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ANGEL FOOD

Today, more than ever, as we read such as Jane Leade, Mme. Guyon, Brother Lawrence, T. Austin Sparks, the apostles, the heroes and prophets of the Old Testament, and the many more who form the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us, the strength of Christ in their inner beings feeds our souls and spirits. I am reminded of the words of Jesus. *“For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”* (Matt.24:28 NKJ) Indeed, in their natural death, such have attained the position of angel messengers, they influence us through thoughts, writings, and glorious revelations and explanations of the invisible kingdom. As “eagles,” we hover over their remains, we devour their entrails, and experience the continuation of what the Spirit had begun in them. Some of these angels often break bread with us, strengthening both our eagle spirits and guiding our earthly woman as she flees from the dragon.

One of these many angels spoke with John on the Isle of Patmos. *“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then said he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book; worship God.”* (Rev.22:8-9) Oh my Lord, indeed, your angels (messengers), are posted everywhere, ministering to those who are heirs of salvation. *“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire...Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.”* (Heb.1:7,14) The word “angel” is derived from the Greek meaning “messenger.” Angels are messengers to the sons who are the HEIRS of salvation. Angels are continually sent to minister to our needs, and also to bring us God’s Word through dreams and visions, as was the case with the apostle John on Patmos.

Several years ago, a dear sister in the Lord and close friend, passed over to the other side of the veil. At the funeral, the minister shared this dream that a relative had received. *“I saw Helen walking through the gates of heaven. She had on a long gown, and on the gown were many, many sets of wings, like angel wings.”* The Lord was saying that this dear sister had many messages to minister from her side of heaven. She is now one of God’s messengers who minister to us by the Spirit. She is part of that holy carcass where eagle-saints gather together to feast upon the life of Christ in those who have become His body.

There are also “angels unawares,” *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”* (Heb.13:2) These are strangers that come up into our day without us being aware that they are messengers of a word or of a deed that we need at the time. I have encountered many of these in my life. I remember the time when my mother passed away, and my husband and I traveled to Belgium where she lived. Angels unawares, who were strangers to us, played a significant role to help us. My mother, who for many years had a business in Paris, still had an account there; so we had to travel to Paris to close that account. Early one morning, we were at the Railroad Station Gare du Nord, carrying a leather briefcase filled with all our important papers, waiting for the train back to Belgium. We were a little early, so we bought coffee at a stand and sat on a bench near-by, when the loud-speaker announced the boarding of our train. We were running toward the quay to catch our train when we heard a voice behind us, and saw a man running toward us holding our precious briefcase. In our haste, we had left it behind on the bench, but this “angel” was watching us and ran to bring it to us. I shall never forget the stranger/angel of that day. I am sure that all who read this can recall this kind of angel in their lives.

SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

The wise man wrote, *“Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”* (Prov.4:7) We may be filled with much knowledge of Scriptures and prophecies. We may be anointed with the ability to communicate and teach others, but unless we have wisdom and understanding, unless our spiritual eyes are opened, we will crumble in times of trouble. When Jesus met the disciples after His resurrection, He sat to eat with them. *“...He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them, And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.”* (Lk.24:30b-31) They had walked with Him for three years, ate with Him every day, asked Him questions and were taught of Him in person, yet they had no understanding of who He was; they did not really know Him. When He appeared in another form than flesh and blood, they did not recognize His person; they had only known Him externally. This is how we know the Lord when we first walk with Him. But when we mature, we begin to know who He is in Spirit and in truth. Until we know Him as He really is, we cannot be in His image and likeness. This will happen when we have grown to the fullness of His stature, when we are as He is. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”* (I Jn.3:2)

To bring us to maturity in Christ, the Holy Spirit leads us into a lonely path. The truth is that **“AS LONG AS WE ARE STILL ATTACHED TO THE WORLD IN ANY WAY, WE CANNOT FULLY KNOW HIM.”** So the Holy Spirit sets out to break us from all the attachments that hold us back. When the stones were cut out of the quarry to build the temple, each stone was completely cut loose from the mass, and brought out alone, to be chiseled upon and made smooth. This has been the way for us, since we gave our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been in a process of being cut loose from all that we were a part of, that we might be chiseled upon and made smooth enough to be built together into His holy temple. Many times, the way to being cut loose from our worldly attachments is through suffering. The loss of loved ones on whom we had invested so much of ourselves, the disappointment of friends, the loss of money or earthly comforts, the separation from our fellowships, all these things and much more, are often a part of His working to bring us unto Himself.

As soon as He called us from our mother's womb, He began this work in our lives. If we are among those who are called to be His firstfruits, then we will find this kind of dealing throughout our lives. Yet, through it all, He sustains us well, both spiritually and physically. The dream I had about walking on the road alone, when my suitcase suddenly disappears, then my purse and finally I am left with only a ten-dollar bill, certainly confirms this kind of dealing in my life, and in the lives of each of His called-out ones. We amass as much in spiritual treasures, as we lose in our attachments to the things or people of this world. The Lord said to the church at Laodicea, *“Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich...”* (Rev.3:17) Oh that we might not be found so preoccupied with the affairs of this world, so attached to their politics, sports or entertainment that we forsake the true riches that are of eternal value.

We don't need spiritual eyes to see what is happening in the world, but we need spiritual eyes to see and enter into the kingdom of God. The gold is God's nature, but it is through the fire that it is tried and becomes ours. The fire is the currency needed to enter into God's kingdom and become sons. Jesus told the rich young ruler who desired to be perfect, *“Sell all that you have and follow Me.”* It is the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus working from within that is making us free from all the things that keep our minds and the affections of our hearts set upon earthly things. This Law works from within to afflict our fleshly man but it gives joy unspeakable and full of glory to our soul.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*