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LETTER L-50

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TRANSFORMATION-

BE YE TRANSFORMED- "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Rom.12:2) To reach the goal of our journey in Christ, there must be a total change; this mortal must put on immortality. Our likeness must be that of the Son of God. Becoming mature sons is the result of all that we have come through. There can be none of the old left, which means leaving behind all the stages that we walk through until we are fully reborn from above. This happens as we daily yield ourselves to the work of the Spirit in our souls. Faithfully and lovingly, the Spirit of God walks us through trials and sufferings until we fully yield. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons." (Heb.12: 7-8) Let us not be offended at the strong language of the Spirit or the chastisement which can be humiliating and painful, for it accomplishes the work needed to change us.

As we walk through this journey, the Spirit is bringing us to maturity, and removing all the tools and props that were needed to bring us to this place. He is separating us from things that we learned to depend upon, but that are now things that would keep us from knowing Him as He is. Transformation is new birth; the new baby has all new parts; there may be a resemblance to his ancestry, but the baby's limbs, organs, hair, eyes, each part of the baby is brand new. "Behold I make all things new! Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor.5:17) How many times have we read these words and never truly grasped their full implication in our own beings? There can be no new birth, no transformation, without leaving ALL the old things behind. This is not saying we must leave our homes, families, our jobs or responsibilities behind; it is speaking of leaving behind the person who had been molded and ruled by a mind filled with the traditions and convictions of this world. Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." (Jn.14:6) He is the living source of truth, every other source is impure and derives from the lie. The persons that we are in Adam, are counterfeits of the true persons that we are in Christ. Our new minds will tell us the truth. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (I Cor.2:16)

AND THE DREAM CAME TO PASS- Because many of the dreams from the past are now actually coming to pass, they take on a clearer and more important meaning. The dream that I recall here, depicts clearly the journey that I, (we), took from the time that the Lord called us out unto Himself, to the walk that I, (we) are on now. In the dream, "I had been visiting my husband's mother and now I was leaving her. I was carrying my present purse and a large old suitcase crammed full of all my belongings. I then went on my way, walking, and stopped to eat at a restaurant on the way. It was a crowded place with bright light and it was very noisy with everybody talking lively and loudly. Then I left and started off on my way again. After walking a long distance, I suddenly realized that I was no longer carrying my big old suitcase, and my purse was gone too. I must have left them at the restaurant so I turned around and walked all the way back. The walk back was now very rough terrain; going back was a long and tiring walk. At the restaurant, I quickly found the owner. He was very busy and gruff, but I insisted and told him that I needed help because now I had lost everything, and I did not even have a dime to make a phone call. With that, he took a roll of bills out of his pocket, and handed me a \$10 bill. Then he quickly sat down at a table with others. I left to continue on my journey. End of dream-This dream is a condensed story of the journey that you and I have

walked in order to become sons of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God..." (Jn.1: 12) We know that this journey began after we answered the voice of the Lord and repented from our sins. We then began to turn our lives around as we learned to follow the ways of the Spirit. This began the spiritual journey that would involve our entire being, spirit, soul and body. When I first interpreted this dream, I could not have conceived the drastic, life-changes that would unfold in my future. I know that many can see themselves in this as well.

In the dream, the journey begins at my mother-in-law's house. She represents the church under the Law which is not only the Law of Moses, but also the many rules and works that we are called to keep and to do after we join a church or group or just a tutor or mentor. This is necessary to begin our growth in Christ. This is the stage when we begin to accumulate a lot of Bible knowledge, doctrines, rules of behavior. We are urged to talk to the lost and to bring them to Jesus. When we leave our mother church, we not only take with us, all we have learned, but what we have become. Our new knowledge and good behavior are some of what is crammed into the old suitcase I carried. My purse in the dream speaks of my new identity as a "born-again" Christian. The time spent at "mother-in-law's house," is an important step but I could not stay there any longer, so I walked on. Paul writes, *"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me..."* (Gal.1:15-16a) Paul was not speaking of being separated from his birth mother; he was speaking of leaving the teachings of his Jewish faith behind. God called Paul out and away from them, and He also calls us out of the church or teachers that we are first attached to. The purpose of this separation is also to reveal His Son in us.

Next, on this journey, I was hungry and I found a good place to get some food. This speaks of our need to continue in the faith, and our need to feed upon God's Word. So in the dream, I came to a lively restaurant, all lit up, filled with people talking and having a great time while eating. Indeed, this describes the lively moves that stemmed out of the earlier "Latter Rain wave." This new wave brought out the "Charismatic" groups that formed all over the land, with teachings that came out of Pentecostalism, such as the baptism in the Holy Ghost, the gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues. Among these were the Full Gospel Businessman's meetings which opened up in every corner of the nation and in the world. At the same time, Sons of God movements were also being raised, in a somewhat quieter and more subdued way, but no less fervent and enthusiastic. They met in living-rooms, basements or store fronts. As they grew in numbers, they rented buildings, and held large conventions with traveling ministries who went around the country and even the world, to share the truths and the gifts of the Spirit that they had found. My husband and I were joined to several of those along the many years of our walk. We learned more of God's ways in these groups, but our God was not through with us, for these were only "restaurants" on the way to the transformation of our minds. The word "restaurant" comes from the French "to restore." The first true "restaurant" opened in the 1700s and sold only health foods. And so in symbol, they speak of the moves of God that were raised to build us up in the faith and open our understanding to the ways and will of our God.

ONLY TEN DOLLARS LEFT- Then, the dream brings us to where we are walking today. We fulfilled our time in the lively restaurant, and now we find ourselves on the final lap of our journey with only a \$10 bill in our pocket. We are walking alone for although we are many walking the same way, this is still a very personal journey. The road is long and narrow, and it is night time; all is dark, and our only light is the Spirit and the Word within. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (Ps.119:105) As it has been all along, it is the Spirit who has brought us to this place, and only He can move the necessary events that will bring us to the final goal.

The number ten in this dream has to do with trials and testing. Daniel and the Hebrew children were **tested ten days** as they ate only legumes and vegetables, and turned down the dainty meats of the king of

Babylon. The Lord told the church at Smyrna, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." (Rev.2:10) So this is where we are now, on the road where our "faithfulness to the Lord is being tested to the fullest. But at the end of this road is a crown of life which is a new mind, the mind of Christ who rules and reigns forever. On this journey, we have come to the place where we are no longer nourished by the mother church of our early beginnings, and we have left behind the glorious and lively fellowships that made our souls jump for joy. We have been separated and have moved on. All the teachings and works of the past have been removed; they were God's tools to bring us to where we are now. Now we are being tested and tried as sons, through suffering, as we follow the voice of the One with "...feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the voice of many waters." (Rev.1:15) Indeed the Christ of many voices who is arising today, is walking through a furnace of fire, just as Jesus, the Christ who came all alone, as the Lamb of God, walked through the fire of His day.

On this last lap, even the tools that served to turn our minds and our hearts unto Christ, are being removed. But we should stay aware, that none of these changes are accomplished by the hand of flesh. God has His ways and His time to remove them from us, we do the yielding. In the dream, I was not aware that my purse and suitcase had disappeared. I had nothing to do with getting rid of them, and so in our lives, we are finding that we no longer desire or need the things that we once sought after; the things that entertained us or attracted us have lost their power over us. The doctrines that we held on to, are no longer our safe place.

During the seven last years of his life, my husband developed severe dementia. I had no choice but to stay home and take care of him. I kept up with my monthly writings, but could not attend any gatherings. Just two months after he passed away, the Lord tested me again. It was at a time when many of the brethren that I knew, held one of their yearly conventions. The convention grounds were a five hour drive from me, and I tried to resist the Spirit who prompted me to go, but I finally agreed. I had not attended one of these for years. I called ahead, and was able to reserve a room on the grounds, then I drove the five-hour journey by myself. I did not know how these brethren would receive me, but I knew the Lord had sent me. I arrived and parked my car in front of the house where I was to stay. As I was closing my car door, an old song came to my mind, and I began to hum it. It was a song I had seldom heard, but the first few words carried a clear message now: "Auf Wiedersehen, Auf Wiedersehen, we'll meet again, sweetheart." This old song is about two lovers saying goodbye for a while. I then knew that the Lord had brought me to this place to say goodbye for awhile. I loved these brethren, but I was no longer part of that stream. That night, I greeted the ones I knew, and attended that meeting. I ate a meal with them after the meeting, but I felt like a stranger. Some who had known me were glad to see me, and others were very cold. The next morning, I left without a word. On my way home, I knew that even though I no longer had my husband to take care of, I did not belong to the gatherings of the past. I had been been cut off from the glory of these meetings, the lively conventions I once loved, and I found myself, with great peace and new joy in my heart. As in the dream, I had left the lively restaurant and was walking on a lonesome narrow road where the final tests had yet to come! I still had \$10 worth of suffering to go through!

As time passed, the trials in my life were becoming more severe, yet the loving kindness of the Lord taught me through them all. The greatest physical trial was in 2020, when I fell. At that time, Covid was raging, the hospitals were full, and doctors limited their practices. The primary doctor I had did not, and perhaps could not direct me to a spine specialist in time. When I finally saw one willing to help me, my injury was permanently set, and my physical activities greatly limited. My daughter who lives with me, generously and lovingly began to take over my needs, and the chores of the house. She did the shopping and the cooking as well, and she nursed me back to where I could stay home and recover. During that time, the Lord has given me the grace to keep on writing, and staying in touch with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Each day, the Lord fills our home with joy, and the greatest gift of all is that it accomplished what I could have never done on my own; it took away much of my independence, and allowed my daughter and I both, to find the treasures that God had concealed within each of us. It made me understand better and appreciate more the ways of God, and the great love with which He leads us through necessary sufferings. It is God's faithfulness that brings us down, and then gives us the strength to overcome and to find our way into Christ. It seems that these past few years have been times of suffering and great changes in the lives of God's called out people, but together we are greatly encouraged in the Lord. Take heart, it is all good. God has His mighty hands on all that is taking place in our lives, in the world, and in all His creation. The God who so loved the world and gave His only begotten Son, is the same God who still loves the world, and will give His begotten sons to deliver His creation. I believe that together we are traveling the last lap of this crucial journey, being stripped of the old traditions of men, and holding on to a \$10 bill which is buying us the suffering necessary to reach unto the perfection and glory of Christ. The hope that was once hidden within, will soon become the revealed glory of our God, and the deliverance of His creation.

There can be no transformation, no mind of Christ, no crown of life, without great suffering even unto the death. The death that the Spirit is leading us to, is not necessarily physical death, but it is certainly the death of the soulish, egotistic, proud, evil one in us. It is the death of the carnal mind and the putting on of the mind of Christ. The many who have been gathered in the "cloud" with Jesus, are witnessing our day and waiting eagerly for their transformation. As the Son of righteousness arises in those who are left in the earth, the darkness of this world will flee, and the "cloud" will appear. Then the sons who are still here and those in the cloud will be caught up together in their new glory, clothed in the eternal, garments, (bodies), of resurrection. All must die, but all will not see the grave. *"O death where is thy sting, O grave, where is thy victory?* (I Cor.15:55) The life that is ours in Christ is being revealed, as our minds are being renewed. through suffering and death.

Let us not be preoccupied with the things of this world, or hold on to the things of the past, but rather, let us look at what is happening in the Spirit. In a recent article, Dr. Barbara Holmes, an anointed teacher and author of our times, wrote, "Transitions can only take place if we are willing to let go of what we have known, the worlds we have created, and our assumptions about "how things are." To let go is the precursor to being reborn. We discard the baggage of societal expectations and, like a morning glory, open to the possibilities of each new day, each new moment, even if those possibilities are shadowy and disorientating. Unfortunately, in the West, we don't let go of anything. We hold onto reputation and material goods long after they are no longer needed. We store acquired stuff in every nook and household cranny before renting a storage unit so that we can continue to hold onto our stuff. Dazed, we clutch at relationships long after they are on life support and cling to a past that no longer exists, grasping, desperate, and confused. We say that we are letting go, but, in our society, letting go is more like a tug of war. We diligently guard our stories (true or not), our lifestyles, and our belief systems until they are ripped from our sweaty palms. And yet, letting go is a necessary part of transformation.... " End of quote.

Our Lord is faithful and true to Himself. He will finish the work that He began in us and in creation, even at the price of great suffering, "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." (Rom.9:28) "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb.12:2)

Because He is love, Jackie Caporaso