

EXPRESSIONS 2017 | session 7 business men's breakfast

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Good morning. It is a pleasure to be with you again. When Peter told me that we were going to arrange for a breakfast with business people, I was especially glad to hear that for a number of reasons. The primary one is that, as I see the evolution of church, I see that there is a growing emphasis on the spread of the gospel through those who are engaged in business. The more I think about it, the clearer and more obvious it is that that is the direction, because the Kingdom of God exists to bring the rule of Christ into the earth. Every person in business has a sphere of rule, smaller or larger, depending on the measure that you have been given. In a sense, this is evolving to be the first line of advance of the Kingdom in the world.

We have an interesting phenomenon occurring right now in the United States. It seems as though every other facet of society has been compromised and is imploding. There was recently a CNN article that focused on this question. They asked the question, "Who can bring healing to America?" This occurred after the recent race-based conflict in Charlottesville, Virginia. It seemed that event brought out what had been hidden below the surface in American life for a long time. It was not that this was a new thing, or that it was absent from the social life of the American people. It was that it was always there. But, in the current political climate there is a desperate sense of grasping among all the constituencies of the United States—grasping for authority.

What, in effect, has happened in the American context is that there is a loss of national consensus. We are as divided a nation as there is on the earth today. The evidence of that is glaringly apparent in the results of our elections. We have a man

on the throne, as it were in America, who was put there by a political device called the Electoral College. That has been functioning for quite a long time. It initially came about as a way of equalizing the votes of the American people. It became a more or less a representational body for the general electorate. We have a man who is sitting on the throne as president, who won the majority of the Electoral College according to our system. In doing so, he defeated a woman who won the majority of the public vote by not a small margin—by over three million votes. Even in America, that is a convincing mandate, or above anything that resembles the norm. As has happened as a consequence of that, there is no cooperation between the legislative bodies of the Congress, and we are battling constantly the partisan pressure. So much so, you probably have heard of the evidence of this in terms of things such as national health insurance or national healthcare, which very much is a hot button issue in the United States. It really comes down to business philosophy.

We had the race riots—and it is not inappropriate to describe it as race riots. It is a push back on both sides in a deepening divide of the American people. So the question arose, who can bring America together? An article, in effect, said that there is no political will to bring the people together. All the politicians on both sides are very entrenched, looking at the next elections, trying to be positioned to regain control of the House, the Senate, and eventually, of course, the presidency.

On the other side, the Supreme Court, which is one of the other compendiums of sovereignty within the national life, is as divided. It became very obvious and apparent that selections to the Supreme Court, including the latest Justice to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, it became very apparent that his ascension to the Court was 100% political. He happened to be elected because the majority of senators, being Republicans, voted for him. If it were that there was a majority of senators who were Democratic, they would not have voted for him. The man's qualifications do not matter. It is simply a question of political posturing.

So, the legislature is compromised, the Supreme Court is compromised, and the presidency is compromised—in the most divisive fashion: 50/50. The widest division that you could ever have is 50% on either side. When there is 2% on one side and

98% on the other, it is called a landslide. It is severe; that configuration is a severe mandate in favor of the 98%. We have been reduced in America to trying to find ways forward to address critical issues of national life, without any sense of consensus—where the leaders are intentionally failing to cooperate and the people's business is in ruins.

They asked the question, "Can the political rulers of the nation heal the wounds of the nation?" This happened after the eruption of violence and the resurgence of neo-Nazism, white supremacy, and all of that came in Charlottesville. That had been after three years anyway, when in a place like Ferguson, Missouri—which would be like a city in the Free State, in terms of the thought that, "This is Americana," this is the settled portion of America—where essentially, race riots flared into public view. So, they are basically saying that the elected officials are unable to do anything to heal national life. The conflict, of course, is between the police in the US on the streets and certain groups of people who indeed feel as though, and the evidence would show, that there has been systemic abuse of authority in cities great and small, as people emerge to attempt to assert their rights as citizens. Law enforcement in the US has come into a focused glare that has shown that there is no sense of impartiality in the administrations of justice.

Regarding the Evangelical Church, 82% of the Evangelical Church in the United States voted for the president, which would indicate that the church life in America has been compromised as well. The latest articles that I am reading that look at a survey of national life, asked the question, "Where do the racists come from? Where do the people who march with torches and chant Nazi slogans from the 1930's come from?" The answer is: They come from the Evangelical Church. They go to church on Sundays. The church has been seen as thoroughly compromised and has lost any voice to speak to the nation. Do you know what the survey concluded? The survey concluded that the compendium of moral behavior in the country at this time is concentrated among the business people. This was highlighted when a number of business people began to resign from the federal government's Council of Economic Advisers. Certain men and women who had a lot to lose, in terms of business, rose up and just said, "Our names and the companies

we represent cannot be identified with this sort of intransigence that ignores glaring national faults and fault lines.”

That is an interesting thing to me, and I have been thinking more and more about that. In my spiritual house, we actually have a much greater concentration of business people than any other slice of society. I spend a lot of my time speaking to various issues that arise within the lives and business cycles of sons of mine. I was in a board meeting recently for one of my sons—by the way, by training I have a law degree. In my law school training, I was quite interested in corporate finance. That was in another life. I have repented of a lot of those things, and as far as I know, I have been forgiven (chuckling). So, I am not unfamiliar with business. In fact, my own ambition was to be involved in corporate finance on Wall Street, but that was not the Lord’s plan for me, and fortunately He rescued me from it. But, I was prepared to engage that life and to do so with the utmost of intent to be productive in my life. So, I often meet with groupings of my sons, and I happened to be in this board meeting. The board meeting was designed for us to get to know a candidate who was being interviewed for the chief financial officer position of an emerging IT company. The person has been a vice president with Goldman Sachs and has a stellar financial background. In the discussion, we were talking about how this IT company should view artificial intelligence. Should the company, in a sense, “bet the farm,” as the expression goes, on artificial intelligence as its direction?

As you know, that is the big thing right now. Mark Zuckerberg is on one side of it and Elon Musk is on the other side. Elon thinks that AI is the most dangerous development in technology. I think that Elon is a South African. He is leading a discussion against Mark Zuckerberg, and they are trading barbs across the fence with each other on the issue of artificial intelligence in technology—the utilization of artificial intelligence in lieu of human intelligence. That came up in the board meeting and there were a lot of discussions back and forth. When it was my time to speak, I said, “Artificial intelligence has a place and that place is in the gathering of information as part of a metrics of programming.” Then I said, “If you rely on AI exclusively, and not human intelligence, technology will veer away from being useful to human beings.” That was a radical statement, so they wanted to know

more. I said, “Because, the human soul—and this is what I want to talk about this morning—the human soul makes decisions in a particular fashion, and it is not compatible with artificial intelligence. Eventually, the human soul will reject technology that robs it of its vital life.” They wanted to know what I meant by that, so I said, “The human soul has three components to it: 1) it has a mind, 2) it has a will, and 3) it has a heart.”

In the heart of the human soul, there lies the emotions by which humans actually decide. Human beings make decisions on the basis of their emotions, but justify their decision on the basis of their reason. The young man might want a particular car—a young husband might want to buy a particular car—because he envisions himself appearing in a certain fashion in society in that car. However, when he decides to justify the purchase in the face of the family’s finances, he tells his wife about the wonderful deal he got and how this actually will pay for itself over time. What he has managed to do is convince himself that what he has decided emotionally is, in fact, reasonable. No, he made the decision because he had a vision of his life clothed by that car.

When Lucy and I were much younger and funds were very scarce, she would at times come home from shopping for clothing and she would tell me that she saved me quite a lot of money, because she got all these dresses on sale. I said to her then, “I want to relieve you of the stress of having to save me so much money.” We make decisions on the basis of our souls’ emotions that have nothing to do with artificial intelligence. You cannot, in fact, replicate human emotions, because the humans themselves do not know why they have those particular emotions, for the most part.

I want to talk briefly in the time remaining about decision-making and the human soul, because I think it will help you understand yourself better. If indeed there is a growing mandate for leadership in society in the church, and if indeed you are so positioned over families in the workplace that your influence presents the righteous rule of the Kingdom of Heaven within the metrons of your business, then it is critically important that you understand how your soul works. I want to take a few

minutes and talk to you about the soul.

The Scriptures say in the book of Genesis,

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. [older translations render it, “a living soul”]

In that configuration of being, God established a tripartite nature to man, which had as much to do with the representation of God, as it had to do with the venue in which man would live as he represented God. God gave man a spirit out of the very person of God. God breathed spirit into the formed earth, so man has a spirit. That spirit is configured from God to be able to connect you to God, and by that, to connect you to the wisdom of the heavens, to the mind of God. God gave man a soul to translate the wisdom of heaven into executive action on the earth. Your spirit is not the creative aspect of your being; your soul is. In the soul, and when the soul is governed by the spirit, the wisdom of the heavens and the economy of the heavens come through the human being and functions in the venue of time.

In the accuracy of the alignment of your soul to your spirit, the Spirit of God speaks to you in your space and time and the miraculous comes through and alters your circumstances. It takes you above. When the soul is not accurately aligned with the spirit, it makes decisions out of fear. Fear is never the mindset from which any decision ought to be made, certainly not decisions that impact the world from the viewpoint of the Kingdom. The Kingdom does not come into your sphere when the soul is blocked by the emotion of fear.

The order of the soul, as I said, is that there is a mind, there is a will, and there is a heart. Similarly, in the spirit, there is a mind to the spirit, there is a will to the spirit, and there is a heart to the spirit, because God designed the soul to fit perfectly under the spirit. So the mind of the spirit should rule the mind of the soul. The will of the spirit should be imposed upon the will of the soul. The emotions of the spirit should be the dominant emotion governing the decision-making within the soul. That

is the perfect configuration for functioning in this world.

When Adam sinned, it was because the mind of his soul was activated to resist the mind of his spirit. He made a decision separate from God and the emotions of his soul immediately registered the distinction. He said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid." When you are fearful, and when that emotion dominates your decision-making, you do not act as a son of God. In fact, you begin to view God as your enemy, and you will hide from God. It is all there in the Book. You go from viewing God as your Father, to God as the primary obstacle to your survival.

At that juncture you do not have the fear of the Lord; you fear God—you are afraid of God—and you do not want Him governing any aspect of your decision-making. That is why human beings bifurcate life into components that are manageable. We want God in some spheres of our lives, but we typically do not want Him in most spheres of our lives, and typically we do not want Him at all in our decision-making in business. So, we rely upon the statistical facts and empirical evidence, none of which is bad, but if the ultimate touchstone of decision-making is the fear that resides in your soul—the fear of making a mistake, the fear of not having enough, the fear of being taken advantage of, and so on—then you will want to keep God out of that, because you cannot control God and it simply heightens your fear.

So you live nervously. You live nervously every day. You do not enter God's rest. You have no expectation of heaven, and the weight of the decisions you make, as they affect other people, robs you of sleep, robs you of rest, robs you of peace with your wife or your husband, robs your time from being properly allocated. You spend more time trying to run ahead of your fears than you do building relationships. You may end up with a lopsided view of life, which invariably emphasizes money as the measure of success, because that at least is a showing that you are able to play that game better than anyone else. What you leave on the table is the wisdom of God. We make the mistake of thinking, if you bring God into the governing spheres of your life, that somehow that is going to diminish your business capabilities.

When I got through explaining why artificial intelligence will not ultimately be useful, the particular person who was being interviewed asked me, "What exactly is your

background?” In that case, I become all things to all men. I said, “I have a law degree, but I have not been in practice.” So he knew I was not telling him all he wanted to know, because he knows lawyers of every rank and stripe. He understands that that was not it, so he went to Google me. (chuckling) He went to Google me, and he discovered that I was not trying to be evasive because my profile on Google is rather extensive. He got the answer he was looking for: This guy is operating at a different level. He had met all kinds of business people, lawyers, and the like, but no one in ten sentences deconstructed the argument between Zuckerberg and Elon Musk so succinctly. The funny thing is, when you speak the truth, it settles people’s hearts. They know it is the truth, because they have a spirit that is capable of resonating to the truth. When you speak conclusively on a matter, people marvel because you speak as one who has authority, and not as the rulers of the synagogue—I brought in something from a story I remembered a bit about.

Let me move into more constructive analysis of the human soul. God made angels as ministering servants to man. Hebrews 1:13-14 says,

“But to which of the angels has He ever said:

*“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?*

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

It is a rhetorical question. It means quite obviously: all angels are ministering servants. Angels were not designed to minister to the human spirit. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirits, because the spirit within man is a gift from out of the very person of God. It is a gift that contains the element of sonship, so that we may be reconciled to God *in Christ*. When we are, the occasion is that the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirits, and the testimony is that we are sons of God. But He has never said to an angel, “You are My Son. Today, I have begotten you.” So, an angel is a different type of spirit. The definition of angel as a spirit is more related to the invisible realm versus the visible. But man as a spirit is defined by the nature of the spirit within him and its connectedness to God. Angels were never meant to be

ministering servants to the human spirit. You typically do not see angels appearing in the venue of humanity on earth. They do appear to some people on earth, but the obviousness of their activities is not as it relates to the human body.

We read in Scripture in Matthew, chapter 4, that after Jesus was subjected to His encounters with the devil in the wilderness, Satan left him and angels came and ministered to Him. The ministry of angels to the human being is to the human soul, because that is what they were configured to serve. Now, they were given phenomenal understanding of how the human soul works. When certain of the angels under Satan rebelled against God, they brought the knowledge of humanity—and the human soul—to bear in the conflict with God. Human beings became the battleground, and the continuing battleground, between the enemy and the interest of God, which is concentrated in us.

Your enemy understands how your soul makes decisions. The evidence of that is when he came into the Garden, he approached man with the intent of opening the eyes of the soul. Notice, the eyes of the man's spirit were already opened, because he talked with God every day. "Eyes" there simply mean: vision, the way you see things, your point of view. The man had a point a view, an orientation toward God, already. It was well-established. He met with God every day; in the cool of the day, he walked with the Lord in the Garden. God revealed to this son of His the secrets of creation so that he could accurately administrate the rule of creation to which he had been set by His Father, for God said to him, "Have dominion, rule over." God specified what he was to rule over: the systems of the earth, the categorization of animals according to their kind—the earliest introduction of taxonomy. He did that and that order has prevailed to this day. So we know that the eyes of the human spirit were open, and the testimony of his spirit to the Spirit of God was how he lived. He lived out of that relationship in the earth and his administration flourished according to what God had established him to do. And by the way, God said to man, "[Y]ou must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

The enemy came in and said, "*You will not surely die,*" *the serpent told her. "For*

God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5). The eyes of man's spirit were already open, because he was in regular communion with God. The eyes in his natural head were opened as well, because before they ate they saw that the fruit of the tree was pleasing to the eye. The brain interpreted that in time and space. Why would the enemy say, "If you eat of it your eyes would be opened."? The eyes of his spirit were already opened. Also, he was not blindly feeling around in the Garden. How would he even be able to evaluate the look of the fruit and be tempted with an appetite for it? No, he had to be able to see it. So, his natural eyes were open and his spiritual eyes were open. What eyes were closed then? Yes, the "eyes" of his soul. His desire within his soul, his emotions in his soul, remained under the control of his spirit. "Pleasing to the eye" is an emotional statement. You have formed subjective judgment. You have interpreted things according to your passion, all of which relate to the emotions. So when the enemy came into the Garden, he focused precisely on the opening of the eyes of the soul and spoke to and stirred up the emotion of pride in the man. "You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. You do not have to submit to God. The real secrets of creation lie within you, and they are untapped."

The hubris of pride functioned as a key to unlocking the opening of the soul's emotion. Why would the enemy use the appeal of pride? Because, that was his sin; that was his point of departure. If you are lifted up in pride, you will fall into the condemnation of the devil. You know that. You know the Scriptures. He comes to stir up the emotion of pride, to throw off, to overthrow the restraint of the spirit upon the soul, and succeeds. So the enemy has a phenomenal competence to understand the workings of your soul, because he was created to serve your soul—to serve human beings in their soul. He is not just somebody to be kicked to the curb. He is an enemy who is wily. He comes with schemes, and he knows how to get to the emotions of your soul. He does so in various ways.

For our purposes, let me say, there are three ways that the enemy gets to the emotions within your soul:

- 1) The first way is by trauma. When a traumatic event occurs, your reason, which is

the governor of your soul, is set aside, even if it is a momentary setting aside. For example, if you are in a car accident, you may immediately come out of the car, you or the other person—if you survive, obviously, or if you are not knocked unconscious—and somebody is likely to get out, approach the other, and begin to say things like, “I am so sorry. I just did not see you,” etc. They admit things against their own pecuniary interest, because they have not talked to a lawyer yet. Those things are called present sense impressions. Under American law they are admissible as evidence, because they are statements against your self-interest, and you are not inclined to make statements against your interests unless in your own mind, in the moment, it was true. So, trauma overrules your reason and makes the soul available to the enemy, who is always watching to find opportunity.

Now, God made it such that in your soul, your reason, your mind should have dominance and control, to the effect of controlling your emotions. That is why, in the majority of cases, people do not decide primarily on the basis of their emotions, even though that is what they want to do. They will capture and govern the impulses by reason. You do not always go out and shoot the person who cut you off in traffic—not unless you live in L.A. (chuckling). The person may want to do it, may think about it, and may substitute verbal shots for physical confrontation, but you consider the long-term effect of a spontaneous act of violence and you restrain yourself. But, if people are unrestrained, and some people are entirely unrestrained, they will act out of it. The fact is, people make decisions out of their souls whenever they make decisions of a critical nature, and they justify it by their reason. But, God has put the reason to govern the soul, and it works in the majority of cases.

When the trauma is sufficient to set aside your reason, the emotions will decide. Trauma has a much greater potential of accomplishing that, routinely, than we realize, because again, trauma upsets the order of the soul. So, your enemy waits for traumatic events to occur to insert into you feelings of fear, feelings of uncertainty and insecurity, to, in effect, start a process in you that ends up being controlled by the voice of your enemy. For children, for example, who are unable

to govern their emotions by their reason, God sets parents to watch over them, and tells children—not adults—to obey their parents in the Lord, because that obedience actually functions to contain the emotions of the soul, which are altogether apparent and functional within a child. A child is given to making decisions based upon emotions. The government of their souls is provided externally by their parents. I will come back to that, especially as that relates to generational iniquities.

- 2) The second way that the enemy gains access to our souls is when we willfully and intentionally permit him to do so, by acts and activities that open the soul to the demonic. When you know a thing to be wrong and you do it anyway, you have invited your enemy to take control of your decision-making in that capacity. Sometimes, however, people do things that actually invite the enemy to come in without being aware that that activity actually does so. In America currently, one of the crazes in churches is to have classes in yoga. I am amazed that the primary attendees of these classes are young women, young mothers in particular, who think they need to get back in shape and so on, especially if they have recently had children. Now, Americans, insofar as sophistication of things in the spirit, are among the most naive on the planet, and they are because there is a certain arrogance that is associated with first world people. They think they know everything, and they think that things function the way they want them to, not the way they actually function. I was giving a lecture recently on how yoga actually opens the soul to demonic influences, and I had so many people come up afterward and say to me, “I just did not know.”

A simple example is, one of the basic stretches in yoga is called the “serpent position.” You put your arms down and you stretch out your spine in a position like a walking serpent. I wonder where such a notion might have come from? The intent is to release the kundalini force, the serpent power, that is at the base of the spine, through the chakra points of the body, and you end up where that power reaches the brain, or the head, and you supposedly achieve enlightenment—of course, with the help of a guru. The process of this entirely removes the governance of the soul by the mind and makes the emotions

completely available to the demonic.

We are going to see, now, coming into the United States and into western countries, a thing that was referenced in the Scriptures when Israel came up out of Egypt into the Promised Land. It was said, “Other demons had come up which neither they, nor their fathers had known.” [Insert actual verse—Deuteronomy 32:17 “*They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they had not known, to newly arrived gods, which your fathers did not fear.*”] In the American western mindset, there are no filters to catch this kind of demonic deception, because the American theological framework is logic-based. It is not spirit-based. It takes the filter of Spirit to capture and to measure demonic activity, because there is a particular gift given to you by the Holy Spirit called the gift of the discerning of spirits. 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, speaks of gifts of the Spirit. [Insert 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, **to another discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*]

We are going to find, now, a much greater need to activate that gift of the Spirit, which is already in us by the Holy Spirit, to become a filter, to capture the attempts of the enemy to come in through activities that have been ignorantly permitted. If you permit the enemy, ignorantly, to do anything, he will take full advantage, just as if you had willfully and intentionally done so, because his game is deception. When he succeeds at it, he will fully avail himself of the total opportunity to do so, and don't kid yourself to the contrary.

- 3) Finally, the third avenue through which the enemy invades you... But for review, the first is trauma—in every case it sets aside your reason. Your emotions come up and the enemy waylays you, ambushes you, in the sphere of your emotions, because he understands that is how you make decisions. He has that understanding because God created him to serve you, but his rebellion against

God removed the potential of service and turned him into a very knowing enemy, who from the beginning of his engagements with mankind, has utilized this understanding to capture the emotions of the soul and thereby, to co-opt your decision-making, primarily through the insertion of the emotion of fear. The third is—and I will expand upon this, this morning in the lectures—activities that affect you, which activities were introduced to you before you had the conscious awareness that these things were even a part of your life. They come to you from the womb. What it does is it takes advantage of the failure of parents to provide the proper guardianship over you, even in the womb. By sayings, by statements, or by action, they make you available to your enemy through the process of neglect.

I cannot tell you how many people I have been dealing with who understand they are hitting a ceiling and have done everything they could to break through to the next layer, and they simply cannot. They have gone to life coaches, they have gone to pastors, they have gone to everybody, and it does not change. There is this invisible wall that they cannot seem to break through. That is because you are looking for something that you do not have the ability to recall. It actually took place before you had any conscious experiential basis to which you could subsequently refer. I can tell you half a dozen examples that are a variation upon this particular theme that I am about to introduce. That is, not everyone grew up in a family of affluence. In fact, many people here grew up very poor. One of the things that seems to drive you to succeed is the emotion of wanting to be relevant. Now, you could be talked about to that issue. Someone could say to you, “Oh, you have already achieved so much more than you ever thought,” but that does not satisfy. You keep pressing because there is something else you have not tapped into. That something may be this: that when your mother announced to your father, assuming he was around, and your mother announced to your father that she was pregnant with you, his response might well have been, “Oh no, what are we going to do with another mouth to feed?” The spirit of the unwanted child, or the demonic spirit of rejection, came into you in that moment in the womb. I know what you are saying: “Isn’t that

blending psychology with Scripture?" Not at all. This is solidly biblical. I would never do that. My doctorate says I am a reasonable man (chuckling). I have to see it in the Scriptures. I have no interest whatsoever in standing up in front of the people of God trying to impress them with esoterica. It means nothing to me. If I were going to be relevant in that way, I would have gone and made money. I have nothing against making money. It is not money that is evil; it is when you come to believe that money is the solution to everything that it becomes the root of all that is evil, because it supplants the place of God.

Do you remember the story? Of course you do. Elizabeth went up to see Mary. Elizabeth, by then, was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. What happened when Elizabeth and Mary were standing by each other? John leaped in his mother's womb! (Reference Luke 1:41) Now, that is before any matter of sin could derail the functioning of this child in the womb. This child in the womb had a spirit, that ruled a soul, that ruled a body. It is not the spirit that leaps; it is the body. But, the command to leap came from the soul to the body, and he leaped in the womb. Why? Was this just an active day? No. The Scriptures recorded it as special. The Scriptures meant to say that the being of this fetus was profoundly affected by the proximity to the Lord, without any reference to the five senses because the womb cut off all the senses. It was not time for that. Here is the other thing about that: Thirty years later, John by now has made quite a name for himself. All Judea is going out to him to be baptized, and he is baptizing, perhaps thousands of people. Then, this man comes to Jesus and as he approaches Jesus, Jesus said, "Baptize me." It was obvious why Jesus was there, because that was the line to be baptized by John. So He said, "Baptize Me," and John said to Him, "Why are You coming to me to be baptized? I need to be baptized by You." Jesus said, "Permit it to be so now, because it becomes you and is appropriate for you and Me to fulfill the requirements of righteousness." John baptized Him. (Reference Matthew 3:13-15)

Now here is the thing, this is one of those stories we read, and because we have read it for so long, because we have heard it for so long in church, we do not get the details. Until the Spirit of God opens these things to us, we do not know what we are

looking at. We normally assume that when Jesus approached John and said to John, “Baptize me,” that John saw Jesus coming toward him and John said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Then Jesus said, “Baptize me,” and John said, “No, I cannot do that. You are the greater and I am the lesser.” No. That is not what happened. From John’s own words I quote, when John said, “Behold, the Lamb of God...” it was not in that moment. It was 41 days later. Here is the event. Jesus was passing by, the Scriptures say, and John beheld Him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” And he added this, “I would not have not known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptize said to me that the One on whom the Holy Spirit descends and remains, He it is who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire, and I testify that this is the One.”

When did the Holy Spirit descend and remain upon Jesus? After He came up out of the water. According to Matthew 4:1, immediately as He did—there was no exchange between Him and John because immediately—He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. There was no exchange between them on that day. Do you know what “immediately” means? Immediately. Jesus went up into the wilderness and at the end of the 40 days, He was tempted by the devil. On the forty-first day, He came back out of the wilderness and was going past where John was baptizing. John saw Him and pointed Him out and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God...,” and he said, “I would not have known Him...” Now to me, that is quantifiable evidence that John did not act out of favoritism. How, then, was John able to say, “I need to be baptized by You” before John baptized Him? I submit to you, the baby leapt in the womb a second time. His soul acted thirty years later on the information that it originally got thirty years before. Your soul will retain the knowledge of things that were spoken over you or that you experienced while you were in the womb. That is why there are times when you cannot get your arms around the thing that is so bothersome to you—that knocks the legs out from under you. You know what? It is not your fault. You cannot reach in there and change anything. Your parents were given the authority to rule over you, and when they neglected you or abandoned you by their words, they empowered your enemy to come and seize that emotion, and from the time you were born you were struggling

with this thing. It has to be biblical or I won't believe it. I have to see it for myself in the Scripture.

Here is another example. Jacob came out of the womb grabbing the heel of his brother—always wrestling for whatever he got. He continued that pattern of life. The word “Jacob” (*Yaakov* in Hebrew), heel-grabber, means a supplanter—one who lives by schemes, one who supplants, one who gets his way by deception. He deceived his brother, and in that deception, purchased at a bargain the inheritance of his brother. He deceived his father to perfect the blessing, by wearing Esau's clothes, and appearing to be hairy like Esau to his blind father. Jacob deceived his father, Isaac. He met his match, however, when he connected with his uncle, Laban. Laban taught him things about deceiving. Laban got fourteen years out of Jacob. (chuckling) Jacob kept it up until he even attempted to grab the heel of God, which is not a good thing. It won't work for you. He received the blessing and he received a name change, but he had to walk with a limp from then on. His life was totally predisposed in terms of the emotions of his soul. The quality of his activities were predictably disclosed until he wrestled with God, which of course is a metaphor for the saving of the soul. You get a different identity when the Spirit of God confirms your sonship.

So, the soul makes decisions on the basis of emotions, and your enemy seeks to co-opt your decision-making by instilling fear into you and unsettling you. I know the question in your mind is, “How do I rise above the schemes of my enemy in which I feel entrapped?” If you identify with what I said about the fact that you find yourself often driven to prove yourself, long after you are well established by your activities, then there should be no further requirement of proof. How do you break loose from that control? The answer is: You were given the Holy Spirit, who among His gifts to you is the discerning of spirits. What will help you is if you fasted and prayed and wrote down what the Holy Spirit showed you is the source of your being oppressed. Fasting puts down the soul, elevates the spirit, so there is a heightened awareness between your spirit mind and the Holy Spirit, and He will show you things.

A woman came to see me, probably a month ago or so. She said, “I am hitting this

ceiling. I do not know what to do.” I gave her that instruction, and she came back a few days later. I asked, “What did the Lord show you?” She answered, “He showed me I was a fighter—that my problem was that I was a fighter.” And then she added, “I have always been that way because I came out of the womb with the cord wrapped around my neck and I was turning blue, and all my life I have been fighting for survival.” We commanded the spirit of strangulation to leave her. I saw her a week or two after that—no, they (she and her husband) called me to give me the report. She had been a different person since.

This is a time where God is making the Bride ready. If we are going to arise and lead nations by the light and glory of the appearing of God, when your enemy comes, he should not be able to find anything in you. So, this is the time for the clean-up of the soul—if you like, this is the time for the saving of the soul. Do get the rest of the lectures, because I will go through more specifically, procedures for the eviction of the enemy utilizing the grace, the weapon, of the discerning of spirits.