

EXPRESSIONS 2017 | session 9

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We established in the first set of teachings the reality of what God created when He created the heavens and the earth. We looked more intently, in the first portion of the meetings, into what God put in the earth, observing that the earth was predisposed by God at creation to host divine intentions. We focused on some of those divine intentions such as: that God created the earth to be able to receive herbs yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, signaling to us in the most obvious and unhidden way that He had created the earth to receive His seed in the person of a man. A man would come in two appearances. One would be the natural man who, as a seed, would contain within himself the entire human race. Then, a spiritual Man would come who was a seed who contained in Himself, before creation, the right to receive and reconcile spirits to God in the form of a spiritual Man—many members, one body. This was known in God for long ages past. The heavens were created—as we considered the side-by-side comparisons of the earth, and why it was created and what it hosts—the heavens were created primarily to host the authority, rule, and order that is inherent in the deep, in the nature of God, so that creation would not be established without the purposes of God, that were anticipated from before the foundations of the world, being empowered to function as God intended.

All things being equal, it should have simply been that way. But we have an enemy, and the enemy challenged the righteousness of God in the selection of man as His heir, because the enemy judged that his status as a servant should have earned him the reward of being God's heir. Servants think like that. They do not understand that the purpose for which man was created was different than the purposes for which the angelic were created.

The angelic, in its totality, was created to serve man, as servants. All angels are ministering servants (Reference Hebrews 1:14), but man was created to represent God. Therefore, man was created as a son who would have—if you would allow me to say it this way with all of its inaccuracies and limitations—man was created with a spirit that had the same DNA as God, because his spirit came out of the person of God. A servant may represent you in respect to particular tasks, but a son is configured, an offspring is configured, to create the knowledge of who you are, even if you are not present. So if you see the Son, he is configured to show you the Father, and you will see the Father.

The core of the gospel of Jesus might be summarized in this: “I only do what I see My Father doing;” and, “If you see the Son, you will see the Father,” which is why God has never been required to appear except by representation, because if the Father appears alongside the Son, it negates the necessity for a son. You may simply look to the Father. If you have *this* and this, and *this* is a representation of this, why do you need *this*, if you can see this on your own? In truth, God is too vast to appear in anything created. The heavens cannot contain Him, nor can the earth. His presence fills everything in every way, because everything that is, came out of the deep, came out of Him.

God set up all of creation as a deputy through whom God may be seen. It is the intention of God. That being so, it should not be a mystery to us that no one has at any time ever seen God. It should equally true that one may say, “If you have seen Me, you have seen My Father.” If He never departed from the mandates of His Father, whether by character or by action, it is not a boastful thing for one to accurately represent another if your purpose for being is to accurately represent the other. In fact, the only time that the will of the other can be fulfilled is when you are actually accurately representing Him, if that is His Will.

All of creation was established as a type and shadow by which the invisible God would become as visible as He elected to be revealed as, within creation. The reason that we can explore, infinitely, the nature of God, and that beyond time and space, is because not all of who God is, is on display in the earth or in the heavens. What is on

display are the things He meant to show us about Himself. The good news is that He elected to show us the essence of what is important to Him, which is His nature and His character—His personhood. That is on display in creation, and all creation supports that display. The only way in which God may be seen as He is and experienced as He is, apart from the limitations of types and shadows, is within a son. It is the only way.

So, the angels were created to serve the sons, but they were never created in anticipation of being able to represent the Father, as a son.

⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? (Hebrews 1:5a NKJV)

⁸But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. [The scepter is the symbol of measurement of rule within a kingdom—“righteousness of the scepter of Your kingdom.” It is a symbol of power and authority, a symbol of rule.]

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Hebrews 1:8-9 NKJV)

Everything should have worked flawlessly, and did work flawlessly, until an encounter between the enemy and the son—the enemy of God and the enemy of the son, encountering the son in the garden of God.

Now, the background of understanding the nature of angels is important for understanding how the soul is, how it functions, and what may influence the soul. According to Hebrews, chapter 1, God made all angels as ministering servants. The construction of man was and is that God gave him a spirit out of the person of God when God breathed into the formed earth, the breath of life. This was an impartation, not only of life—the ability to breathe, respire—God gave him the fullness of life. Life

can never be envisioned to be full or complete apart from connection to God, because *in Him* is life, and that life is the light of men.

The Spirit of God is a life-giving Spirit. So when man received an impartation of spirit from God, he received more than the ability to breathe. He received, among other endowments to his spirit, a consciousness of God, being so firmly attached to who God is, as a son. Your conscience is not another part of your being. Your conscience is your awareness of the presence of God. When you do not choose to retain an awareness of God at the core of your decision-making, then your mind malfunctions because your assumptions on reality are fundamentally flawed. If it keeps on in that direction, God will have no choice but to give you over to a reprobate mind, because of the degeneration that occurs in the human being when he loses connection to his Creator. His conscience becomes seared, so he does things that ought ordinarily to shock his conscience.

How did he get there? This perfect design where spirit ruled over soul, ruled over the body. That had to do with the activities of the enemy. Those activities took full advantage of both the awareness of the structure of the human being and the understanding of the vulnerability of the human that the enemy possessed. As a ministering servant, God created him to serve the human soul. He was not allowed to serve the human spirit, because that is the exclusive domain of the Spirit of God. The enemy does not understand the human spirit because it is not like his spirit. The spirit of sonship was imparted to man in this impartation that God gave him. Man received an endowment of being that could always be accurately aligned to God, and when it is, man is called son.

That is not a domain into which the enemy has ever been allowed, because he has no competence to function in that domain. He is a different kind of spirit than the spirit that is within a man. He has the spirit of a servant, not the spirit of representation, because that spirit is the spirit of a son. The Father may commit all judgments to the Son and judges nothing Himself. But, He had to display the Son on the earth as perfect before He would commit all judgments regarding the earth into His hands, so that we may know of the integrity and the honor of God Himself.

There was a time when the custodians of that model, called Israel, and of humans themselves, the custodians of them were the prophets. God spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, because they had the Spirit of the Lord upon them in prophetic understanding. Prophecy is inherently the ability to engage the heavens. It is a gift from God that allows the human to engage the wisdom of the heavens and the speakings of God.

Before the Son came into the world, there was a manifestation of the speakings of God in form of the prophetic sound. But once the Son came, all prophecy was committed to Him. So much so, that the Spirit of the Lord is the Spirit of prophecy. He is the summation of all the sayings of God. Whoever prophecies today does so as the mouthpiece of the Father through the Son. Every prophetic utterance, whether directly or indirectly, will display the glory and the authority of Christ, and will bring glory and honor to the Father. That is the measure of the prophetic.

The prophetic is never conveyed in the spirit of narcissism or soothsaying. You do not tell people a sooth—what they want to hear—and you do not use prophecy to promote yourself. It is the clean and whole manifestations of the speakings of God through the anointed One, the Son. That is what Hebrews 1: 1 and 2 mean, in principal part, to me. The enemy was not allowed to engage, and has never been allowed to engage, the human spirit. He is incompetent to engage the human spirit. In fact, what he does is he observes the human spirit acting out of revelation from God and tries to turn that into sayings of sooth and into sayings of manipulation. He cannot preempt the sayings of God, which is why God lets him to say whatever he wants to, and lets him even say it first, because the falsehood is not a preemption. It is exposed when the true sayings of God are revealed.

The enemy was never allowed into the spirit. His design to serve the saints is exclusively as it regards the human soul. Occasionally, they will be useful to protect the human body (angels would be). But, if the enemy could simply attack us bodily at any point, he would wipe us out. He has to work through the soul. Typically, whenever there are things manifested in the human body, it is because his soul is under the influence of the enemy. The order of man in creation is his spirit ruling over his soul,

ruling over his body.

The Spirit has a mind to it, and the soul has mind to it. The Spirit has a will to it, and the soul has a will to it. The Spirit has a heart to it, and the soul has a heart to it.

We normally refer to the heart as the emotions, but the Scriptures do not refer to emotions. You will not find it in a search of the Scriptures—perhaps unless you are talking of a more modern translation, which most of them are interpretive translations, not actual translations, but interpretations according to the popular vernacular of what God at one time said. It is important that you have an accurate translation of the Scriptures, not merely an interpretive one. In an accurate translation of the Scriptures, you will never find the word “emotions.” You will find “the heart” because that is more revealing, because men judge the outward appearances, but God judges the heart. That heart that is within the spirit...

Now, the reason that they are mirrors of each other is because God designed the soul to live under the rule of the spirit. So if the soul had extra parts or different parts from the spirit, there would be an incompatibility and there would not be an exact one-to-one match, and therefore, not the ability for the spirit to rule the soul.

The mind of the spirit and the mind of the soul both serve a function of determining reality. That is the purpose of any mind, whether it is the mind of the soul or the mind of the spirit.

Depending on your view of reality, your will will be employed in the economy of support for your vision—for your determination of what is reality. The will speaks of power. Obviously, the source of power here would be extremely important. The soul may be empowered by the Spirit of God, the *dunamis*, the dynamic nature of the Spirit of God; or, it might be empowered by the strength and abilities that you have to manage the world around you, whether by manipulation, controlling others, by threats, or by who you can associate with, how you can put together resources to achieve the ends that you desire. So, the soul has an economy that may be brought forward to advance the view that is in the soul that is different than the economy of

the spirit. The economy of the spirit is what we have been talking about: all the things that God has put in creation, both in the heavens and in the earth, to support a son. So much so, that an accurately aligned son may command legions of angels, if necessary, in his defense; or, he may implead the miraculous, which is the outpouring of resources of heaven into the space of humankind to serve the purposes of God. The miraculous is part of the economy that is available to empower the spirit. Typically, however, we want the economy of the miraculous to support our ideas, and we are routinely disappointed when God does not dance to our tune.

The accuracy of alignment is critical to importing the economy of heaven into time and space. Which is why, although God speaks to us through types and shadows, He would have us understand what the reality is. The reality is: as Christ is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, we understand what He means by what He said. The reality that is in the mind of the soul and the reality that is in the mind of the spirit are empowered from different realms. That is why the soul needs to be under the rule of the spirit. The reality that is in the mind of the spirit comes to the mind of the spirit because of its connection to the Holy Spirit. So the same reality that is in God is possible to be in you, because your mind may be configured to the mind of Christ. That is the mind of your spirit. When the mind of the Spirit of God is in you, possessing the same mind of Christ, one of the greatest changes in your understanding and in your reality is that you are a son of God. The first indication that you are born of divine parentage is when the Spirit of God raises you from the dead, and you cry out in this world, in time and in space, you cry out in acknowledgement of a different identity. The mind of the Holy Spirit testifies with the mind of your spirit, and the conveyance is of a different parentage—that you are born of God, and you did not receive a spirit of fear, but of adoption, by whom you cry out “Father, Father.” Your first words as a newborn are, “Father, Father,” when you are born of the Spirit.

A different reality occupies the corridors of your mind when you are born again, and so your view of what is real changes. Understandably, if you used to have that mind as Adam did, and lost it—went out of your mind—and now you are governed by a different perspective on reality, you are going to act according to that different

perspective. The importance of this is, even though you are a believer, if the mind of your soul does not submit to the mind of your spirit, whenever it fails to submit to the mind of the spirit, you will revert to seeing yourself vulnerable and you will act out of fear, and your enemy will capture you in that device. Your body will actually manifest the conditions that frighten you—your perspective on reality that is inaccurate. Diseases that haunt the human body often are the result, not always, but often are the result of a failure to have the proper mind, proper view of reality.

There is a mind in the spirit that is informed by the mind of God—you viewing, then, reality from the viewpoint of the throne of God. And there is a mind that is in the soul that has been compromised by only viewing reality from the standpoint of creation. Adam saw himself as a creature, not as a son, and he recognized that all creatures had to have some form of clothing, whether it was hair on their skins, or camouflage, or whatever. So, he elected to put clothes on his skin.

Before that, he was clothed in the glory of God. He was clothed in the glory of his Father. He was not naked, but he did not have a stitch on. That is why God said to Adam, “Who told you you were naked?” He was not naked. He was clothed in the glory of God, for man is the image and likeness of the Father. If a bright light is always around you, people do not see you; they see the light. It is possible to be clothed in the light. It was their native habitation. They were not naked, though they did not have a stitch on their bodies, for they were clothed in the glory of God. He lost that reality and began to stitch things together to try to cover the darkness that had come into his world.

So, moving along. There are two different realities occupying the mind, two different wills empowering the vision of reality, and two different hearts out of which the motivation for your activities comes. The heart is truly the wellspring of human activity. That is why what is in your heart is how God judges you. The angels were empowered by God in their being created as servants, to serve the human soul. They know the construction of the human soul. They know that the decisions you make in your soul are informed by your heart, by your emotions. They know that. You cannot outwit the devil in regards to that. That is where he is competent. He was designed to know your

soul. So, he understands that in being, we are governed by what is in our hearts, and the thing that is in hearts are our emotions.

As I said this morning, you make decisions on everything based on your emotions about the thing, but you justify your decisions based on reason. You know the reality that other people share with you, and so, when you present the decisions made out of your emotions, you take into account how their reason works. You tell them your decisions in reasonable terms, as if reason governed your decisions. But the reality is your heart, your emotions, made the decision. You would live that way all the time, and you did live that way all the time when you were a child. There is no reasonableness in a child. A child cries at the oddest times. A child cries when the parents are trying to sleep, because their emotions rule them entirely and they take in account nothing other than their needs at the time. Since their ability to communicate their needs is limited to crying, they will cry. That is their imperative.

A simple example, and I used this earlier today: In my experience, men make decisions on the basis of how they see themselves positioned in that decision. That is how they make decisions. But they do not expose themselves to that form of vulnerability, so they want to come off looking like they have thought it all through. So, they bought the car for a family of five, and they bought a car that was more about speed and design than it was about utility, because they envisioned driving it by themselves. They will tell their wives, as if their wives are stupid [audience laughing], how the car is going to pay for itself, and how they need it for work because they have to present an image of success, and the like. They decide by their emotions; they justify by their reason. A woman buys a wardrobe and tries to convince her husband of how much money she saved him. Before she styles the garments, she will show him the price tag. "This was R1200. But look, I got it for *only* R700. I just saved you R500. You should be glad." She did not buy it because of that. She bought it because she saw a particular view of herself clothed in that garment. After she convinces you that she saved you all this money, she will then try it on and ask you what you think [more laughing by audience]. She already sold you on it. Here is wisdom. Accept the decision and do not let your comments about how she looks in it reflect the pain you

are feeling in your wallet (more laughter). Mooi man. Eish!

I told my wife that I was very impressed by her charity toward me, in that she saved me so much money. But I said to her, “That is difficult for you to keep saving me so much money. In the future, do not bother to save me money.” (Laughter) While we are on that subject, if she ever asks you if you think she should lose weight, do not step into the trap (chuckling). Say to her... (Someone else answers: “I love you just the way you are...”) Wisdom is known by her children. That being an actual situation, I replied, “Well, if you are speaking about health issues, then I will, of course, support your decision. But if it is anything else, it is... (Sam gestures to the gentleman who said.... “I love you the way you are”). She said, “Sam Soleyn—that is how she refers to me when she wants me to know that she is serious about something—Sam Soleyn, you dodged that one beautifully.” I said to her, “Wisdom is known by her children.”

The human soul makes decisions on the basis of emotions, but justifies the decisions on the basis of reason. Now, your enemy knows that, so he reaches out to grab you, to snatch you, to control your emotions. That is the choke point of the human being: emotions, because out of the heart flows the issues of life. The enemy does not try to subvert your will. He knows that if he captures you in your emotions, your will will follow. This is how he binds a strongman. He tries to capture your emotions, and he has certain things working for him.

There are three ways that the enemy can capture your emotions. There may be more, but these are the three ways that are apparent to me. He can enter the corridors and the rooms of your emotions and distort them, corrupting them and predisposing your responses by these three methods:

- 1) **Trauma:** When you experience trauma, the government of your emotions by your reason is immediately suspended. Any time you are in a traumatic incident, your emotions arise quickly and overpower the government of your reason. Your reason was given to rule your emotions. The moment trauma hits, it sets aside your reason and the emotions are available. Typically, trauma brings with it the potential of fear. Your enemy is apt to install the program of

fear into the emotional base of your soul. Now, years later, he may bring up again and again and again, similar fears through different experiences. There are times when you feel like you have made great progress and times when you wonder if you have progressed at all, because the emotions are feelings that are more powerful, typically, than any influence your reason may assert over your soul. It defines reality, even if it is not so.

Men and women experience, dealing with husbands and wives, and realizing that their sudden outbursts of anger or their sudden dive into depression has to do with something other than the discussion they were having. But they do not understand how the soul works, so they then retreat in self-defense rather than engage the emotions of the soul with the truth. Marriage is really that human circumstance that finally allows you to have hope. When you undertake marriage, you are doing so in hope—in hope of having a social life with another person, from which you are able to escape the painful aspects of life before that—because it begins with an assumption of love. Whereas, you may have grown up in houses where only pain and terror were regular visitors. Marriage is a risky thing, because you are putting all of your hope to be healed in an environment that begins with an assumption of love. But if you do not understand the soul, the devices of your enemy for your control simply follow you into the marriage. When you are relaxed enough in it to say what you are feeling and thinking, all those ancient things will erupt. If you are not willing to hear from your husband or wife, and if you are not willing to stand your ground in respect to what is true, then blame flies back and forth and you begin to feel emotionally isolated and emotionally rejected. Then, you begin to look for the exits, and you will justify it by building a case against the other.

That is the anatomy of discord. But truly, it is because, when you have suffered traumatic things, the emotions of your soul are open to being captured, so that your view of reality is interpreted, not by your reason anymore, but by your feelings. At that juncture, feelings become facts. In fact, feelings become facts that are more deeply entrenched, and you are more committed to those “facts,”

if you like, than you are to any sort of objective analysis. So, one of the things that the enemy uses to invade your soul is trauma.

- 2) Another is **your ignorance of the devil's schemes**, for you simply do not know. But because no one is really watching over your soul, you give place to the things that seem right to you, and you are unsuspecting in regard to the enemy's schemes. That is the Scripture that says, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Psalm 14:12). And the other Scripture that says, "*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*" (Jeremiah 10:23). But you will do that anyway, and sometimes that is done because of simple ignorance of the devil's schemes. It seems good to you—the way that seems right.

In America right now, evangelical churches are stumbling over each other to have classes in yoga for young women, primarily. Young men participate, but it is primarily something among young mothers who are trying to "get back into shape" after giving birth, and so on. It seems right, but the ways thereof are death, because all the practices of yoga—all of the stretches, the exercises, and the like, and the quieting of the mind—are ways to avoid the governance of the human's emotions by reason. Whether Ayurvedic yoga, the Om—the breathing in, or Tantric yoga from northern India—from which we get the word "tantrum" where you shout and scream until your senses go off-line—all forms make your emotions available to your enemy. Interestingly, one of the common stretches or exercises in yoga is called the "serpent position." It is where you put your hands on the floor, and your feet and legs stretched out behind you, and you mimic the position of a walking serpent. Where do you think that came from? That is recorded in Genesis. It is not accidental. It is not just a posture that reminds you of a serpent. No. Because, the actual essence of yoga is the belief that the serpent power, the kundalini force, lies at the base of the spine, and these exercises and the direction of a yogi is designed to cause the release of serpent power at the base of the spine, the kundalini force, to come up

through the chakra points in the human body and enter the mind to bring enlightenment in the head. How many young American mothers have any idea about that? Yet, the churches are encouraging the practice of yoga in their buildings, because it gets a crowd to come. Every means of merchandising to get people to come in.

When you suspend the governance of your mind over your emotions, you are playing on the cosmic highway without instructions. I am prophesying: You are going to see a whole new wave of the demonic that neither this generation, nor their fathers had known, coming up in the American church. Now, I am by no means against exercising. I exercise myself. I am not in any way against fitness. But you must not be unwise, and you must not be unwary of the devil's schemes, because he comes disguised as an angel of light, of enlightenment. That is the second way in which your soul's emotions might be accessed. The first is by trauma. The second is by ignorance of the devil's schemes.

- 3) This is probably the one that should be most interesting to you. The third is **by generational iniquity**. You see, God put parents to watch over the emotions of children, because children are incapable of exercising self-rule until a certain point, until a time set by their father, because the child is unable to exercise rule and govern their emotions, and because God has set the parents in authority over the child and requires the children to obey their parents in the Lord. Whenever a parent or parents, by their words or their actions, neglect their post to watch over the soul of the child, they provide the demonic with an opportunity for entrance.

These things I have been dealing with in the last four months. In the last four months, I have had an incredible spate of experiences of this kind. I asked the Lord, "Why am I, seemingly, being taken back to a point of ministry from which I have been gone for years?"

In the early 1990s, I was doing quite a bit of work in the country of Mexico. I encountered practically every form of the demonic, because Mexico is a country that

is not a western country. Mexico's framework, as a people, is of the Mayans and the Aztecs. People were profoundly demonically controlled, more like ancient Babylon. This is where they offered human sacrifices, pretty routinely. The demonic was pretty transparent, pretty obvious, and pretty much throughout the society. God took me to Mexico for a period of maybe ten years, where I went regularly—multiple times a year, and I encountered fierce demonic resistance to the Kingdom of God. I would awaken at 2:00 in the morning with the knowledge, with a clear sense of an oppressive demonic presence in my room, for example. I was a young apostle in those days, and I was required to fight back and establish the Kingdom in that place. That was what God was doing then. I do not have time to go into much of that.

Except, on one occasion a demonic spirit in a woman manifested in front of me and was trying to choke me. I did not know what I was doing. I looked at this manifested demonic presence reaching for my throat, and I am thinking, "I wonder if this is some kind of an epileptic fit?" (chuckling). Because I process things through reason, everything had to have a reason. The Lord said, "No. It is a demonic spirit manifesting." Then, all of a sudden, I was wide awake! The Spirit of the Lord led me through it, and we cast out the demon. So I was born in that season without much preparation. In a ten year period, I saw pretty much anything you can see in the realm of the demonic. I left that years ago, as I moved on from there.

But all of a sudden, between January and August of this year, in an increasing volume, I was being taken back to environments in which the demonic was obviously present, but present in some of the strongest believers—people who were not going to turn back. In the 1990s and the years up to that, I was dealing with people who did not know Christ, or who barely knew Christ, in environments that were laden with the demonic. But here, I started to deal with demonic presences in some of the most committed believers. I wondered about that. When it first started, I thought it was a one-off thing, a random thing, and I reverted to what I used to do back then. I began to notice that it was not a bunch of spirits that needed to go; it was typically one spirit. It seemed like all the rest of the ground had been cleared out, so much so, that those ancient occupants of the human emotions were the things we had to deal with.

It came about very quickly that these believers had all come to the conclusion that there was a ceiling over their heads, and they could not go any further. It frustrated them, because their prayers were not working—meaning, removing the cloud in their heads—and they were physically suffering, some of them, from the consequences of these things. I had to go back and ask the Lord, “What is this that I am dealing with? I do not understand.” The Lord said to me, “You are dealing with things that came in while they were in the womb, and they do not have any idea. If they knew what it was, they could deal with it, but they do not have any idea because it came in while they were in the womb.” I thought, “That is dancing on the edge. I do not know if I want to believe that.” Because, I have a doctorate that says that I am a reasonable man. Going back prenatally seemed retrogression that I should not indulge.

So, I asked the Lord to show me in the Scriptures, because if it does not pass the test of Scripture, I am not interested. The letter and the Spirit must align before I have a view of it that I am going to present, or feel comfortable with, or feel settled in. The Lord reminded me of the story in the Bible—in the New Testament, in the Gospels—of how Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, went up to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, when Elizabeth carrying John, who was about six months old at the time, clearly prenatal, leapt in his mother’s womb. I saw that and it started something, so I pursued it. The Lord showed me something else. Thirty years later, Jesus comes to John, who was baptizing by the River Jordan, and says to John, “Baptize Me.” Now, all Judea, it said, had gone out to John, so he was baptizing thousands of people. But this Man stands in front of John and says, “Baptize Me,” and John immediately goes off the rails. He said, “Why are you coming to me to be baptized?” Well, indeed, everybody else had come to John to be baptized, and he did not have any objections. He said, “Why are you coming to me to be baptized?” Jesus said, “Permit it to be so now, because it becomes us, you and Me, to fulfill the requirements of righteousness.” And John baptized Him.

The narrative continues:

Matthew 3:13-17 (NKJV) ¹³ *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.* ¹⁴ *And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need*

to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵ *But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

¹⁶ *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

So there is a declaration from the throne of God concerning the Man, Jesus Christ, declaring Him to be the Son of God and confirming Him by the descent of the Holy Spirit. This is the picture of the Word being hovered over by the Spirit in creation. The antecedent being both in heaven: the seven Spirits of God before the throne of God, upon which throne sits the Word, the eternal Word, in the person of the preeminent Christ; and before that, the Spirit hovering over the waters, which are the Word, in the deep, "*by the washing with water through the Word*" (Ephesians 5:26), is what the Scriptures say. So, John saw the Spirit descend on Him, but *immediately*—they had no further conversation— immediately the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. That is Matthew chapter four.

In the way we have viewed that Scripture, what we have thought is this: Jesus came to John to be baptized. And as John saw Him coming, John said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." That is *not* how it happened. From John's own words, this is what John said: In the context in which John says, "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:19), John also said, right after that:

John 1:31-34 (NKJV) ³¹ *I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."*

³² *And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending,*

and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

Question: When did John see the Spirit descend and remain on Him—before John baptized Him, or after? No question that it was after. He had come up out of the water when the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove, and that is when John knew who He was, not before.

So what motivated John to say to Jesus in that exchange, “I need to be baptized by You.”? The same leaping in the womb of his mother, leapt in his soul again. That is how he knew. The same emotion that caused his body to leap—now the soul controls the activities of the body, and the spirit controls the activities of the soul. The exact emotion he felt in the womb, thirty years later, exactly predisposed him to acknowledging the greater in his presence without any other proof.

So what am I telling you? I am telling you that things that happen to you in the womb will predispose your emotions, years later. If you are looking for proof or connection to some activity that explains why you are suddenly afraid, or why you are suddenly uncomfortable, or why suddenly this wave of depression comes on you, and you cannot find it in your memory banks, it is highly likely that you are hitting this ceiling that represents the way your emotions have been controlled from the time you were in your mother’s womb. It could be for good or ill.

As I have pursued the ministry in this area for five months, really, what began to be apparent to me, fifty or more cases later among the principle leadership of our house, was that God was bringing to the light ancient schemes of the enemy planted by a variety of ways into the souls of God’s people who are not going to turn back. They are not flaky. They have great responsibilities in the House of God. They discharge these responsibilities, but they also have to fight off the spirit of depression, anxiety, worry, and fear. As we went into that, what I began to see was not quite a pattern, but several things that were essentially outcome determinative. It was that words were spoken over the fetus in the womb, or activities took place while children were either in the womb or being born, that created such emotions of unrest in them, that years

later when the enemy would trigger similar emotions by circumstances in their environment, they would behave in this predisposed fashion, but they did not know why.

This one woman came to me, and I asked her to fast and to pray—put down the soul, elevate the spirit, so God will speak to you, Spirit to spirit—and to write down whatever came to her. When she came back she said the Lord told her that she was a fighter. At the drop of a hat, she would pick a fight with anybody if she felt contained or threatened. Then, she said something remarkable. She said, “I guess I have been that way since I came out of the womb, because I was born with the cord around my neck three times, and I was blue when I came out of my mother’s womb. I suppose I have always been struggling for life.”

Anytime, emotionally, she felt controlled or contained, she would go into a fighting stance because, internally, she felt like she was being strangled. That was the trauma that disturbed her soul profoundly and knocked her out every time she would reach this place where she wanted to break through. She hated it—that she was a contentious person. She said, “I know it is wrong, but I cannot seem to get over it.” We drove out the spirit of pugilism, which is a fighting spirit, and spoke life to her. I have checked on her, and she is good as new.

I could tell you many other stories like these, but I would like for Sheeba Varghese to come up and tell a story that relates to her. Some of you heard her this morning, together with her husband, Santosh. You know that she carries a grace in a unique fashion. Both of you come on up, please. I will resume this message tonight. They will have the last word. Actually, Peter will have the last word. It was her idea to share this, and I encouraged her to do so.

Sheeba Varghese:

This will be just a little vulnerable, I would say, but sometimes in our vulnerability, healing comes for those who are the hearers of it. Earlier this year, well, for the past couple of years I have been suffering in my body, physically, different things. I have

realized that when I am going through something in my body, there is something prophetically that the Lord is showing me regarding the greater Body.

Earlier this year, I had a gallstone issue. I did not know it was gallstones. I thought it was heartburn, and I did everything to manage that. Then, it came every single month, it would happen again, until I could not do anything more in my own strength. Santosh, being a physician, knew that there was only so much he could do, too; there was nothing else that could happen. He rushed me to the hospital. When I went there, you know, that took some time. After having two children, you have experienced pain, but this pain was beyond anything that I had experienced. It was beyond anything that I could control, beyond anything that I could manage, and being a strong woman, we feel that we can manage many things, we can control many things, we are able to do many things. And then the Lord will bring you to a place where there is nothing you can do in your own strength. It is the training and the discipline of the Lord on our lives, and it is good. When I went to the hospital, they explained to me that it was gallstones in my gall bladder. One was stuck in the duct, and the other in the sac, and they had to remove it. The next day when I talked to the physician, I asked him, "What is the difference between a gall stone and a kidney stone, because both cause pain?" He said, "One is a mineral stone. Gall stone is caused by bacteria." As I was lying in bed, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Sheeba, Satan wishes to sift you like wheat." I heard it twice.

When Sant came in, I said, "Honey, this is what I hear and I am submitting this to you. And I want you to share with me whatever the Lord is telling you about me. Is there anything in my life that I need to correct? Is there something that I need to put right?"

That is the other part of this: submission. We could say it in words, but when we are actually saying—"Would you please speak into my life? Would you share with me what you are seeing?"—it takes another level of dying to do that. So that, along with Papa Sam, I also shared with him what I had heard. By that time, my body was already weak. I was pretty much at a fasting state. I was not really eating any food at that point.

The Lord started to deposit into my spirit the things that I had held on for quite some time: whether it was my value and my worth as a woman, growing up in an Indian family where you were supposed to maybe do X, Y, and Z, and if you do not follow those things...; whether it was decisions where you were told that you must do X, Y, and Z, and you follow through because you are the oldest and you want to honor your parents.

Whatever that might be, and I would encourage you to think about what that might be for your life, because this is what was coming up for me. It was an opportunity for me to bring that forward to say, "This is what I am hearing from the Lord. This is what God is showing me in my life." I realized, first comes the awareness of what is going on, and now it is the opportunity to be delivered of it. These stones were an obstruction in the duct. It was not going to go in, and it was not going to go out; it was just stuck. So, the one with the authority had to come in and crush it, and it was taken out of my belly button. That is what happened that night, that day in the hospital, and spiritually that is what happened when I confessed what was going on, or just even sharing the things that the enemy had placed, the lies of the enemy. Papa Sam has been talking about the angels that minister to your soul. Well, the fallen angels, what do they minister? They minister lies. So now, you have taken that lie and it has become like a fortress in your mind. Regardless of you whether you have a husband that is righteous that will tell you, "That is not the truth," you will still push that aside in favor of that lie. That was what was happening. This was an opportunity to say, "No more." We want to burn the gates that the enemy would come through to supplant those types of fears, lies and say, "No more. No more access to me in those areas." That is the deliverance that came through. Acknowledging, then also being submitted to ones with the authority to remove it, and then to start living, not in a different place, but really a different place in my mind.

Santosh Varghese:

I would also say that there was an interesting thing, because she used to have issues with her wedding ring. It was a scaling that would occur, and she would not be able to wear it all the time. It was interesting that it was after all this, there was a complete

healing of her wedding ring area. Whatever the enemy was trying to do to disrupt what was between us, that was also healed in the process, because obviously the Lord has sent us, not as an individual, but as a unit to represent Christ and the Bride to the Body. Anything that can be done to destroy that or to make it an incomplete model, then that would be successful. What I have seen in this process, is also, as Papa Sam mentioned, there are many who are mature believers, who were having these things that were hidden. After going through the process, I actually had some of these going on in my own household, and it was an ability to go through them also and help them through these similar processes, which were limitations in their lives, and stumbling blocks for them, and things that were holding them back from achieving all that the Lord had for them in their lives, and ultimately reaching their destiny.