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Angèle Caporaso
10552 SE 151st Street
Summerfield Fl. 34491
Ph.352-288-5257 Email jackiec30@gmx.com

Spiritual Blindness

In my previous letter, I wrote about “spiritual understanding.” We were all born blind to spiritual realities, and as the Lord begins to open our eyes and we become aware of the spirit realm in us and around us, we still lack understanding of what we are seeing. When Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth, the disciples questioned Him as to why this had happened. Had he sinned or was it the fault of his parents? It is easy to assume that our physical afflictions and infirmities are due to our sinfulness or to our lack of faith, when indeed this is seldom the case. On the contrary, Jesus explained that this man was born blind for the glory of God! He proceeded to spit on the ground and with that clay, anoint the eyes of the blind man. He then told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam, which means “Sent.” When the man did, he came back seeing. This confounded and stunned those who knew him. They pressed the man, “Who did this for you?” *“He answered and said, A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash! So I went and washed and I received my sight.”* (Jn.9:11) It was not long until the Pharisees heard and were greatly disturbed; they brought the man to them for questioning. They questioned his parents, and kept interrogating, harassing and threatening him. They reviled him and accused him of being a disciple of this Jesus, the troublemaker who annoyed them greatly.

Being that we are all born spiritually blind, when we come to Jesus, His Holy Spirit begins to open our spiritual eyes. He mixes the Word of His mouth with the clay of our consciousness, and sends us to the pool of Siloam, where we wash until we can clearly see. He sent me to the pool of the Methodist Church, then to a Non-Denominational Church, and so on until I could understand His written Word and began to turn away from the attractions of the world. Then He sent me to the pool of a group of Christians who had left their denominations to seek greater truths, and in that pool, I learned to shed many of the doctrines of man-made religions. He sent me from pool to pool until only His Spirit within me, was my teacher and leader. There is a price to pay for this, for after leaving each pool, I found that those who were once my friends, reviled me and shunned me. This is where Jesus leads us. At the end of His earthly journey, all had turned against Him; even Peter denied Him.

BUT WE SEE JESUS...

The goal is to see Jesus as He is. How we see Him is a vital part of our growth in Christ, and of our position in our calling. John writes, *“My beloved, now are we the sons of God, and as yet it has not been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be in his likeness, for we shall see him as he is.”* (Jn. 3:2 Lamsa). When we first come to the Lord, we see Him as He walked this earth. We cannot yet see Him as the life within us. We might understand that the Holy Spirit dwells within us, but we worship an outer God, separate from our beings. Little by little, He reveals Himself in us but we only have had a mental vision of that. Even now, we are still having trouble realizing that He is in us, and soon we will behold Him as He is, and be like Him. *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* (II Cor. 13:5). Perhaps we could remain as innocent and happy little children in God’s kingdom and skip all these details, but if we are called to be mature sons, kings and priests

unto our God, then we will seek to know Him more, and to see ourselves in the details of His plan. Long ago, He showed me the difference between soul and spirit, but it was only recently that I understood the difference between the Holy Spirit and Christ in us the hope of glory. They each have a vital part in our spiritual growth and ultimate transformation, but I never heard anyone teach in detail about that. As sons and priests of God, the understanding of these things is of great value. Paul repeatedly said, *"Be not ignorant brethren..."* Paul yearned for the church to know the hidden work of Christ and of the Holy Spirit in His church, and so now, vague answers are no longer enough for us.

As I inquired again, He reminded me that the Holy Spirit is the Word that descends as tongues of fire, and takes up residence in those who are seeking and ready to receive Him. These are His ecclesia, His called-out ones, His Church. The Holy Spirit is the Word come in the flesh. He is our Leader, our Comforter and also our Husband. Through the centuries, He has continued to descend in His called-out ones. He is the living Word, the Seed of new life that impregnates our soul, (mind). And Christ is the embryo that is formed by the union of the Word made flesh and the mind or soul made virgin. Paul wrote, *"My little children of whom I travail in birth again, until Christ be formed in you."* (Gal.4:19)

Christ in us is the anointed one who is formed and grows into the image and likeness of the Son of God. We are re-born into the Christ that is formed within. When He walked the earth, Jesus was the Christ. In His death and resurrection He became the new Son of Man whose seed is planted within our earth. He is the life, the Spirit of our new being. Then our soul possesses the renewed mind of our new visible body. The Christ in us becomes the glory of God in the world. He saves our soul by cleansing her, purifying her and making her one with His Spirit. Then she becomes bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, adorned in a body of glory. This is the hope of glory within us. This is what takes place when the Spirit feeds us, corrects us, disciplines us and lovingly impregnates us until the time of our complete change. Our part is to hear His voice, to believe His Word, to yield to His cleansing and purifying, to let go ALL that has been part of the old creature, until He appears as us, in us.

As we receive His seed of truth within our minds, our minds are renewed and we are being transformed into His image and likeness. At first He appears in us, through the babe that we are in Christ. Then we become the know-it-all, rebellious teenager, until through chastening, suffering and every day experiences, we become the new Man. When we see Him as He is, He will appear as He is in us, and we will be like Him. We will be that new creature, we will be the perfect manifestation of Christ in His body of sons, ready to join those who have gone before us and have been waiting for this perfect Day. *"...they without us should not be made perfect."* (Heb.11:40b). Then Christ the sons will follow on to deliver creation. This is the miracle of birth...this is our new birth.

Recapping, "The bride is the church, the earth, into whose virgin womb, (renewed mind), His seed of life, (Living Word) is sown. This process gives birth to the sons. The sons are Jesus Christ, whose own body was broken, (made seed) for us, and now is soon to appear in the many sons through the miracle of re-birth. When the son matures, the bride marries that son and becomes one with Him. This is now the new visible creature, whose Word is the pure Word made flesh in the world. The bride becomes bone of His bone and flesh of his flesh. They are one new man to appear as the Word made flesh and deliver creation. There are not two companies, there is only one new Man, who is the Son made flesh in the visible church, who is His body. *"...for his body's sake, which is the church."* (Col.1:24:b) His body and the church (bride), are one and the same. This is a mystery that can only be seen by the Spirit. The carnal or the natural mind cannot comprehend this, and so it separates the one into two units. *"O the depth of the riches and the wisdom of our God! And His ways past finding out!"* (Rom.11:33)

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*