



October 25, 2009

A statement for the body of Christ:

We are the Church, the body and the members of God¹. As the body of Christ, God has ordained us to be the medium through which the power of Christ is exercised in the earth. We have been made kings and priests through Christ and we are to be change agents in the earth, overcoming the things of the world, meeting needs and empowering families around the globe, winning souls, and building God's kingdom here in the world.² We ought to be as Jesus was in the earth, a ministry mighty in both word and in deed³. But there is a problem. The church has been made a source of entertainment, reduced to a place for social gathering, a sedative to temporarily alleviate our cares and worries⁴. We are not operating with the power God has purposed and ordained for us to walk in. We speak of good works but we are frustrated with incompleteness, inefficiency, and ineffectiveness.⁵ We search for an answer, but our seeking ends with pointing the finger at others and with our own issues, needs, and what should be addressed in our lives first.

We are not performing good works because we are not vessels fit and ready to carry out the good works Christ has before ordained for us. There is discord between our lips and our heart; there is a discrepancy between our outer selves and our inner selves; there is inconsistency between who we say we are and what we do. The body of Christ needs to return to God by seeking right relationship with Him. This requires three things of us: first seeking after God and learning of and about Him; second, learning who we are to God, who we are in Christ, and who we are with the Holy Spirit; and third, understanding our responsibilities and commitments for our relationship. Next we need to seal our return to God by abstaining, resisting, and defeating the old, that which is of the flesh and of the world by yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit. As we defeat and destroy the old, we need to heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit that will develop us and teach us how to plant and build the new. Only then would all of our works be good works, works motivated by love and demonstrated in power. God requires of us relationship, hearing, responsibility, action, and accountability. God requires faithful stewards to manage His affairs in the earth and we have failed to produce the profit Adonai desires.

We sought in prayer, "What is missing from us being all that God has created us to be?"
And this is a word from the Lord:

¹ 1 Cor. 12:27

² Rev. 1:6, 1 John 5:4, Gen. 12:3

³ Luke 24:19

⁴ Ez. 33:30-32

⁵ Is. 29:13-16

“You are missing. You means yourself owing us. We gave you life, you bring death to it. You have a sense of entitlement to this life, to make it what you want, when it was never supposed to be that way; it was always made for you to do Our will on earth. It is time to turn the table, to change it around, to live only unto Us, and to do Our will. Yes, you owe Us your lives, they were bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. Do it, live unto Us alone. Share it. This life.”

We cannot accomplish the will of God for our lives if we do not give Him what He desires. We experience frustrations in our lives and get stuck in uncertainty, questioning what we should do and how we should do it because we have not given God what He desires that we may walk in the plans He has for us. Before anything, more than anything, God wants us to seek a right relationship with Him. For the things hurt and broken in our lives, He can attend to our need; when there is trouble all around, He can be a refuge, a safe shelter; when the conditions of the world around us seem to be getting worse, He can heal our land.⁶ But we cannot command access to what God can do if we do not know who God is. Songs of praise and worship and the testimonies of others are useful, but that is not how we are to learn of Him. Paul said “I know Him, I perceive Him, I have knowledge of Him, and I am acquainted with Him because I have believed Him, and adhered to Him, and trusted in Him, and relied on Him.”⁷ And this relationship is at the root of our struggle in our Christian walk. We fall back on what we know to do and doing things outside the will of God to band-aid our situations or put ourselves at ease because we do not believe that what God has said, He can do. And we say we believe with our mouths but our belief is weak because we are not intimately acquainted with God. The church that God wants to use is missing because we the individuals and our reasoning and our personal willpower is too much in the way. Relationship with God begins with knowing Him; and we know God only to the extent to which we believe Him, trust Him, and rely on Him.

As we seek after God and He demonstrates to us who He is, we will come to learn who we are to Him, in Him, and with Him. By coming to know the love of God, we can see that we were all dead because of our disobedience and sin but we know that God is rich in mercy and loves us so much that He extended to us favor we do not deserve and gave us new life when He raised Christ from the dead.⁸ We have been adopted into God’s family, born of God to be sons of God. God Almighty has given us His Spirit, the very essence of who He is to live on the inside of us that we may exercise dominion and authority in the earth.⁹ So we are the temple of God. Our bodies are no longer our own to do as we please with them but our body is a vessel housing the Holy Spirit, so that this world can have a God-in-residence.¹⁰

As we come to know who we are – only first by learning of God – we will begin to understand our responsibilities and commitments in our relationship with God. It is our

⁶ Ps. 59:17, 2 Chr. 7:14

⁷ 2 Tim. 1:12

⁸ Eph. 2:1-6

⁹ Rom. 8:14-21

¹⁰ 1 Cor. 3:16, 1 Cor. 6:19-20

reasonable service to present ourselves as sacrifices to God, doing not our will but His will¹¹. We are to be managers, maintaining a clean heart. We are to consistently put the Word in our heart that we might not sin against God.¹² The body of Christ struggles in these areas because while we know we should be doing these things, it is difficult to remain committed because we have issues trusting God - because we have not believed enough to get to know Him. Our relationship with God is the foundation for not only what we do but also who we are.

The Word says the foundation of God is sure and it bears this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His” and “Let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity [behavior that is not like God] and stand aloof from it [uninvolved and uninterested].”¹³ As the body of Christ, we need to bear this seal. But we cannot do this with our own willpower and abilities. Our relationship with God teaches us how we should defer to Him and what His Holy Spirit can do for us. We must submit ourselves to God, then resist the devil, then he will flee.¹⁴ We are to “walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit].”¹⁵ Only then are we able to do as the Word instructs: cleanse ourselves from what is not honorable in purpose or character and from what is unclean; and separate ourselves from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences; in order that we may be vessels set apart for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.¹⁶ It is by the very power of God Himself that He put inside of us that we are able to defeat the flesh, our human nature without God, our old way of doing things. We wage our spiritual warfare with weapons mighty through God to root up, pull out, destroy, and throw down the strongholds, thoughts, and reasoning of the enemy.¹⁷ And the only weapons we use is the Word of God.

The Word of God is not only to defeat the old, it also works to plant and build our new lives and way of doing things. But for the body of Christ to operate as God has purposed for us, to simply have the Word and to read it is not enough. Unless we are able to hear the voice of God behind the words, we do not know the direction God has for us to go. We read the Word and make confessions of faith –and it is important to do so – but if we end there, we will sit with uncertainty or turn back to our own understanding. Our faith is connected to what we hear and what we hear comes out of the Word of God.¹⁸ For the church to be an effective ministry in the world as Jesus was on earth, we have to know that hearing the voice of God is what connects His Word with our faith action. Jesus said “I am able to do nothing from Myself... Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the

¹¹ Rom. 12:2

¹² Ps. 119:6

¹³ 2 Tim. 2:19

¹⁴ James 4:7

¹⁵ Gal. 5:16

¹⁶ 2 Tim. 2:21

¹⁷ 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Jer. 1:9-10

¹⁸ Rom. 10:17

voice comes to me, so I give a decision..."¹⁹ This is how we as the collective church need to operate; and this is how we as individuals need to conduct all our affairs in our daily lives. Even though we know we should not, we often fall back on the way we know how to do things and rely on our own will because we do not know what else to do. We know God has a plan for us, but what does that mean for our everyday decisions? These questions arise because our spiritual hearing is impaired. Jesus said "the sheep listen to his voice and heed it; he calls his own sheep by name and brings (leads) them out. When he has brought his sheep outside, he walks on before them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."²⁰ And this is why hearing the voice of God is so important: Jesus is walking out before us and if we hear Him, we can follow in the path that He has already cleared out and made ready for us. Herein lies the sweatless victory, the anxiety- and stress-free life God intends for us to live.

Only now can we be certain that all of our works are good works. Then we as members and as the body, as individuals and as a collective people, can be a ministry mighty both in word and in deed. Then we can get off being preoccupied with ourselves and our issues and we can know how to meet the needs of others. Then we can know what to do and how to do it to be a force in the earth, overcome the world, win souls, and build God's kingdom. Then all of our work will be motivated by love and demonstrated in power.

This is the church Christ is coming to get. This is the church God has ordained for us to be. But all of our work is not good work and we are not a body exercising the same power that is in Christ Jesus. And it is because we are not fit and ready nor prepared for the works God has destined for us. We are not because we do not heed to voice of God. We do not heed because we cannot hear the voice. We cannot hear because we have not totally cleansed and separated ourselves from that which is not of God, including our own will and our own understanding. Or, we do not hear because we do not recognize the voice of God. We do not recognize or have not totally let go of the old because we struggle with our commitment in our relationship with God. And commitment is at the very heart of trust. Our trust wavers because there are those areas in our lives where we question what God will do for us. Our questionings are founded in disguised disbelief; disbelief because those are the areas where we do not know God. And we have gotten comfortable with our disbelief because we have gotten comfortable or have accepted as normal the discord between our lips and our heart and the inconsistencies between who we are and what we do. We have assumed frustrations are a part of life and have agreed that things not working out is a part of the process. God has not called us to be such a people.

This statement from the Prophet's Table is a message of love. Return to seeking a right relationship with God because He wants to use us to do His will in the earth. Do not fear or be overwhelmed but trust God, for He is our refuge and our Strength.²¹

¹⁹ John 5:30

²⁰ John 10:3-4

²¹ Ps. 46:1