broom and shovel and do the necessary work; but, *"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man"* (Proverbs 6:10-11).

Read again what Nehemiah said to the people, "I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me." When the people heard these words they responded, *"Let us start rebuilding."* They didn't hesitate to move forward once they knew that God would be the driving force in this project. They had God's Word - His promise and His power backing them up.

We have those same promises, we have that same power. Isaiah 58:12 ends with, "Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." The King James Bible states it beautifully, "The restorer of paths to dwell in." A word study on those final words reveal that the "path" is an already beaten down path. A path that has already been tried, tested, and found true. The path we need to walk, is the path that the Lord has laid out before us, the path that our faithful brothers and sisters have trod before, the path of righteousness!

Two years ago the Lord spoke these words to my heart, *"Rebuild the temple."* My dear brothers and sisters, the temple He was talking about is His Church, *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16) The Church is the body of Christ. We have been built on the foundation of Jesus Christ (3:11) and nothing can move or shake that foundation. We have been called, as His Church, to "raise up the age-old foundations". We are exhorted to lift up, revere, and bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, like the broken, gaping holes in the wall of Jerusalem, the Church of the living God has portrayed a less than holy picture of the glory, majesty, and strength of our beautiful Lord.

We have built our own walls, but they have only brought division and disunity to His Body. This does not bring pleasure to our Heavenly Father. This week we will be journeying the path with Jesus as He made His triumphal and final procession into Jerusalem. It is the Most Holy Week. As we prepare to celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, let us take time to reflect upon the path in front of us and make the necessary preparations in this call of restoration.

"Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' He said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "
(Matthew 21: 12-13)

As we respond to God's call to rebuild His temple the Lord shows us what He expects of those who minister in His temple. One of His first acts, at the end of His earthly ministry, was to cleanse the temple. Instead of being a house of prayer it had become a place of profit. The Lord came to set things right! Our God will not allow His children to live in a lifestyle of sin when we, in fact, have been called to *"be holy, because [He] is holy!"* (1 Peter 1:16).

God's Church is His temple, but God's people are also His temple, *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body"* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). If the Church is to be holy and pure, then we, the people who make up that body, must be holy and pure. Jesus set an example for us to follow when He overturned the tables in the temple.

These past 40 days the Lord has turned our lives upside down (and inside out!). It has been a time of purification and cleansing. His desire was to dig deep within our hearts and strip us of all the excess in our life that was keeping us from being fully and completely His. Today, take time to consider those tables that you have bolted to the floor of your heart, the ones you have not allowed the Lord to turn over, uncover, and expel from your life. As we journey the next few days of this Most Holy Week, let us make the necessary effort to clear the clutter of unholiness from our lives so that we will be adequately purified and dressed to sit at His holy table when He returns for His Bride.

*"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.
In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.
And in Him you too are becoming built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."*
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

You, my friend, are part of His holy rebuilding program. You have been given your holy armor and your Sword to accomplish the work in front of you. If every single believer rises up and does their part, we will indeed see righteousness restored in our nation once again!

"When the righteous rule, the people rejoice!"
(Proverbs 29:2)

To God Be The Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

The Servants of Trumpet and Torch Ministries

www.trumpetandtorch.org

P.S. Pastors, prayer leaders, and faithful saints, please encourage those who have journeyed these past 40 day using the hard copy version of EAT at the Table of the King to register online to receive our email updates!

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