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A New Year's Message 2019 - Part 3
Sam Soleyn
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In continuing to talk about God developing a holy people in the earth, the 2019 will see a continuation of that development. Almost anyone who has been seeking God has experienced a turbulent 2018, in one form or another. It seems like 2018 was the shakedown year, also for those who are seeking God. I do not wish to present a picture that says, in effect, that people who are not seeking God are being brought to their ends and that is really as far as it goes. No. People who are seeking God are also being brought to their ends, because what God is doing in the earth is affecting everyone. But, the way it affects us depends on how we are positioned.

If you are seeking God, the thing that obscures the vision and prevents you from finding that level of God revealed is your perception—the filters through which you view these things; the lenses through which you spy into the nature of God. Now, you would think that we would be just very happy to have those lenses cleaned, so that our focus could be quite sharp and quite clear. But it is not that simple, because what has happened is our view of God has become familiar to us, even if the view is erroneous. The familiarity we have with a certain point of view allows us to develop certain coping skills and mechanisms, including, by looking through those lenses, predicting the future. What God has done to those who are seeking Him is to show them how deeply compromised even they are, and how erroneous their judgments are if those judgments have yet to be refined by the light of revelation.

It is actually a dual way that God does this. One is to give you revelation that upsets your point of view from what it has been previously, to what He wants you to see now. But, the other thing that God also has done, and to some extent will continue to do, is to disabuse you of certain notions of security and well-being—whether it is your trust in familiar persons, or your trust in things you are able to do, skills you possess, financial and other resources you possess, and the like. For many, 2018 has represented a departure of and an end to certain relationships that have been very tearing and rending, very heartbreaking. With great reluctance, certain ones have had to let go of relationships that they were sure would be “forever” kinds of relationships, as people disclosed the points beyond which they will not go in their search for God. Because, you see, everyone is being sifted in this way, and with the sifting, people react according to what they wish to preserve.

If, when you are sifted, your desire is to preserve the search for God inviolate—in other words, in the heat of the moment, in the worst of your challenges, you will apply the things you know that are certainly God, against every instinct you may have to the contrary—then you will go through that very dark place and emerge into the light of the day. For some people, however, they are not going to do that. They have found the place of their bargain with God, either that they are not going to go on unless God does for them the things they decide are critical to their existences, or they are going to spin the situation to make it appear that God has answered them and is giving them the thing they asked for.

But, whether it is one or the other of those two perspectives, concerning those who are going on with the Lord—with no pretense to the contrary; with every intent to find what they are seeking, but not necessarily knowing what they are going to find; with honesty and truthfulness as determined, not by human self-congratulatory standards, but by the faithful, unerring leading of the Holy Spirit—if you walked through those places, then you have suffered loss this year. You have suffered loss of relationships. You have had to recalibrate your view of people, certain ones who are very dear and close to you. Such things are turbulent and traumatic, because we tend to consider our well-being in light of the relationships we have. Of course, we have an enemy that is pursuing all of this and looks for opportunity, and when he finds them in our close circles, he pounces on them.

Another sense of loss that others may have experienced, another sense of testing and turbulence, is hitting low ceilings—ceilings that are low over your head—and not being able to penetrate, even if you want to, even if you know that you are not where you should be, but there being a low ceiling over your head. I have seen that quite a bit this past year, both in ministering to others and in circles that are close to me. As we have delved into these matters to a much deeper level, what God meant to do was reveal certain blockages that were in the lives of people—things that may have been there from their childhood, and unconsciously formed barriers in their emotions to the flow of God's presence and certainty and security for them and through them. I have listened to and tried to help people navigate through heart-rending stories that locked people up from their childhood. They have had tremendous battles within their own souls, without even knowing why they were barred or blocked from going forward in their emotions in these places, until crises came.

I was speaking recently to someone who was experiencing a crisis, a crisis of relationship. What emerged was, there were events from early in childhood in which parents, thinking they were doing a favor to the child in such basic training skills as getting dressed to go to school or being on time, berated their children. This particular individual had a heart-breaking story of being berated by a parent, so much so that he freezes as an adult when that wave of tension comes on him and paralyzes him. Now, here is a very gifted person, very articulate, but there are times when he simply freezes, cannot find the words. He did not know where all of that came from until we went back into his history and found the key. At three years of age, being harangued by a parent and made to feel stupid, made to feel like he was—he used the word (it is out of vogue today), I think the word today would be, emotionally challenged or reality challenged, but that was not the word that his parent used who blasted him. He has lived with the sense of being incompetent since that time. There are moments when he has been assailed by the thought, by the emotion, of feeling incompetent, when, frankly, there was nobody more competent than he to address the issues at hand. He was having to fight through those things in order to do what he was clearly positioned to do and called to do.

I have watched dozens and dozens of people in the past year go through these harrowing discoveries—go through the process that led to discoveries of things that were harrowing from their childhood. In looking back, I am able to understand. At the time, it just seemed like a whole series of one-off happenings, but looking back and talking to the Lord about it, I began to understand that God was dealing with the human soul—with the souls of those who put their trust in Him. The enemy had found ways to lock them down through various devices that created emotions that served as defining feelings and emotions regarding who the people saw themselves as being. I have seen so many this year who broke through, saw the trap the enemy had set, and experienced the goodness of God.

In the year that is coming, I see two ongoing aspects of that: (1) People, those who have been set free, continuing to gain ground and take up the lives that God put them here to live; (2) and others who will be set free, because the light is spreading and the glory of God is appearing on a people. So, I see those things happening:

- the loss of relationships
- conflicts of every kind arising, personally

- I see God taking a people deeper into the things of God and deeper into understanding the schemes of the enemy that have been deployed against them.
- smashing these entrapments that have been put in place to capture and devour their lives

In the continuation of God bringing forth a people in the image and likeness of Christ—a people who are not compromised by the spirit of the age; a people who do not look to the world for their supply, their identity, their purpose, their success, but are looking to God—there is a terrifying refinement going on. Frankly, I can understand why people would rather choose the familiar and try to make that work, discredited as it has become, rather than going through the reset and the purification, if you like, the refinement by fiery trials of every kind that seems to have come upon the people of God as a widespread baptism of fire. It is funny, we know the Scriptures spoke of a baptism of fire (cf. Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16), but we thought that that would be more like the Day of Pentecost with the manifestation of *phaneros*, which is like tongues of fire—which the Holy Spirit is well able to do, and that is when the Holy Spirit just chooses to be the Holy Spirit; when He is God, and He is just being God. However, there is a baptism of fire that is designed for refinement—to melt off the dross, to reconnect us to the mind of God by purifying and purging the taint of our minds that make us incompatible to the mind of Christ. This reset is going on, and it is going on in earnest, and it is going on deeply, and anyone who is seeking God is going to be subject to it. Nobody is being spared.

I have watched many people come right up to it and look over in it. I even had some leaders say to me, “I do not believe in that. I do not believe that we have to go through anything like that. I am just going to go out and find some people who want to hear the message that I am bringing, and I am going to preach that message.” That has been part of the loss that I personally have experienced, loss of relationships. But, I am saying to you that at the moment that sounds good, and at the moment it seems less strenuous, less invasive, and surely that has to be God, because everybody knows God does not want to hurt you. No. It is not true. That is not the case. One of the prophets of the Old Testament said,

Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.² After two days He will revive us; On the third day [the day of

resurrection, of course; the coming forth of the new creation] *He will raise us up [bring us out of the grave of these sufferings], that we may live in His sight.*

Hosea 6:1-2 NKJV

Concerning Jesus Himself, the pattern is well established—the pattern of the Son being brought forth and presented as the final product of having suffered. It says of Jesus that He learned obedience by the things He suffered (cf. Hebrews 5:8), and He grew in favor with God and man (cf. Luke 2:52). So as between the age of twelve, when He is in the temple, and when He is presented again to the world at the age of thirty, in that eighteen year span, much of His life is summarized by: He learned obedience by the things He suffered, and He grew in favor with God and man. Every son of God is received as an infant, because that is how you are when you are born. So, being born again delivers us into the household of God as a son of God, but in the condition of a child, of an infant. As between that infant and the son in whom the Father is well pleased, who is able to carry out the splendid, radiant, resplendent representation of the Father in the earth—as between the child who is born and the son who is given to reset the earth in its understanding of the nature of God—as between those two points, suffering is the constant. Suffering is the necessary element. Suffering is the companion of that journey. It cannot be otherwise. Anyone who seeks to avoid suffering, at the best, at the minimum, delays their growth; at the worst, they abandon the faith. Because, he who has suffered in the flesh ceases from sin (cf. 1 Peter 4:1).

The Scriptures speak of us as being temples of the Holy Spirit, and in that we are said to host the presence of God for the purpose of putting on display the nature of God. That is what sonship is. It is really not a gospel about going to heaven when you die. It is true that when we die, we go to heaven; but heaven is neither the destination nor the final end of the story, because we will come again. The Lord will bring us again and continue the point of representing Him until everything is summed up *in Christ* and God is all in all (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:28). With that said, suffering, then, is the sacrifice that is offered in our temples, and the sacrifice is the sacrifice of the will of the self—the way we would direct and govern our own lives apart from the template of the standard of Christ. People want that. People want to keep on going and doing what they want to do, what seems right to them, what they are comfortable with, even if it is missing the mark. And God has no intentions of allowing us to live that way.

Instead, the greatest purpose for the creation of man is the purpose for which God refines and trains us, and that is to be measured by the standard and likeness of Christ, who is the perfect Son, the Son in whom God is well pleased. As this Son of righteousness arises, He aligns us to that very standard, the standard of God's righteousness. Then, our souls are saved to the degree that our souls are aligned to the standard of the righteousness of Christ; to that degree, our souls are saved. This is the work of the Holy Spirit to do. Each part that is refined in this way is given more and more of the responsibility to represent God as He is. And so, in the compendium of these parts, in the assembly of these parts, you have a corporate Man. You have a body, and that body has a head to it: the head of the body is Christ, and the body is the Body of Christ. That is the corporate Son. God is causing the corporate Son, now, in this time, to come to maturity. When this corporate Son reaches its maturity, all of the resources of God—both the resources that are included in heaven and on earth, and resources in God that are not included in either heaven or earth—will become available to support this corporate Man in its destiny in the earth to represent the Father, who is the living God.

We are about to see a touching of the earth of heavenly resources. Now, the moment you say that, people think in terms of money. Lately, I have been instructed to pray for power, the power that sustains the word of God in the earth—not primarily the power for human consumption of healing and miracles, but such power as the discerning of spirits, the accuracy of revelation and insight, positioning the people of God toward greater and greater maturity. I will have more to say about power in a subsequent message, and how it fits into the profile of a people who are being brought into maturity. But until then, I trust that you will have a wonderful 2019, albeit in the environment of suffering.

I am Sam Soleyn, and I will see you then. Bye-bye.