

TIMES OF REFRESHING NEWSLETTER

RESTORATION  MINISTRIES

January/February/March/April 2024

Just a Reminder!

**By
Wade Urban**

Isa. 60:1-5 – “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. Raise your eyes all around and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried on the hip. Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, and the wealth of the nations will come to you.”

Seven hundred years before Jesus, the prophet was given this vision of the effects of Jesus' Finished Work upon people of faith! The darker the world becomes, the easier it is to see God's glory emanating from those in partnership with Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor.3:16). Jesus' last word from the cross was “Tetelestai!” meaning, “It is finished” (Jn.19:30)! This was not an uncommon word among the Jews. When a person could not pay a debt, the unpaid bill was nailed to a marketplace wall with the debtor's name indicating he was a deadbeat. A close relative – kinsman redeemer (Goel) of the debtor would pay the debt and write “Tetelestai” on the bill indicating the debt was paid in full! Paul refers to this custom in Col.2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Here Paul was referencing the Law of Moses which he referred to as the law of sin and death (see Rom.8:1-2).

Jesus said in Matt. 5:17 – “Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Jesus successfully completed His earthly mission fulfilling the Law's requirements and becoming Sin for mankind so we might become the righteousness of God in Him (see 2 Cor.5:21). Jesus became the curse of the Law (see Deut. 28:15-68) taking the curse's punishment for mankind (see Gal.3:13-14). On the whipping post, His stripes purchased our healing (1 Pet.2:24). The crown of thorns upon Jesus' head took the curse of poverty to the cross as well (see Gen.3:18). Descending into the depths of Hades for three days, Jesus preached to the captives, led “captivity captive” in His resurrection (see Eph.4:8), and made a spectacle of the principalities and powers of darkness, parading them before the cross then relegating them to chains of darkness until the judgment (Col.2:15; 2 Pet.2:4; Jude 6)! John the Revelator saw Jesus Christ in His glory and heard, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (Rev.1:17-18). “Keys” represent ownership! Love owns Hades and declared the death of Death! The Finished Work of Jesus Christ totally reversed the effects of the Fall of Adam, ending all separation and

restoring intimate union in the Trinity (see Jn.14:20; 17:20-23) as Holy Spirit came to make this seamless union complete (see Acts 2:2-4).

What does this Finished Work mean? In every scripture I've referenced concerning Jesus Christ, you were included “in Him”! Paul declared we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world – before Adam's fall (see Eph.1:4), and even dead in our trespasses, we were made alive, raised up, and seated together in Christ in heavenly places (see Eph. 2:4-6)! You were not asked permission nor were you required to do anything to be included! The Kingdom Principle of Representation (see Gen.1:26) means all men were included in the first man – Adam. When Adam rebelled in the garden, all men were in him and suffered the consequences of the curse; that is until another Man – the Last Adam, Jesus Christ became a Man representing all mankind in His sinless life, became Sin, and the curse of the Law, redeeming mankind (Rom.5:17-18)! “Tetelestai” – “It is finished!” The debt was paid in full!

Jesus Christ is our High Priest and Mediator of this New Covenant of Grace enforced by Holy Spirit living in and through those receiving this Gift of Grace – Holy Spirit! This not some distant hope or a delayed event that doesn't happen until God raptures us away, but a here and now reality! The religious spirit is devious causing distraction by putting Holy Spirit in a box where He stopped working and lost His voice in the first century and specializes in distance and delay putting the Covenant Promises of God off into a future dispensation! This lie has resulted in God's people remaining stagnant, sitting on their hands, praying, and waiting for what they already have – seamless union in the Trinity with all God's promises already theirs through Holy Spirit, yet never knowing it nor being told the full extent of Jesus' Finished Work! The truth is that you can never be closer to God than you are right now – He lives within you! Jesus explained the importance of Holy Spirit to His disciples as He told them that He was going where they could not go, but that Another would come who would not just be with them but would be in them leading them into all truth – Holy Spirit (see Jn.14:15-29)! Holy Spirit has come within us with the very ability of Jesus Christ to do His works and the greater works He promised (see Jn. 14:12). The ability of Jesus Christ are ours through the gifts of Holy Spirit – revelation: words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discernment of spirits; communication: tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy; power: faith, gifts of healings, and working of miracles. Holy Spirit also imparts the character of Jesus into our lives through His fruit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (see Gal.5:22-23).

Remember, you were chosen in Him before the world's foundations (see Eph.1:4) and even in your trespasses and sins were made alive together, raised up together, and seated together in Christ in the heavenly places (see Eph.2:4-6)! God's plan was union with His creation from the start and Jesus' Finished Work cleared the way for this seamless union to take place simply by our knowing and receiving it into our lives! Not only that, but Peter declared that in knowing Him we'll realize that through the Spirit we've been given all things pertaining to life and holiness and made to be partakers of His divine nature (see 2 Pet.1:2-4)! Did you know that you can't even pray for something you have not already been given! Paul's New Covenant prayer was for us to receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened to know our purpose, inheritance, and resurrection power of Holy Spirit – to know what is ours here and now (see Eph.1:15-23)! Paul went on to explain in 2 Cor.1:20 that because of God's promises we have been made to be transfer agents of heaven's reality to earth – Difference Makers!

So, what is the Gospel? Is it that Jesus died for our sins, and we now have a future home in heaven? Or is it so much more than that! After

all, we should realize by now that heaven is not some distant goal, but our starting point - we're already seated in heavenly places in Christ (see Eph.2:4-6)! We already have eternal life by knowing the Father and His Son Jesus Christ – by Jesus' own definition (see Jn.17:3)! Now is the time to understand who you really are – your original identity “in Christ” and “be” who He's created you to “be” in partnership with Holy Spirit with all the resources of heaven at your disposal! Oh, yes – you are a joint-heir with Jesus Christ having inherited all heaven's treasure (see Rom.8:17)! Now, go be a Difference Maker! Amen.

CHURCH BULLETIN: Meanness doesn't happen overnight.



PRaise PRaise PRaise REPORTS

HERE ARE PRAISE REPORTS FROM STREAMINGS:

One Monday night Kasey came to class despite an aching back. At the end of class, Wade had people pray for one another. When a lady put her hand on Kasey's back, she felt intense heat and was healed.

A lady who works in a local nursing home said she came to work one day with an aching back. One of the residents in the Alzheimer's Unit put her hand right where it hurt and prayed. She was healed.

My daughter and her family were going into their tornado shelter in Oklahoma. Before they did, she and her daughter joined hands and prayed. They later found out that a couple miles up the road that their subdivision, a tornado was coming toward them. It split and went another direction.



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

This online submission came from *Katie Hottel* from Indiana.

At a fundraising dinner for a school for children with learning disabilities, the father of one student delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school, he said, “My son, Shay, can't learn or understand as other children do. I believe when a mentally or physically disabled child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself by how other people treat that child.”

Then he told this story: “Shay and I had walked past a park where boys Shay knew were playing baseball. He asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew most boys wouldn't want someone like him on their team, but I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him much-needed acceptance in spite of his handicaps.

“I approached one boy and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team, and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth.'

“Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched teary-eyed with warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

“In the bottom of the eighth, Shay's team scored runs but was behind by three. In the top of the ninth, Shay put a glove on and played right field. Though no hits came his way, he was ecstatic to be in the game and on the field. He grinned from ear-to-ear as I waved from the stands.

“In the bottom of the ninth, Shay's team scored again. With two outs and bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base, and Shay was next at bat. At this juncture, do they let him bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat.

“Everyone knew a hit was impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat, much less connect with the ball. However, as he stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing the other team was

putting winning aside for Shay, moved in a few steps to lob the ball softly so Shay could make contact. The first pitch came. Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly.

“As the pitch came, Shay swung and hit a slow ground ball back to the pitcher. The game would be over, but the pitcher picked up the soft grounder. He could've easily thrown it to first. Shay would've been out, and that would've been the end of the game. Instead, he threw the ball over the first baseman's head.

“Everyone from the stands and both teams yelled, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!' Never had Shay run that far; but he made it to first, wide-eyed and startled.

“Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!' Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran toward second, gleaming and struggling to make it. As he bounded toward second, the right fielder had the ball. He could've thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

“All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way, Shay!' He ran deliriously as runners ahead of him circled bases toward home. He reached third because the opposing shortstop helped by turning him in the direction of third, and shouting, 'Run to third, Shay, run to third!'

“As Shay rounded third, boys and spectators from both teams were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!' Shay ran home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit a grand slam and won the game for his team.

“That day,” said the father softly, “boys from both teams helped bring a piece of love and humanity into this world. Shay died that winter, never having forgotten being the hero, making me so happy, running to home, and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!”

A wise man once said every society is judged by how it treats its least fortunate. Many seemingly trivial interactions with others present us with a choice: Do we pass along a spark of love and humanity, or do we pass up opportunities and leave the world a little colder in the process?



The Lighter Side

“Why were you driving so fast?” a policeman asked a motorist.

“Well, my brakes are no good, and I wanted to get home before I had an accident!”

The True Sacrifice

When I was a child, my parents had received a call from the Lord to drive 45 minutes to church in Metamora, IN, and “lead the people in the similitude of Moses.” My parents were young Christians so hungry for the Lord and His deep move that they went to every revival they could, from Earl Ivey to A. A. Allen. But their true call came for Metamora when along with a small group with similar vision, they built the Lighthouse.

Traveling this distance was difficult. We came home at midnight on Sundays and went to school the next day. But where His call is, sufficiency also exists. We were honor students, often with perfect attendance. With eight children, we prospered on a mailman's salary; and most of us went to college. Peter says, “Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing” (1 Pet. 4:19). God's call required sacrifice, but He was true to us because whom He calls, He equips.

Abraham also heard the call of God, Who required him to go to Mt. Moriah for the ultimate sacrifice—his long-awaited son, Isaac. Without hesitation, he obeyed. He knew even if God required that great sacrifice, He “was able to raise him up even from the dead” (Heb. 11:19). Before it

was fulfilled, a ram stuck in the thicket became the sacrifice. It was caught by its horns and not its legs lest it become marred, for an imperfect sacrifice was unacceptable. When He truly calls, God makes a way.

On the other hand, in Judges 11, Jephthah, son of Gilead, was a might man of valor. However, because his mother was a harlot and not Gilead's wife, he was expelled from the other brothers. When the enemy's warring became a problem for the family, God gave Jephthah his true call—to lead the brothers to victory. God delivered them to gain much territory until finally he was to overthrow Ammon.

Then, he made a vow not ordained of God. He promised the Lord that if He provided victory, he'd sacrifice whatever came out the door when he returned home. That vow which God didn't require wasn't protected by Him. Though Jephthah assumed an animal would bound out, his beloved only daughter came out instead. Despite his great loss, his keeping the vow to God was important for "when thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it" (Ecc. 5:4). Some scholars say he sacrificed her to a life of celibacy. Others say she was actually sacrificed to death as the Canaanite practice of the time. Whichever interpretation is correct, since Jephthah acted on his own and not God's leading, both he and his daughter paid a great price.

Not everything we do, regardless of great intentions, is a sacrifice required of God. In making that promise, Jephthah assumed God's character required rash vows, unlike Abraham who followed God as a sign of His total obedience to and faith in God. In reality, "to love him with all the heart...understanding...soul...strength...is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices" (Mark 12:33). Abraham's love was apparent in his faith that He who called Him was faithful.

Over the years, like my parents, many have felt God calling them into various ministries. Often, those ministries and even their walks with God fell by the wayside. What's not of God is destined to failure or hardship. My dad often was physically depleted and our family life suffered because some things he committed to were good causes but not necessarily God causes. They held many jobs over the years—youth leaders, song leaders, Sunday school teachers, secretary/treasurer, and ultimately pastors—but the successful jobs were those for which they received the true call and made sacrifices God asked.

God often does require sacrifice, and many jobs He gives which are truly His call come with a price. But the jobs that cost us the most are ones that just wear us down and really aren't His requirement. We know "to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Sam. 15:22), so being obedient to him is often not hard at all. God wants us to work for Him but in His way. Often we initiate good things to do for the Lord when actually He wants us just to be available to His bidding so when He opens a door, we have the capability and availability. We should differentiate between the two so we're not worn out and unable to do our true call or pay too high a price God doesn't require.

My husband and I desire to do whatever He asks. As we move into the doors He opens, let us never forget to hear His true call and will and avoid our own zeal and good intentions. May we be willing to make any sacrifice He requires.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request, we believe in a miracle-working God. Write us. Our prayer warriors & readers are your friends & family who will pray diligently for you.

Pray for:

PHYSICAL: **ACCIDENTS:** **Betty** (fell & broke femur), **Chris** (fell, broke nose, teeth, cheeks), **Steven** (fell, bruised bones), **Brooke** (broke ankle); **ADDICTIONS:** **Xavier** (alcoholism), **Dylan's Friend** (also freedom from witchcraft); **AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES:** **Alzheimer's**

(Loretta, Ruth, Richard), **Crohn's** (Noah, 12; Abby, 10), **Lupus** (Tom), **RA, Grave's** (Rhonda), **Hodgkin's, Parkinson's** (Linde, Brenda, Cheryl, Members of a Family, David), **Hashimoto** (Melana, Lois), **Primary Biliary Cirrhosis** (Tina), **Barrett's Esophagus** (Renae), **MS** (Jackie), **Mitochondrial Disease** (Jessica), **Fibromyalgia** (Sue); **CANCER:** **Angie** (breast, spine, skull), **Anne** (2nd round of chemo), **Arlene** (both lungs), **Bailey** (bone), **Becky** (breast), **Beni, Bobbie** (breast, lungs, bones, brain), **Brigitte** (thyroid), **Candy** (liver), **Carson** (leukemia), **Brian** (much of body), **Cathleen** (ovarian), **Christopher, Connie** (breast), **David** (prostate), **Dawn** (breast), **Denny** (skin, leukemia, lymphoma), **Derrick, Diane** (eye), **Donna** (abdomen), **Fonda** (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, other health issues), **Fran** (skin), **Greg** (colon), **Jake** (going thru treatments), **Jayna** (lumpectomy), **Jimmy, John** (prostate), **Juan** (bone), **Julie** (lung, 3rd stage kidney disease), **Kathy** (pancreatic), **Kernie** (multiple), **Kevin, Kim** (B Cell lymphoma), **Kimmy** (cervical, excess pain), **Les** (brain), **Linda, Lynn, Manny** (missionary in Guatemala), **Marie** (ovarian), **Mary, Megan** (breast), **Meghan** (both breasts removed, found in cervix), **Mike** (throat), **Nora** (double mastectomy), **Pam** (chemo for more than 5 yrs.), **Paul** (rectal, beginning chemo & radiation), **Racheal, Raquel** (breast), **Richard** (throughout body), **Ronnie, Ryan, Sayed** (prostate), **Sofia** (11, leukemia), **Sue** (bone marrow transplant), **Susan, Todd** (in much of body), **Tom** (leukemia); **DIABETES:** **Betsy, Brice, Chad, Charles, Colby, Derek, Jamie, Jeff, Jo, Larry, Mark, Marsha, Mary, Norm, Randy, Virgie, Xandra;** **HEALING:** **Mary** (sinus infection, sore throat, coughing, ear infections), **Steve, Sherry** (right knee/lower leg), **Marsha** (back/hip), **Alice, Stephanie** (migraines), **Tiff** (abdomen/bowels), **Jessica** (feet), **Kathy** (mass), **Karla** (migraines, nausea), **Shirley** (strokes), **Lois** (much pain), **Dennis** (liver mass), **Jeff** (overall health), **Taylor** (back), **Kelly, Bart** (leg), **Brenda** (many health issues), **Debbie** (broke 2 bones just from bending over), **Ben** (lumbar area), **Shawnya** (numbness in ring & index finger), **Janine** (headaches, indigestion), **Minister** (leaky bowel), **Harry** (stroke), **Kylee, Beckie** (possible stroke, vertigo, mini-strokes), **Deborah** (bulging discs, headaches, breathlessness, fatigue, trembling hands, UTI's, blood numbers off, blood by retina), **Ginny** (vertigo), **Elderly Couple** (taken downward turn); **HEART:** **John** (valve not closing), **Bruce** (possible heart failure or attack), **Ruth** (heart attack), **Janet** (racing heart, anxiety), **Bobby** (enzymes); **LUNGS:** **Connie** (COPD), **Marie, Brenda, Bobby** (breathing); **PREGNANCY:** **Taylor** (get pregnant), **Young Woman** (considering abortion); **SURGERIES/PROCEDURES:** **Jenise** (breast), **Marie** (spots on liver, dialysis), **Norm** (stent), **Rhonda** (for anterior cervical discectomy & fusion, anxiety), **Amelia** (infant, surgery on artery, valves too small), **Beth** (shoulder), **Elizabeth** (breast biopsy), **Bill** (heart), **Janet** (eye), **Donovan** (gall bladder), **Joyce** (stents), **John** (valve), **Diane** (knee replacement), **Max** (restoration on heart), **Judy** (scheduled to remove kidney due to growing mass), **Bill** (eye)

SPIRITUAL: **BAPTISMS IN HOLY SPIRIT; CHURCH:** **Sue** (find church both she & her husband can worship in); **DELIVERANCE:** **Robert** (15), **Tamara's Son** (battles); **DIRECTION:** **Taylor & Adam;** **FAITH:** **Dee** (needs strengthened, also memory); **GENDER:** **Beatriz's Student** (confusion, pray for opportunity to share God); **LOST SOULS TO ENCOUNTER HOLY SPIRIT; MINISTRIES:** **Breakthrough! Von Raeders** (missionaries in Nepal), **Restoration Ministries, Crossroads Recovery** (breakthrough), **Higher Praise, Kenya Ministry for Orphans, For workers to go forth for the Kingdom, Pastor** (moved to Texas, needs to find a church),

Orphanage in Guatemala, Soldiers in the Army; NEW THING: Bill (that God does something new in him); **SALVATION (or turn back to God): FAMILIES & EXTENDED FAMILIES, Alyce, Anne, Ben, Beth's Family, Brice, Brittney, Cassandra, Ernest, Greg, Gretchen, Hannah, Harry, Helen's Family, Hunter, Jonathan, Jorge** (& deliverance), **Joshua, Kevin, Lance, Marilyn's sons, Mark (2), Naomi, Paul, Quentin, Randy, Rowan, Steven, Todd, Verne, Vincent; WORLD-WIDE & NATIONAL AWAKENINGS – OUTPOURING – REFORMATION (Renewal & Revival)**

EMOTIONAL/MENTAL: GRIEF: Delphs, Dorrels, Slagles; OVERWHELMED: Doris (care-giver for husband w/ dementia & other health issues, raising 2 grandkids, dealing w/ her own health); **PEACE: Stacey** (& rest)

LIFE: BUSINESSES: Romy (to thrive); **FINANCES: Angie** (breakthrough), **Alvarez Family** (missionaries to Guatemala, cancer); **HOMES: Angie, Will** (sell house), **Sheri; JOBS: Karenlyne** (back wages), **Kay, Bonnie** (employment, finances, wisdom); **LEGAL ISSUES: Becky's Granddaughter, Kathy's son** (in jail, pray for her also), **Tabby, Amy & Jeremy** (good choices); **OUR NATION; RELATIONSHIPS: Robert & Son** (estranged), **Amy's Family, Cheryl's Family, Nate's Family, Bonnie's Family; SAFETY: Janet** (threat)

Announcements



OUR UPDATED CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

Our books—*God's Plan for Our Success, Nehemiah's Way; The Elijah Anointing; Your Holy Spirit Arsenal; Enemies of Destiny, & Be Healed!*—are available on book sites, our website, or by sending \$15. (includes shipping in U.S.) to our PO Box. Study guides are available. Connie's children's books, *Butchie's New Home, Butchie Comes Home, & Izzy: Outside Our Reach, and Bingo* are also for sale.

~~SPEAKINGS/BOOK SIGNINGS~~

- If you want us to speak/minister to your group, contact us. Besides preaching in churches & conferences, we do one-day workshops. *We'd love to be with you!*

~~~~RESTORATION MINISTRIES' upcoming events~~~~

- Connie will be speaking at a Mother, Daughter, Women's Brunch at New Life Ministries in Connersville on Saturday, May 11. The next morning on May 12 @ 10:30, she'll speak at Pastor Jenkins' church, Calvary Assembly of God, 720 Plum St., Union City, IN 47390. August 18, she'll be speaking at Bethel Acres Assembly with Pastors Rhonda and Larry Townsend.
- STREAMING –Training for Reigning classes are each Monday at 6:00 (EST). We begin class with worship then waiting on the Lord to give revelations. That's followed by Wade's powerful teaching. He's beginning a series on Healing. If you'd like to attend in person, it's at HPWC Resource Center, 1210 Illinois Ave., Connersville.

F.Y.I.

*WE'RE HOPING TO SEND MORE NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL. IF WE MAY CHANGE YOURS, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS!*

If you need prayer or know anyone to add to or delete from our mailing list, send names & addresses to:

Restoration Ministries

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***We are touched & greatly appreciate your support of our ministry.***  
**GOD BLESS YOU!**