

NEWSLETTER 2024-2

To: My Fellow Saints and Well-Wishers

Date: April 5, 2024

Re: God's "No More" Assurance . . . A Reality of a Better Life!

In our previous Newsletter, we discussed "Abundantly More in 2024"; emphasizing that we need to sincerely desire "**more of God and not simply more from God.**" My second son who lives in Virginia, informed me that their pastor introduced their annual theme for 2024 as "**No More in 2024.**" I am including the words "No More" as part of the title for this Newsletter: "**God's 'No More' Assurance . . . A Reality of Better Life.**"

I am commencing our discussion by highlighting a few pointers from Psalm 126. The psalm focuses on the theme "**Return and Restoration.**" Please note that Psalms 126, 127 and 128 discuss three subjects: (1) Return from Babylonian Captivity (126); (2) The Rebuilding (127); (3) The Reopening (128) of Jerusalem. (**Special Note:** The Songs of Ascent, Psalms 120-134 has been classified as consisting of five trilogies and Psalm 126 is the first psalm of the third trilogy, i.e. 126, 127 & 128). The reversal of Israel's fortunes after seventy years in exile filled the hearts of the people with great joy. This joy is the theme of Psalm 126 ... you can expand this thought by noting it expresses: **redemption, joy and gratitude to God.**

The appreciation by the people as a result of what God had done moved the people with a deep desire for Him to continue working on their behalf (note verse 4). It was their earnest prayer that all the exiles would return from the Babylonian captivity.

While we are limited as to quantity of content for this newsletter, I am calling your attention to **Psalm 126:5-6**, in these verses, you will observe two stages of the believer's life: "**sowing and reaping.**" If we faithfully **sow in tears** (that is in our pain and brokenness) and in prayers, God's Word promises that we will reap joyfully the fruit of our faithful sowing. Let us sow, therefore, in faith and faithfulness, in intercession and righteousness, regardless of whatever pain we may be experiencing, knowing that there will be a great harvest of God's blessings.

(A compilation base on Life in the Spirit Study Bible)

Anyone who experiences an encounter with God will be able to identify themselves in some way with the reality of the "**No More**" examples noted below. This is not a comprehensive listing but is of significance to the glory of God and the benefit of the believers. This I must also emphasize, all those who have committed themselves to God and faithfully serve Him will be rewarded! **Beloved! Better Days Are Coming!!**

1. **No Longer Enslaved by Depravity . . . Deliverance from Sin Experienced.** " . . . *So far has He removed our transgressions from us*" (Psa.103 12b NKJV, read Vv. 11-12).

It is a fact that a restaurant may be limited by one's appetite, their hour of operation, product inventory or other factors; however, when God offers something to us as being endless or bottomless, that is exactly what He means. In Psalm 103:11-12, God shows that His love is as high as the heavens are above the earth and as we note here the distances between us away from our sins is: **"As far as the east is from the west, . . ."** (Psa. 103:12a).

Beloved, the depth and scope of God's love and forgiveness here is being expressed in immeasurable terms. We owed a debt that we could not pay and God paid a debt on our behalf that He did not owe!! **Our sins have been forgiven and removed!!** They are NOT stored up so that some time God can say to us – don't forget about what I know about you. **The language of these verses, Psa. 103:11-12, makes it clear that God's forgiveness is boundless!!**

See also 2 Sam. 12:13; Psa. 78:38; 85:2; Mark 2:5; Col. 2:13; etc.

2. **Sin Remembered No More** . . . "*. . . their and their lawless deeds I will remember no more*" (Heb. 8:12b NKJV).

As we saw previously, God's forgiveness is boundless and He has removed our transgressions **"as far as the east is from the west."** You will understand Heb. 8:12 better by being acquainted with the chapter, which presents the "superiority of the New Covenant."

" . . . their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more": doesn't mean our sin slips God's mind, but that He doesn't hold it against us (Heb. 8:12). He treats us as if we never sinned. God's omniscience remains intact. He knows, but He doesn't condemn. He abounds in love and compassion for His wayward children. Sin has its consequences and must be punished and God has provided the way of forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Isa.53:6; Heb. 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24; etc.). A person "forgets" or remembers no more when they chose to act as if something has happened. It does not imply literal amnesia. God is not ignoring our sin; however, for those who accept Jesus Christ, God is able to "forget" their sins.

The sins of those who now know God are remitted completely; these sins will never be charged to their account again. However, we must not read into this a blanked forgiveness for continued sinning. There is always the possibility of drifting away (see Heb. 2:1-3).

See also Isa. 43:25; Jer 31:34; Micah 7:19; Heb. 10:17; etc.

3. **Go and sin no more.** John 8:3-11, NB v. 11.

Noting, briefly two thoughts:

- (a) **" . . . , Neither do I condemn you; . . ."** (John 8:11 NKJV)

The Life in the Spirit Study Bible notes:

*“Jesus’ words reflect His complete redemptive love for the lost (John 3:16) and is placed in contrast to the unloving attitude of the Pharisees. The response of the Pharisees to the woman was condemnation and judgment of death. **Jesus’ response to her was kindness, forgiveness and offered a new life if she leaves her sin (i.e. **adultery**)** (Emphasis mine).*

(1) It is a misuse of this passage, however, to use these words of Jesus to suggest that He looks casually at the sin of adultery and the untold heartbreak it causes both adults and children.

(2) What Jesus offers this woman is salvation and a way out of her life of sin. His condemnation awaits her if she refuses to repent and enter the kingdom of God (Rom. 2:1-10).”

(b) *“ . . . **go and sin no more**” (John 8:11 NKJV).*

Christ was not implying that the woman would leave her sinful flesh at the door and never be tempted again. **He is telling her to say NO to sinful desires, put them under control of her new found experience in God!** (See Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:16-26; 1 Peter 2:11; etc.)

Matthew Henry notes: (A partial quote where he comments on John 8:11)
*“ . . . When Christ sent her away, it was with caution, “**go, and sin no more.**” Those who help save the life of a criminal, should help to save the soul with the same caution. **Those are truly happy, whom Christ does not condemn. Christ’s favor to us in the forgiveness of past sins should prevail with us, Go then, and sin no more.”** (Emphasis mine).*

See also Isa. 1:16; John 5:1-15, NB v. 14; Rom. 6:12; 1 Cor. 15:34; etc.

4. **No More Habitual Sinning . . . Believers Do Not Continue in Sin.** See 1 John 3:1 -12; NB Vv. 4-6.

Ever-so-often we hear some preachers speaking and implying the idea that habitual sinning is an unavoidable experience for believers. This type of presentation is done in several ways, for example in reference to biblical characters who have transgressed. Two examples are (a) **David**, a man of God’s own heart, committed adultery and had Bathsheba’s husband murdered and concealed it. Unfortunately, some have totally ignored the consequences of the sin and that he finally was awakened to his transgression, he admitted, confessed, got cleansed and restored (see Psalms 32 and 51 and other references). (b) **Peter**, the Apostle, is also referred to, that although he was a key figure yet he denied Christ and cursed. Beloved, Peter also earnestly repented, was forgiven, etc. and we have seen the difference afterwards; see who he was after Pentecost; see his strong emphasis on holiness in the first epistle of Peter, etc. We do not have the time for further discussion but indeed while for the believer the possibility of sinning does remain, he is delivered from the compulsion of sinning . . . **habitual sinning is inconsistent with a life of righteousness!!**

Briefly Note: **Three reasons why Christians does NOT live a life of sin.**

- (a) All ***sin is lawlessness***, rebellion, disregard for God's will and law (See 1 John 3:4).
- (b) Christ came to ***take away*** our sins (See 1 John 3:5a).
- (c) There is NO SIN in Christ!! (See 1 John 3:5b).

A person cannot abide in Christ and continue in sin at the same time (See 1 John 3:6). John Wesley notes: *"Willful disobedience is sin, properly so called."* The person living in sin is not living in Christ and in that sense has NOT ***"seen Him"*** (1 John 3:6) Unless he repents, he has no biblical assurance of salvation.

See also Rom. 6:1-8:39; Heb. 10:10:26-27; 1 John 5:18.

5. **No More Instability** . . . *" . . . And no longer shall they be pulled up . . ."* (Amos 9:15 ... read the verse. You may also want to be acquainted with the chapter and other references).

The last verse of Amos promises Israel that once they are planted in the land they will never again be uprooted. For them, this was a promise that ***"the days are coming,"*** (See Amos 8:13), when their land shall be restored. Restoration to their own land was outward symbol of restoration.

Beloved, Christ died to gather together the children of God that were scattered abroad. We, the church, look towards a new heaven and new earth wherein God will be in ultimate control. The new home will be unlike the present conditions of this current world, which will be holy to the Lord. The blessings shall last forever, Christ's people will be eternally planted and against who the gates of hell shall not prevail and as Christ said: ***" . . . lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*** (Matt. 28:20).

Today, we say: ***" . . . Even so come Lord Jesus"*** (Rev. 22:20). May Your kingdom come, may Your perfect will be done on earth as in heaven!!

Closing Thoughts:

We have focused on **"Return and Restoration"** emphasizing the fact that indeed **"better day are coming"**. This is an established reality for the people of God who have committed themselves to the Almighty God ((1 Cor. 2:9; Isa. 64:4; etc.). This emphasis continues as we close this presentation, keeping focus on the thought that **"Better Days Are Coming!!"**

1. **Once More Briefly Looking at Psa. 126:5-6.**

- (a) Quote from Life Application Study Bible.

*"God's ability to restore life is beyond our understanding. Forest burn down and are able to grow back. Broken bones heal. Even grief is not a permanent condition. Our tears can be seeds that will grow into a harvest of joy because God is able to bring good out of tragedy. **When burdened by sorrow, know that your times of grief will***

end and that you will again find joy. We must be patient as we wait. God's great harvest of Joy is coming." (Emphasis mine).

- (b) Indeed, beloved, **"better days are coming,"** we cannot say when but definitely, the great day of reaping and rejoicing eternally will come! (Psa. 31:19-24; 1 Cor. 2:9; etc.). It will come to pass: (1) God is not slack concerning His promises (2 Peter 3:9); (2) yet His ways are not our ways (Isa. 55:8-13); (3) Time factor with us differs from God's (2 Peter 3:8); (4) Despite the efforts of many to predict Christ's second return, such is **not known to man** (Matt. 24, NB Vv. 35-51, highlight Vv. 35-37 and 42-44; Luke 12:40; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; 5:2; Rev. 16:5); and as seen in these references our responsibility is to be ready for that moment (Matt. 25:1-13; etc.).

2. The Eternal Blessedness of God's People!

While the dominant theme of Revelation chapters 6-20 is based on tribulation and death; observe carefully that chapters 21 and 22 set a new atmosphere. In these chapters, there is a moving away from time into eternity and they provide a description of the eternal blessedness of God's people in the renewed creation that John's first vision depicts this blessedness in general (21:1-8); his second vision describes the new Jerusalem (21:9-21) and life in it (21:22-22:5).

- (a) Highlighting a few facts from Rev. 21:1-5.

Rev. 21 speaks of newness . . . in essence it notes for example that **"The Old is No More."** The following are listed without comments:

- (1) New heaven ("**heaven**": *the Greek meaning: sky, air*) (21:1).
- (2) New heavenly home ((21:1).
- (3) Sweet fellowship with God (21:3).
- (4) No more death (21:4).
- (5) No more sorrow (21:4).
- (6) No more crying (21:4).
- (7) No more pain (21:4).
- (8) The former things passed away (21:4).
- (9) All things become new (21:5).

- (b) Oh! Beloved! Be assured, without any doubt, better days are coming . . . **the time of No More Negatives will come, no more to be Overcome by Dread, Hopelessness, etc. definitely: BETTER DAY ARE COMING!!!**

I will close by quoting a Song and a Gospel Chorus.

- (1) **"Better Days are Coming"** by Le'Andria Johnson . . . Partial quote:

Sometimes it feels cold
And you feel alone
But hold on, better days are coming

It can be rough in this world

I know it ain't easy but hang in there
I know better days are coming

You seen good, you seen bad
You been hurt beyond sin
But just remember that better days
Better days are coming
Friends will leave you all by yourself
But don't cry
'Cause better days are coming

Better days (better day)
Better day
Better days are coming

... ..

(2) Gospel Chorus

Some of you, dear readers, will be acquainted with this chorus or other versions.

Better day are coming, by and by
When I see my Savior, way up in the sky
Trials will be over. I'll be home at last
Better days are coming by and by

(3) **2 Peter 3:13-14 NKJV**

*"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells**. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; . . ."*

Website Update

I am delighted to inform you that the Mark 5 series, consisting of five lessons, along with the answers for review questions have been downloaded to the website. We will do our best to also download February and April Newsletters to the website in the near future.

There have been some delays in regards to completing the two lessons on Psalm 40, due to a period of illness and other factors. These will be download when completed most likely before the end of May. Thank you for your continued prayers.

May God continue to richly bless you and your wonderful family.

Yours-in-Christ

Bishop K. Wright