

NEWSLETTER 2024-1

To: My Fellow Saints and Well-Wishers

Date: February 8, 2024

Re: “**Abundantly More in 2024**”

A visiting evangelist during one of his messages, on January 14, 2024 (at my local church) made reference to several thoughts that we could associate with the new year, 2024; of which one was “More in 2024.” From that thought I am relating the subject of this newsletter: “**Abundantly More in 2024.**” Beloved, indeed, God has promised us “**Spiritual Abundance**”: (a) Abundant Joy (Psa. 36:8) (b) Abundant Life (John 10:10) (c) Abundant Grace (2 Cor. 9:8) (d) Abundant Power (Eph. 3:20) (e) Abundant Supplies (Phil. 4:19). At this time, I will not be discussing these pointers, however, we will primarily discuss (**briefly**) the necessity of “**Wanting more of God.**”

It is unfortunate that so many have failed to stop and think that indeed, . . . *one’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he or she possesses (see Luke 12:15).* **If things** could satisfy and give mankind that ultimate satisfaction, he so desires, then why King Solomon stated, after experiencing and enjoying all the pleasure, prosperity, etc. that he relentlessly pursued, that it was all: “. . . **Vanity of vanities all is vanity.**” (Ecc. 1:2 NKJV). In other words, Solomon was saying: “**Life lived without regard for God is of no value. It is indeed ‘vanity’ or emptiness! Such lifestyle is the vainest thing imaginable!**” O that men would consistently desire more and more of God!

Our Lord and Savior also gave us most valuable lessons on obtaining the peace, presence, prosperity, etc. that all men desire and pursue but such will be realized when we sincerely give God the preeminence in our lives (for example see Matt. 6:25-34). The desire for God, must be real, genuine and consistently pursued, and God is willing, able and ready to meet ALL our needs!

2 Cor. 9:8 NKJV

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance of every good work. As it is written.”

Wanting more from God is to use Him to accomplish your goals; wanting more of God is to desire Him for who He is in Himself.

1. Wanting more **from** God places the focus on yourself; wanting more **of** God means getting to know who He is.
2. Wanting more **from** God is to enhance your personal goals; wanting more **of** God is to enhance His divine will.
3. Etc.
4. We could continue listing these comparisons (“more from” or “more of”) but the emphasis here is to see the necessity that **each believer** will sincerely seek more and **more of God!! Beloved, the question is, can we have “too much of God?”**

- (a) This desire should not be something of the past but a consistent and continuous pursuit and as the notable hymn states: ***“Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always and feed on His Word”*** . . . (I do recommend that you read through the hymn carefully and prayerfully: **“Take Time to Be Holy”**) . . . you will agree that **we do need more and more “of God!”**
- (b) Another song says: **“More About Jesus”**

Verse 2

More about Jesus let me learn,
 More of His holy will discern;
 Spirit of God my teacher be,
 Showing the things of Christ to me.

Refrain

More, more about Jesus;
 More, more about Jesus;
 More of His saving fullness see,
 More of His love who died for me.

- (c) And Beloved! Another song says: **“The Longer I Serve him”**

Chorus (by Goodman Revival)

The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows
 The more that I love Him, more love He bestows;
 Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,
 The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.

“Abundantly More in 2024” but is the focus primarily on getting “more from God” or “more of God?”

Wanting more of God is the desire to partake of the divine nature and such desire becomes a reality because we have been delivered from moral corruption. What we have experienced through Jesus Christ is a priceless and imperishable inheritance . . . it is incorruptible and undefiled and does not fade not away! (*Time wouldn't allow for details but note for example 2 Peter 1:2-4*). Beloved a holy person is to desire to be like God (Eph. 5:1 see the NKV, etc.) . . . more like God; living a life of purity and abounding in love (Phil. 1:9-11; etc.). God has guaranteed that those who diligently seek Him will be rewarded (Heb. 11:6; etc.).

In the depth of the heart of every true disciple of Jesus Christ is a sincere and burning yearning for more of God! But what is that desire?

We might each describe our desire differently, depending on how this longing alters or distorted through our life, history, and theological influence. To some extent, we may not be able to

adequately describe it in words, what this deep desire is. **However, at the core of the situation is our desire to genuinely know God – to know Him in the intimate ways that only love knows!** Wanting more of God is the desire to sincerely know, get closer and closer to Him, His perfect will! It is not just to know Him intellectually, note in the hymn “More About Jesus” it is noted in verse 1 and the refrain about *“His saving fullness.”* **Oh, for that earnest and persistent desire to know more and more of God and that we would make this desire “personal” and “Intimate”!!**

1. God is not interested in joint relationship.
2. He doesn't want shared custody on weekends.
3. He doesn't want rights merely to visit at only specified hours.
4. He doesn't want to be sought just because of one's physical needs, instincts or desires.
5. Definitely, He is NOT a convenience store; God is NOT there only to satisfy one's conveniences.
6. God wants us to want all of Him and He wants all of us!! **This is INTIMACY!!**
7. GOD MUST BE LORD OF ALL OR HE WILL NOT BE LORDS AT ALL!!
8. Read Psa. 119:166-176 . . . in this passage there is a vow of praise (NB v. 171) and such is to be communicated (v. 172). This will happen naturally, flowing from a heart full of Him and His goodness!!

Intimacy with God is a privilege freely given to us by Jesus Christ through His sacrifice on the cross. In order to multiply Christlike disciples, it is important to understand the meaning and process of intimacy with God (*at this time, on this matter I can only be brief*). The image of the vine and the branch in John 15 is a very good picture of intimacy. Apart from God, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Intimacy is not head knowledge but a heart experience of understanding, of sharing and belonging. Note the following quotes:

1. *“Your strength lies in intimacy with God.”* (Anonymous)
2. *“Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else.”* (C. H. Spurgeon)
3. *“God's presence is a position of face-to-face intimacy with God.”* (Susan Whitlock)
4. *“Solitude with God repairs the damage done by the fret and clamor of the world”* (Aiden Wilson Tozer)

Our fruitfulness as disciples depends on our intimacy with God. Without intimacy, we might work hard like the disciples trying to catch fish the whole night, in vain (John 21:1-5). But as we follow in Christ's footsteps, having intimate relationship with Him, fruit is produced in our lives (John 21:6. Note again John 15:1-17, NB Vv. 4-5).

It is very important that we understand the difference between “wanting more from God” in comparison to “wanting more of God.” It should also be realized that serving God sincerely has its rewards (Col. 3:24, read Vv. 22-25). It is reassuring, comforting and inspiring to know that God loves those who seek after Him. In 1 Chron. 28, we have David's counsel to Solomon and Israel; note his counsel to Solomon ... as we lift out a part of verse 9.

1. NKJV
“ . . . If you seek Him, He will be found by you; . . . ”

2. Amplified Bible Classic Edition

“ . . . If you seek Him [inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him as your first and vital necessity] you will find Him; . . . ”

After Jesus gave the disciples a model prayer (see Luke 11:1-13 . . . also noted in Matt. 6:9-13; Note also Matt. 7:7-11), He encouraged them to keep on praying, assuring them that God is both ready (Luke 11:5-8) and the certainty He will answer their prayers (Luke 11:9-10). In this text we observe that He answers more readily than our parents, and His gifts are infinitely better than those of our parents (Luke 11:11-13).

It needs to be clearly understood that by contrasting **“wanting more from God”** or **“wanting more of God,”** I am not discouraging anyone from asking to have their needs supplied by God. Beloved, be assured that as long as we are committed to God, He will supply **ALL** our needs, absolutely, we will NOT be neglected, providing He encourages us to ask (Matt. 6:25-34; Jer. 29:10-14; etc.). It should also be noted that we must ask of God with proper motive (James 4:3).

One of the beautiful and beneficial things about having “more of God” is evident in the fact that such results in better! -This means better for the individual, his immediate family and extended family members, his local church, his community, etc. We would have a better world if people would genuinely and entirely focus on God, **daily seeking more and more of Him.** Beloved, we do need **“more and more of Jesus more of His saving fullness see, more of His love who died for me.”** With all that is happening all around us: *“what the world needs now is love, sweet love” . . . and we are talking about the “Agapa Love of God”*; having more of God is to have that love!!

Below, I will briefly refer to six men who said to God “Here I am.” At this point I will have to summarize what was originally decided on for the closing of this presentation. Please think of the awesome results that were realized because these men genuinely sought **more of God** when they said to Him **“Here I am!”**

You may want to read the context in which these six references are use ... if you so desire.

Beloved, when we deepen our relationship with God, we can better care about those around us, fulfilling God’s desires for mankind and if there is a time the ministries of the church are needed it is now!! We are instructed to occupy until He (Christ) returns (Luke 19:11-27, NB Vv. 11-13); and we must continue to invest until He comes, as we continue to get more of Him! Oh, Beloved, let us all say to Him: “HERE I AM!!”

1. Abraham

*“ . . . God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘**Here I am.**’ ” (Gen. 22:1 NKJV).*

Abraham is pictured with various characteristics: a righteous man, wholehearted commitment to God, a man of peace, compassionate, hospitable, man of faith,

obedient, intercessor, etc. Three things we can learn from Abraham: (a) Hear God's call and follow His leading. (b) Trust God's promises and obey His Word. (c) Honor God's name and act with integrity.

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Availability to God.
- (b) Acknowledgment and submission to God's will.
- (c) Adoration and rectitude.
- (d) I must add: Abraham was: An **"Awe-inspiring servant of God"** through whom we have three major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

2. **Jacob**

"Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'" (Gen. 31:11 NKJV).

Jacob is described as a biblical hero who depicts power of God's grace to change and renew. He is most commonly known in the Bible for his cunning and deceitful ways especially towards his twin brother Esau. However, after losing to God in a wrestling match, Jacob received God's blessings and a new name – Israel.

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Fearing what was behind him, his uncle, Laban (Gen. 31)
- (b) Faced with the challenge of meeting a possible angry and vengeful brother, Esau (Gen. 32).
- (c) Family moved to Egypt to survive the famine (Gen. 46).

3. **Moses**

". . . God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'" (Ex. 3:4 NKJV).

Moses, the man of God, was truly a remarkable person. His character was exemplary in a number of ways and nowhere has that portrait been captured in such condensed package as in Hebrews 11:23-27. It is said that reputation is what people think of you; character is what God knows about you. It's evidently clear that Moses was a true and faithful servant of God (Heb. 3:2-6) and commended by God (Josh. 1:2).

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Called and commissioned by God.
- (b) Confrontations and triumphs, executing his assigned tasks.
- (c) Covenant was with the Almighty God (NB Ex. 3:14-17).

4. Samuel

"... the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, 'Here I am!'" (1 Sam. 3:5 NKJV . . . see also Vv. 5-10).

Samuel was an honest and fair judge, dispensing God's law impartially. As a prophet he exhorted Israel to turn from idolatry and serve God alone. He led Israel from the system of judges to its first monarch (king). Samuel preached, judged, prayed and guided Israel for probably well over sixty years. He was faithful to God from childhood through death; his life was one of loyalty to the Almighty God. His ministry was far-reaching and glorifying and has been regarded as seer (prophet), priest, judge, and military leader.

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Satisfactory to God for the urgent needs on hand!
- (b) Spiritual receptivity and availability.
- (c) Served wholeheartedly and tenaciously to the glory of God!

5. Isaiah

"Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me'" (Isa. 6:8 NKJV).

The prophet Isaiah played an important role in God's plan, he foretold the Messiah's coming and brought hope to God's people during a challenging time. This promise of hope is not only for the nation of Israel but for the whole world (*for example see Isaiah chapters 6, 11, 40, 52, 53, 61, etc.*).

Jerome, a renown ancient scholar stated the following in reference to Isaiah:

"He was more an Evangelist than a prophet, because he described all the mysteries of the Church of Christ so vividly that you would assume he was not prophesying about the future, but rather was composing a history of events."

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Called, cleansed and commissioned.
- (b) Confronting sin and declaring righteousness.
- (c) Consolation, assurance of forgiveness and restoration communicated.

6. Ananias

"... the Lord said in a vision, 'Ananias.' And He said, 'Here I am, Lord.'" (Acts 9:10 NKJV).

Ananias (not the same person as in Acts 5:1-11) was a genuine, trusting disciple and he was regarded as one devoted and of good reputation (Acts 22:12), He was a man who could be trusted to do the will of God and as seen in our text (Acts 9:1-9, 10-18), Jesus not only charged Ananias with the task to be done but revealed it to Saul (then Paul) (Acts 9:10-18; 22:6-13).

Three pointers briefly noted:

- (a) Devoted and dedicated servant of God.
- (b) Delighted in doing God's will.
- (c) Duty performed with compassion, care and a Christ-like attitude.

I have exceeded my time and can but **briefly quote two of the songs that I had for this part of the presentation. These quotes are done without comments:**

1. **"Do to Me What You Want" . . .** by Dusing Oyekan

Here I am in Your presence
 Do to me what You want
 I'm open before You Lord
 Do to me what You want
 Here I am in Your presence
 Do to me what You want
 I'm open before You Lord
 Do to me what You want.

This is the place of encounter
 This is the place of surrender
 This is the place where my flesh gives way
 Do to me what You want

... ..

2. **"STAY"** by William McDowell (Partial quote)

I know what it's like
 To be in the presence of the Lord
 And not know what time it is
 Because we stayed here
 In the presence of the Lord

No one had to say a word
 Couldn't even make a sound
 But I'd give up everything
 For this treasure I've found

I've never want it to end

(So, I say) stay

I don't want You to go
Cause my heart is burning
In Your presence, Lord

I want more
I want more
I want more
Jesus, I want more

Website Update *(Briefly)*

We have downloaded to the website Psalm 32 Parts A and B along with their answers for the review questions and "The Power of the Spoken Blessings" (this is an individual lesson). The Mark 5 series have been completed, we have commenced the initial phase of downloading the lessons and this will be completed in the near future.

Thank you for your continued prayers and be assured that by the grace of God we will continue to do all that we can to be obedient to God's leading. No matter the challenges of the time we have the assurance of God to be with us all the time. Beloved, be strong in the LORD and in the power of His might!!

God richly bless you and your wonderful family!!

Yours-in-Christ
Bishop K. Wright