

TIKKUN AMERICA

restore

Issue 22 | Sivan | May 2023

IN THE SECRET PLACE

Empowerment for the Forefront of Revival

WOE, LO, GO

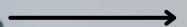
Fulness Unto Destiny Fulfilled

THE GRACE FACTOR

Where the Impossible Becomes Reasonable

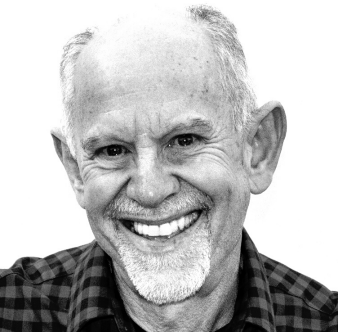
POLISHING YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

Humility and Our Calling in Yeshua



CONTRIBUTORS

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JERRY MILLER

Jerry and his wife Jo have been married for 46 years, have two daughters and five grandchildren. They have served in the Messianic movement since 1975, including almost 30 years as congregational leaders in Maryland and Florida. Since 2013 they have travelled worldwide in teaching and prophetic ministry, with focus on raising up younger generations.

BROOK ALLSBROOK

Brooke Allsbrook, a native-born Long Island girl was radically saved at 26 as a result of a prophetic dream of Jesus, the Messiah. Not yet a believer, Brooke thought she was a convert to Christianity or better yet, crazy until she realized that Yeshua was the key to her healing and identity. Brooke alongside her husband, Rabbi Aaron Allsbrook leads at Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation in Virginia. Brooke is the mother of four.



MARK RANTZ

Rabbi Mark has served in full-time Messianic Jewish ministry for since 2001. In early 2013, Rabbi Rantz joined Messianic Jewish Publishers and Resources (MJPR) and served as the Assistant Editor and lead contributor in the production of the Complete Jewish Study Bible. He and his wife Kat lead Congregation Beit Hallel in Ocala, FL.

PATRICIA JUSTER

Patricia is a graduate of Wheaton College in English Literature and Secondary Education. She has been involved in prophetic and teaching ministry for over 40 years, and, alongside her husband Daniel, leads the equipping ministry Restoration From Zion. Patricia has written two books, The Cry and Refined by Fire.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editor-in-Chief **Benjamin Juster**

Creative Director	Amy Strom
Senior Editor	Mark Rantz
Editor	Silvie Lundgren
Editor	Kathleen Rantz
Graphic Design	Amy Strom
Content Manager	Mark Rantz
Project Manager	Amy Strom
Advisor	Lorena Juster



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HERE I AM. SEND ME.

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KEN FISH



SIMCHA MOORE



EITAN SHISHKOFF



DANIEL JUSTER



TROY WALLACE

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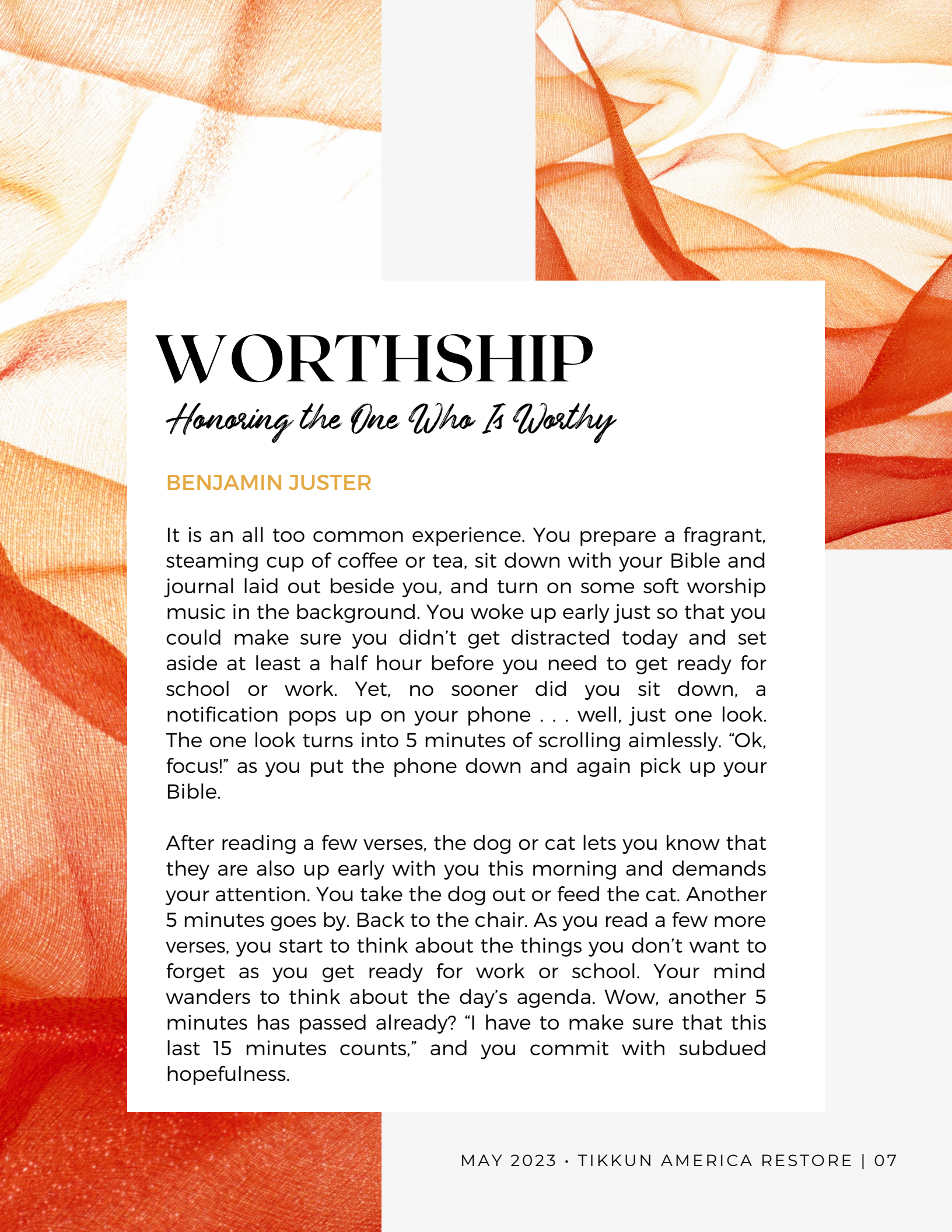
BENJAMIN JUSTER

Benjamin is the President of Tikkun America and one of the shaliach leaders on the Tikkun America Apostolic Team. Raised in the Messianic movement and a former Vice President of the UMJCY, Benjamin has a continuing passion for seeing people reach their potential in Yeshua. He holds a Masters degree in Messianic Jewish Studies from MJTI.



He served as the Executive Director of Tikkun International before being appointed the President of Tikkun America in January 2020. Benjamin's focus is on planting Messianic congregations, mentoring and releasing emerging leaders, and building unity among churches and ministries to stand with Israel today and in preparation for the end times. Benjamin and Lorena also help to lead the international teaching ministry Restoration From Zion, affiliated with Tikkun Global.

Benjamin, his wife Lorena, and three children live in Jacksonville, Florida.



WORTHSHIP

Honoring the One Who Is Worthy

BENJAMIN JUSTER

It is an all too common experience. You prepare a fragrant, steaming cup of coffee or tea, sit down with your Bible and journal laid out beside you, and turn on some soft worship music in the background. You woke up early just so that you could make sure you didn't get distracted today and set aside at least a half hour before you need to get ready for school or work. Yet, no sooner did you sit down, a notification pops up on your phone . . . well, just one look. The one look turns into 5 minutes of scrolling aimlessly. "Ok, focus!" as you put the phone down and again pick up your Bible.

After reading a few verses, the dog or cat lets you know that they are also up early with you this morning and demands your attention. You take the dog out or feed the cat. Another 5 minutes goes by. Back to the chair. As you read a few more verses, you start to think about the things you don't want to forget as you get ready for work or school. Your mind wanders to think about the day's agenda. Wow, another 5 minutes has passed already? "I have to make sure that this last 15 minutes counts," and you commit with subdued hopefulness.

Rushing through the chapter of the Bible, you decide to reflect on what you read and journal another day. The subtle pressure of the time when you need to get ready starts to build in your subconscious. You whip out your phone to check the time. One more DM from a friend and a quick response later, and you now have about 5 minutes remaining to dedicate to some prayer and worship. After a few heartfelt prayers for your Heavenly Father to bless your day, to give you wisdom for what is ahead, and to bring healing and provision for a few family members and friends, you set the Bible aside to get started with preparations for the day.

Please understand, there is abundant grace. Don't succumb to unhealthy shame when you fail in your plans to spend time with the Lord. But it is crucial that you are able to get back up and resume the pursuit of patterns that will lead you to encounter our loving Father. He is worthy of our worship.

The word *worship* actually is derived from an old Anglo Saxon word *weorth* that means "worthy" or "honorable." The ending "*ship*" refers to the state of being of whatever comes before it. For example, "friendship" is the state of being in amicable connection with other people. "*Weorthship*" literally is the "state of being worthy." From Scripture, we likewise understand that the only one who is eternally and perfectly worthy is God our Creator.



Psalm 96:4-6 (NIV) says, *"For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary."* Regarding Yeshua, the author of Hebrews likewise marvels that, *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word."* (1:3)

We need to adjust our theology on prayer and worship. Do we seek God only when we want something? Do we

tell God what He should do for us rather than consulting Him? Or do we prioritize our time with God because we know He is worthy. He is the only one truly deserving of our love, adoration, and devotion.

The ironic thing is that God is fully self-sufficient and does not need us or our prayers. It is not possible to change the Unchangeable God through our prayers. So it is a paradox that God is stirred by our prayers just as a loving father is stirred by the humble requests of his earthly children. Yet, you know that your love has matured when the reason you come to Him is to seek His face, when you don't need anything from Him—just Him.

I love the powerful, enduring story of Miriam of Bethany (John 12), who comes and anoints Yeshua's feet with a costly jar of perfume that was valued at a year's wages. Judas couldn't understand how something of such value would be poured out on Yeshua—and on his feet nonetheless! Bill Johnson relates the astonishing application told to him by one of his leaders: All Miriam cared about was honoring the One who had set her free, and she abandoned herself to worship the one who she knew was alone worthy. Miriam didn't use the perfume for herself, but as she poured it on Yeshua and wiped His feet with her hair, the perfume likewise spread all over her as well. When she left Yeshua's Presence, she smelled just like Him! Though she gave lavishly, she also departed smelling like a million bucks!



You see, it is not for Yeshua's sake that we spend time in His Presence. He loves you beyond measure and pursues you. But we cannot add to His glory. We cannot add to His worth. Rather, we are changed when we abandon ourselves to Him. When we are able to strip away the things that distract us and divide our attention only to focus our gaze on Him, that is when everything else fades away in importance. This is why fasting and dedicated times of extended worship are so powerful. You will find that it is you who is the one transformed by spending time in His Presence, not just in a morning devotional time, but throughout your day. And others will notice when you have been with the King, because you will carry the fragrance of His Glory.

Handwritten signature of Benjamin Juster in black ink.

Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief

YOU WILL FIND
THAT IT IS YOU
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ONE
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BY SPENDING
TIME IN HIS ★
PRESENCE

-BENJAMIN JUSTER



In The Secret Place

BROOKE ALLSBROOK

Full disclosure up front, ready for it? In recent months, I have been increasingly aware of how challenging it has become to quiet all my thoughts and just get into a still space with the Lord where nothing else matters. It's the place where He does what only He is designed to do, in the secret place, where He satisfies that deepest part of our hearts, that no living thing can get to and no man-made thing can compete with it. This is so rich and so very good.

Why does the secret place matter so much?

Well, for starters you don't have to be a believer to see that we are living in an era where most people would recognize that there is something seriously wrong. The morals of many people are off the rails, and we are living in unprecedented times. Our need to sit with the Lord, the ability to hear the Holy Spirit and the desire to be shepherded by His voice, is really the only thing that will differentiate us from the world. But it's more than that, if we are to become who we are truly designed to be, full and complete in Him, then entering into the secret place with Yeshua must be a regular practice in our lives.

The fact that it's been more of a challenge to get into that quiet space recently makes the prophetic side of me think that it's more than just me and my own weaknesses. It also doesn't make me less holy or a less committed believer because I've struggled. Does it make me less desirous of the things of God? No, on the contrary, adversity comes to those who are passionately pursuing the King and the things of His Kingdom.

"The secret things belong to Adonai (or God), but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever - in order to do all the words of this Torah." (Deuteronomy 29:29 TLV)

It's in the secret place that God gives us access to certain strategies, to overcome setbacks, trials, and adversity. He also gives personally detailed insight and wisdom from above to walk in holiness and greater surrender. God Himself wants to give us vision. He wants to give us creative insight and divine understanding whereas Proverbs exhorts, *"Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint ..."*. (Proverbs 29:18 CJB) He wants us to not lean on our own understanding, because He knows that our own human idealistic principles may actually lull us into sin.

What I've uncovered recently, is that Satan's strategies against us are made known to me in the Secret place. No wonder the enemy doesn't want me to enter into a place of "listening." He lives to keep us bound up, tripped up, easily distracted, fearful, manipulated and

without trust. But when we enter into that place of access to the Holy Spirit, watch out! Suddenly we have powered up our Spiritual GPS System and receive heavenly downloads to nurture our hearts and to guide our feet. I think this is what He means when He says:

"You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence. From the plots of man, You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion. From the strife of tongues." (Psalm 31:20 NKJV)



The Secret Place is one that is eternal. It's a place where you tap into the eternal presence of God through the life and death of Yeshua, and receiving His love. It's not a place of knowing all the details, It's not a place where you're resting to the point of being inactive. NO, on the contrary, you are actively seeking; listening and present with our helper, the Ruach HaKodesh. It's a place of rest in the sense you are not working to earn God's favor or approval. You are not striving; It's a place of deep surrender and trust.

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah. (2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB)

The secret place is where you cast down every high-minded thing that exalts itself, and every false argument that is presented. It's the place where every thought is taken captive to the obedience of the Messiah. It's a place where you are made right in the sight of God and His righteousness, but it's also the place of complete abandonment to who He has called you to be.

Deception in the world is pervading our culture, and it can influence our ideas and hearts if we are not careful. We must be diligent to enter into God's truth. Our time has ended where we can get by relying on our own abilities.

No, I see something bigger happening. We are in the forefront of revival. It's happening now! God is speaking to us like never before. He wants to empower us to live by His Spirit alone. He doesn't want us to rely on our own circumstances to navigate life; He wants to train us to hear His voice, so that we are prepared and equipped for this next phase of Kingdom living!

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44 NASB)

I do not take it lightly that the God of the universe would bring us into these hidden places, revealing secrets of His nature, giving wisdom from heaven, and creating a space within us to make Himself known. These are the treasures of our hearts. We were bought with a price and one of the amazing things God gives to us when we surrender our lives to Him, is the gift of the secret place.

We have become so short sighted as people panting like deer after what is so temporary. In this way we are like the world, seduced by lies, distractions, cheap carbon copies, keeping us out of the presence of Yeshua, the only one who can satisfy the human heart.

"Focus your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:2 TLV)



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— ”

BROOKE ALLSBROOK





The Grace Factor

JERRY MILLER

As we consider our lives as followers of Yeshua, we know the foundational truth that we are here on this earth to make a difference, as those bearing fruit for Yeshua. Our lives are to demonstrate the glory of knowing and walking with God, our Creator to an unbelieving world. However, considering this calling can sometimes leave us feeling somewhat overwhelmed, especially as we observe the cultural chaos and confusion all around us.

The world appears to be growing increasingly antagonistic to the Lord and to the values we stand for as His people. Even so, the condition of the world does not release us from our responsibility to impact the world. Rather, humanity's increasing rebellion against God serves to highlight our greatest need as we seek to reach a lost and broken world. Our greatest need is for what I would call the grace factor.

Here is a truth we must recognize: God's call on our lives is actually impossible. That may sound discouraging, but it's a truth that in reality is quite liberating. You see, recognizing the natural impossibility of God's call is a first step toward seeing our need for an empowerment that takes us beyond our natural abilities. And that is exactly what grace makes available to us. We often describe grace as being the undeserved mercy of God. While grace does include God's undeserved mercy, it consists of so much more. Grace brings a supernatural empowerment to our lives, equipping us to live beyond the limits of our natural capabilities.

When I see this, it becomes liberating because it helps me understand that my fruitfulness is not based on my natural resources. Looking to my own resources will inevitably place limits on my fruitfulness for the Lord and my capacity for blessing others. If I am looking to myself and what I can comfortably accomplish, that won't take me very far. But if I am leaning on God's limitless grace for accomplishing what seems impossible, that changes everything.

Grace will take us beyond ourselves, as we step out in faith. We embrace a lifestyle of blessing others, giving ourselves to people and needs we encounter, in response to the Holy Spirit's prompting. It is in this regard that we all face what can be described as a *divine tension* in our lives. I am referring to the *stretching* we experience as God leads us to step



outside of our comfort zones. This is indeed part of the growth process of our faith walk. In response to God's leadings, we step out in ways that take us beyond our previous experiences, and we find that God meets us with His grace to take us into new levels of fruitfulness.

Why is it that this process involves a divine tension? I believe tension comes into play because, more often than not, when God calls us to embrace something that stretches us, we are not truly ready for it. By "ready," I simply mean, naturally prepared to the extent that we feel confident in our ability to accomplish it. While our preference might be to limit our actions to areas in which we are well-prepared or trained, God Himself clearly does work in ways that stretches us and challenges our sense of comfort. When we say "yes" to such stretching, we are inviting God's grace to take us beyond our previous successes. As God moves in such situations, it is clear that He is the One who is at work through us.

Now, I need to qualify the previous statement, so I don't give the wrong impression. Natural preparation and training is a good thing, and we all should give ourselves to become as equipped and instructed as possible in our service unto the Lord. We should value the importance of instruction and training. But instruction and training alone are just a beginning point for God using us. What truly makes us "ready" to bless others is the grace that can take us beyond ourselves. Let me give a simple practical example of the principle in view here.

As a young couple is preparing for their first child, there is an abundance of resources for getting instruction on parenting. We can read all the books and avail ourselves to all the resources and think we are fully prepared and "ready" for parenthood. But then the child comes, and we realize quickly that the learning alone did not fully prepare us for the challenges. We see that we need grace for aspects of parenting that the books could not provide. The same principle is true as we seek to serve God with our lives.



So again, when God calls us to do something that stretches us, we are likely not truly “ready” for it, regardless of how much learning, instruction and planning we have had. We are not ready because there is a “grace factor” which books and training cannot in themselves provide. It is His grace that makes us ready to encounter a world that desperately needs God and needs us to represent Him. It’s a grace from God that is released only as we respond to His promptings to step out in faith. Most often, we do not experience grace until we step into the place of actually needing it. We say “yes” to God, perhaps without feeling very prepared, but He meets us at that point with His grace.

As we follow the Lord, we all will experience the tension of God calling us to do things for which we may feel unprepared and even unqualified. But as we affirm in our hearts that God is leading us—even though we are “not ready”—our “yes” to God will launch us into a realm where the “impossible” becomes reasonable. Such is the impact of God’s grace. Yes, God’s call on our lives is impossible, but that’s alright, because He promises a grace that will take us beyond what makes sense ... beyond what we can imagine. He gives us unreasonable grace for the impossible life to which He calls us.



A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads towards a steep, grassy cliff. The path is bordered by a rope and wooden posts. In the background, the ocean is visible under a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and adventurous.

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-Jerry Miller

POLISHING YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

MARK RANTZ

In our culture today, humility is a word which is often not spoken, or a characteristic rarely seen. Where Ya'akov (James) 4:10 exhorts, *"Humble [ourselves] in the sight of Adonai, and He shall lift you up,"* (TLV), the world generally responds with silence. Within the still world and even many churches, humility is a posture less traveled and even less honored in our post-biblical society. Where humility was once held in the highest esteem, today, our culture in and outside of the Body tends to value "self" over service and "identity" over holiness.

Counter to what we see, in the late 1800's we find a different example in D.L. Moody, one of the great evangelists and revivalists of the day and at the time, the leader of renowned Bible Conferences in Northfield, Massachusetts. At the time, these conferences drew hungry leaders from around the world in hopes of being disciplined and equipped for the work of the Kingdom. One year a large group of





Pastors from Europe arrived for the annual event and were given rooms at the dormitory of the Bible College. As was their “custom,” the European men all placed their shoes outside their rooms expecting that they would be finely polished and cleaned by “servants” during the night for the following day.

As one could expect this was not Europe, but instead Massachusetts, and there were no servants assigned to American dormitories. Yet as the night hours passed and Moody walked through the halls of the school and prayed for his guests, he saw the shoes all lined up down the hall and realized what had happened. In that moment, Moody could have reacted thinking - “Don’t they not realize this is America, and not Europe,” but Moody was a man of Humility. So, without a word,

he gathered up all the shoes and took them back to his own room and delightfully polished each pair as if they belonged to the Lord Himself! Moody told no one of his act of service, but a close friend interrupted him in the middle of his polishing of the shoes and joined him in delightful service as the Pastors slept.

Humility!

I am sure that as D.L. Moody shined each pair of shoes, the words of John’s Gospel rang in his heart,

“So, [Yeshua] rose from the table, removed His outer garments, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Then he poured some water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the talmidim and wipe them off with the towel wrapped around Him.” (John 13:4-5 CJB)

Here we are reminded that acts of humility and joyful service is the natural posture for all believers in Yeshua - it is never about us! It is important to note that Yeshua’s act of service in washing the disciples’ feet came only moments after Satan had entered the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Him (vs. 2) and yet, Messiah was not deterred and held to His mission and in serving his friends around him. Like Yeshua, our acts of humility and lifestyle of service will often come (as with D.L. Moody above) with no acknowledgement, no fanfare and at times will even invoke the anger or rejection from those who choose to serve and love. Yet, for us, our response must always be like Yeshua, our humble, servant King in laying down our lives and serving with JOY anyway!

Our calling to lead lives of humility is best seen in the Letter to the Hebrews,

"... looking to Yeshua, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2 ESV)



It is in JOY that we are called to always love, to always serve and in every moment - walk in humility before God and for the sake of the other. It was for our hope and salvation that Yeshua - for the JOY that was laid before Him endured Calvary as our Passover Lamb, so that we would not have to. Likewise, we are called to deny ourselves, to lay it all down for Him and in JOY find our true self in the Path of Humility. In our world that demands, "Me! Me! Me!" - and "What I Want, Demand or Need," the message of Yeshua requires for all of us holy Surrender, willful Service, and a Joyful heart willing to be Last! Different from the standard of this world, and yet one path will lead to life while the other death.

Counter to God's path set before us, the evil inclination shouts pride, yet in the light of Yeshua's great love, our pride is called to die! This diabolical enemy called pride, is always at the door, seeking to get in and corrupt everything and everyone it touches. Of pride, C.S. Lewis reminds in his classic, Mere Christianity that it was pride that made the devil the devil; that pride leads to every vice - developing into a complete anti-God state of mind and has been the chief cause of all misery in every nation and every family since the beginning of the world.

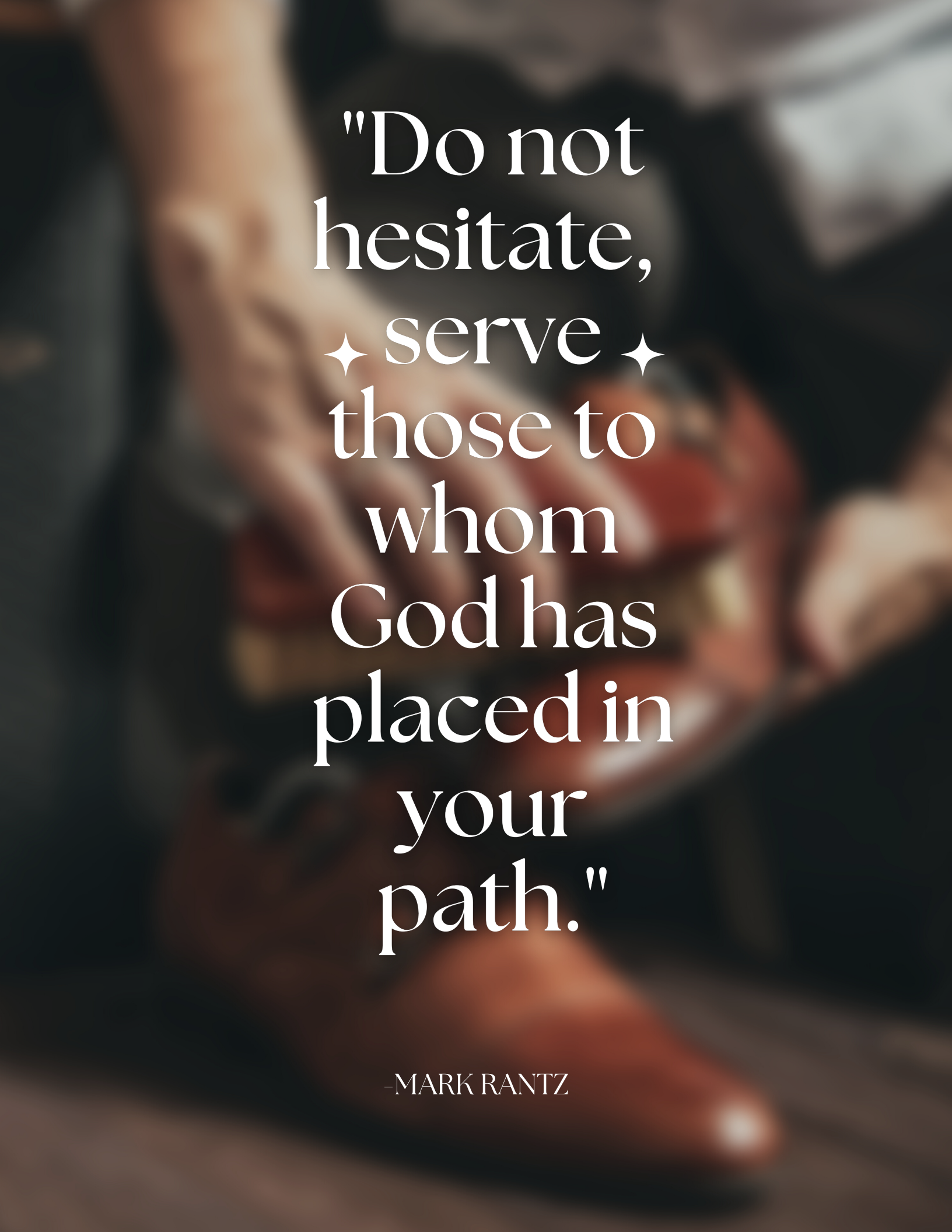
In all of this we must never forget the spiritual battle to which we are all engaged in. Where God desires that we model our lives with Yeshua who

“...humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.” (Phil. 2:8 ESV) Yet as our adversary, the Devil of whom our Sages refer to as “the evil prompter,” desires that we turn from humility and Adonai’s commands, serve ourselves instead of God and His mitzvot (commandments).

As the people of God, we are called every day to find our true self alone in Messiah and to choose Humility and Service as he did. Our lives are not our own, for they have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20) and our true self, our true posture and true calling is the road marked with humility. Like D.L. Moody, on your path to the Kingdom, you too will find lined up, rows of shoes that need polishing and hearts which needs transforming,

Go today, do not hesitate, and serve those to whom God has placed in your path - Go and polish your neighbors shoes! 





"Do not
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-MARK RANTZ

WOE, LO, GO

Fullness Unto Destiny Fulfillment

PATRICIA JUSTER

Why are we here?

God's ultimate purpose for us living in these physical bodies on planet earth is to become love. In becoming love, we represent the fullness of the Messiah as we relate to others and show His glory to a fallen world. The governing purpose of God is about His Son and securing a bride for Him that has His constitution (that bears his image).

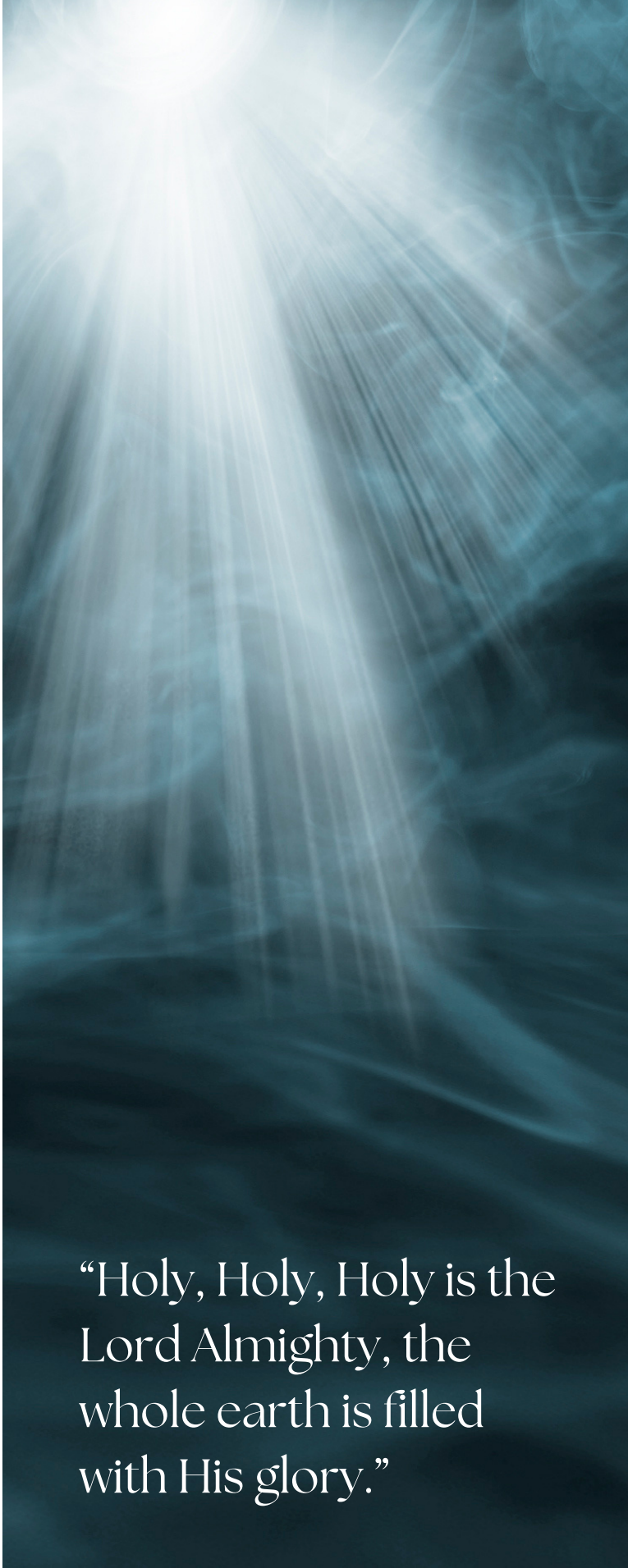
Unless we grasp this foundational truth, there will be frustration and defeat within the Body. God longs for a people, not just an individual, whose hearts burn alongside God in the desire to have a people who can share in the administration of His eternal Kingdom and govern with the same heart. We are God's instruments in this overarching purpose and we are co-laborers together with Him to bring about His glory filling the earth.



Recently, I finished reading one of Theodore Austin-Sparks books called *Because He Saw His Glory*. In this book, Austin-Sparks uses the life of Isaiah as an illustration of how God obtains instruments to bring a people to salvation and fullness in their calling and destiny. Isaiah lived during the reign of Uzziah and experienced the heights of his accomplishments as well as his downfall. Uzziah was sixteen when he became king and during those early years of his reign, he sought the Lord with all his heart. God was with him to defeat Israel's enemies. He built up the cities, had a well-trained army, built cisterns, and had people working his fields which became very productive.

Unless we grasp this foundational truth, there will be frustration and defeat within the Body. God longs for a people, not just an individual, whose hearts burn alongside God in the desire to have a people who can share in the administration of His eternal Kingdom and govern with the same heart. We are God's instruments in this overarching purpose and we are co-laborers together with Him to bring about His glory filling the earth.

How often have we witnessed such downfalls in godly leadership and have been left disillusioned and critical. How can they experience such grace and favor from God and move in signs and wonders and fall morally? In using the word "they" we have set that person apart from the rest of mankind. Isaiah 6 begins with the words, "In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord ...



“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is filled with His glory.”

"He experienced the glory and majesty of the Lord and the heavenly hosts worshipping Him with these profound words, *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is filled with His glory."*

Having encountered such a vision Isaiah was undone.

He shouted, "Woe to me, I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and I have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." At that moment the condition of his heart was exposed, and he experienced a healthy dose of the fear of the Lord. He had no chance to live in the presence of such holiness. It was no longer the sin of Uzziah that was the problem, but the condition of all of mankind. Isaiah saw that he was no better than King Uzziah.

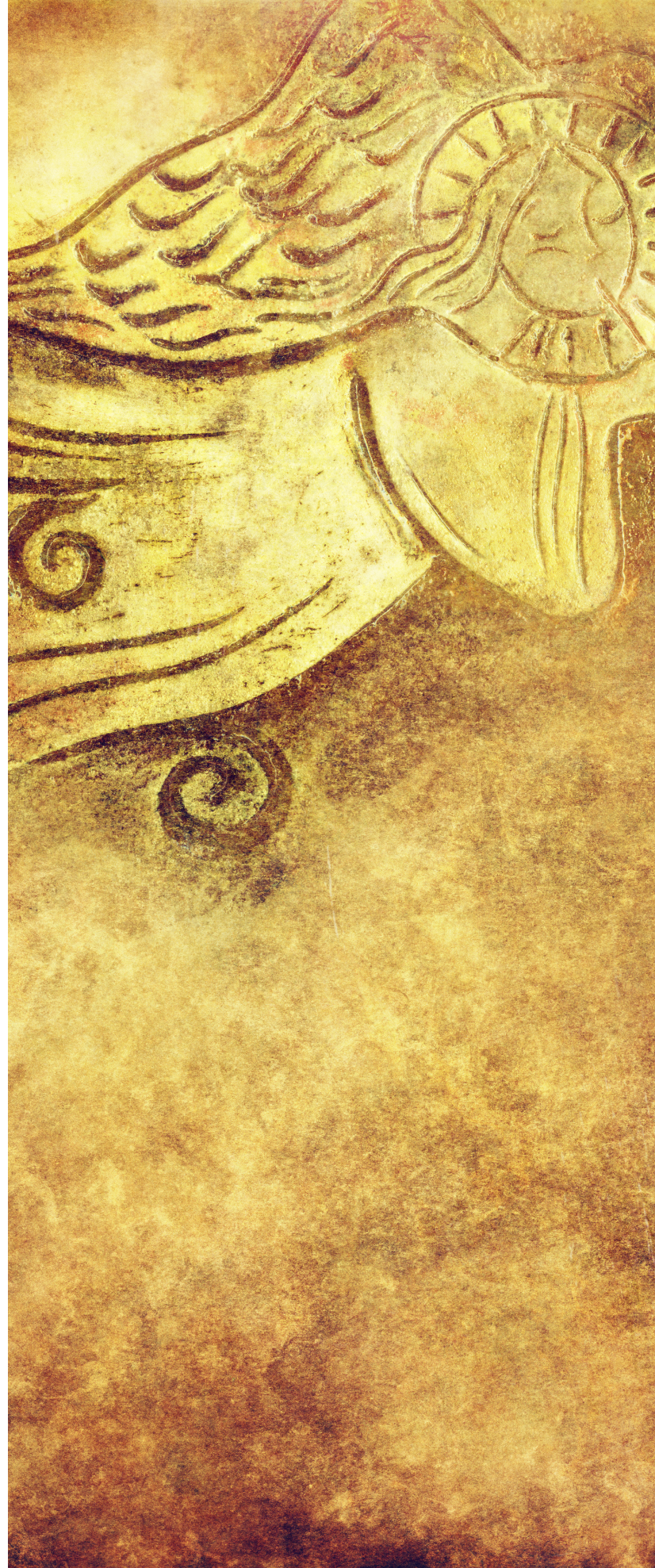
God had chosen Isaiah to be His instrument to speak to His people Israel and God had to get at any root of self-righteousness out of him. A prophet cannot speak the message of repentance unless he himself is included in the message. "We have sinned." But it is not enough to get in touch with the depths of our own sin nature because if we camp out on this revelation, we will impart hopelessness to the people we are called to lead. Often, prophetic people go through a season of being harsh in conveying their message and misrepresent the heart of God. However, God has not left us in this state of "woe" as He has provided the "Lo" as a remedy to our sin nature.

"Oh, what a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" was the cry coming from the heart of the Apostle Paul, but he did not leave us there. He continues,



"For the law of the Spirit has set us free from the law of sin and death". (Romans 7:24-8:2) A seraphim flew to Isaiah when he was devastated by his sin condition and the seraphim touched his lips with a live coal and said, *"Lo (see) I have touched your lips and your guilt is taken away."* The grace of God explodes into Isaiah's heart and now he is prepared to speak difficult words with grace.

For, although it sounds so elementary and simple, it is nevertheless profoundly true; that anything that we are allowed to do in relation to the Lord and His purpose must bring to us an overwhelming sense of the grace of God. When we are young men and women, we are all ambitious to get into God's work, to be preaching, speaking, and all that sort of thing. But as we go on, that kind of thing has a strange way of changing, and we come to the place where we say: 'God forbid that I should ever be on a platform, unless - unless - He puts me there. As long as I can keep off it I will; I will only be there because the Lord makes me get there. Because - who am I? Who am I, that I should talk to other people? What am I that I should seem to be standing before them?' That will grow as you walk with God. It is bound to be like that. It will be of the infinite grace of God that you will have any place at all in His purpose. (T. Austin-Sparks, *Because He Saw His Glory*)





Now Isaiah could be trusted with the secrets of God's heart and the calling on his life. He had been shaped and formed according to the purposes of God. *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said 'here am I. Send me.' He said, 'Go' and tell this people..."* (Isaiah 6:8-9)

May we gain encouragement from the way the Lord dealt with Isaiah. We all are in different places on our journey of "woe, lo, go" and often we go through the same lessons again and again in the process of our perfecting. Are we in a season of despair, disillusionment, or hopelessness like Isaiah after Uzziah died? As part of this we come face to face with our own fragility and powerlessness. If we have lost heart, then we are poised for a new unveiling of the glory of God and a new revelation of His grace in the midst of our weakness. And then, having been repositioned in His love we are again launched into greater depths of our destiny and purpose in extending God's eternal Kingdom. We cry out, ***"Hineni, I am yours!"***



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GOD’S ULTIMATE
PURPOSE FOR US
LIVING IN THESE
PHYSICAL BODIES
ON PLANET EARTH
IS TO BECOME
LOVE.

- P A T R I C I A J U S T E R



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