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Playing with weeds #1

2012-04-21, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

One spring day when I was a boy, a group of us neighborhood kids saw the grasses, clover and dandelions growing in our yards, and thought we'd pick them and give them to our moms.

Later, when we met up again each of us reported how our moms were thrilled with our bouquets and put them in vases with water; some on a mantle, some on the dinner table - we were so proud of ourselves!

We would also pick dandelions by the long stem, and make a circle with the stem, looping it through to make a ring, and pick clover flowers just to suck on the sweet nectar, or even long stemmed grasses to suck on the sweet ends...my what treasures for a 6 year old!

When you grow up, that same lawn covered with dandelions and clover is seen for what it is - a bunch of weeds. But we didn't know that then, we had to mature to see another perspective.

As we grow...

We look for more permanent tokens of our love. Diamonds. Gold. Silver. Platinum. Sapphire and opal, turquoise and garnet. All can be expressions of love, something enduring through the seasons of life. As we mature clover and dandelions and grasses lose their appeal for we've grown beyond that season of life.

Spiritually speaking now

The body of Christ is entering a very serious season in the Lord, and I'd like to paint a broad brush picture of our history up to where we are now, and share some things on where the Lord is headed with us.

The Lord poured out His Spirit in a fresh way early in the 20th century, first in Topeka, Kansas, then the Azusa revival. Many people used that outpouring to go deeper in the Lord and grow up in Christ.

But through much of the latter part of the 20th century and early 21st century, much of the body of Christ has been playing with spiritual weeds like a 6 year old plays with dandelion and clover flowers.

However even when surrounded by people content to play with weeds, there have been a few who matured into seeking the more lasting things of God. Their number is growing, and that's what this word is about.

Children think weeds are the most beautiful and precious thing there is. They think a weed is the highest and best they can give their parents. They become a curiosity, something to twist and turn and put in the hair or around a finger - something to play with that is here today and discarded later today when the child sees a new patch of pretty weeds to explore.

So many Christians have played with the things of God like they were weeds, but some played with weeds knowing down inside they were actually searching for things more permanent in Christ.

Spiritual weeds

When I was born again and Spirit filled in the 1970's, personal prophecy was very big, though most were largely ignorant of God's Word and ways; as a result many of those prophecies were a mix of emotion, opinion, and maybe a little of the Spirit of God thrown in.

I guess what goes around comes around, for in the last 15 years or so personal prophecy once again became a fad thing and once again most people were pretty unknowledgeable about God's Word and ways, so many of those 'words' have had the same mix of self and emotion and ignorance.

In the late 70's and 80's the weeds Christians were playing with included prosperity and name it claim it. In the 90's people were being blown over by TV ministers and pastors, and 'apostles' were going around preaching at a church 1 time then demanding that church or pastor tithe to him personally.

In the same time frame people ran from Toronto to Brownsville and later Lakeland. People put 'Bishop' and 'Prophet' on their business cards like a badge of honor rather than a grace to serve. Today's weed patch is dominated by off balance grace teaching: People turning the grace of God into a license for sin rather than empowerment to live holy lives - like children who think their weed bouquet is so pretty, yet in reality they are just offering a bunch of weeds to

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the Lord with no awareness of growing up in Him.

Paul's weed patch

In I Corinthians 3 Paul said this: "I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly - as mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you weren't ready and neither are you now ready for solid food. You are still worldly...For no one can lay any other foundation other than that which is already laid down, which is Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones - or wood, hay and straw - their work will be revealed for what it is..." (1-16)

The Father wants those children who have been playing with weeds - wood, hay, straw - to put them aside and grow up. The days coming upon this world will reveal many Christians thought they knew what maturity and faith was, but to their horror they will discover they are mere children and what they thought they knew, is wrong.

Divine unrest

What is happening in the body is an unrest from within individuals. Christians by the millions are waking up and realizing they've been playing with spiritual weeds their whole lives. They've bounced from this 'outpouring' to that 'gift' only to discover one is a spiritual dandelion and another the flower of a thistle.

They now question church structure, leadership, why the same pattern in church happens again and again. That unrest is Christ rising within - "My little children I travail in birth pains again for you, until Christ be formed in you". (Gal 4:19)

There is a huge population of the body of Christ that doesn't understand the divine dissatisfaction going on within them. The fact is, we look for solutions within the guidelines we know, but what is going on in people must be found outside the box called 'church'; found in the Word separated from that which is called 'church'. They seek the Word in purity. They seek spiritual food that 'sticks to the ribs' rather than spiritual food that fills them for the moment but leaves them all the more hungry for real nourishment an hour later.

Ears to hear

Many churches that were once considered to be 'cutting edge' have become as irrelevant and distracted as the denominations that preceded them. God is doing something among His people - not people in buildings called 'church', but the true church, His people.

When I was a child my clover and dandelions were the most beautiful flowers I could give. But then I grew up and saw they were weeds, so I put away childish things. That is where the body is. But there is more.

The next weeks I'll share what the Lord has told me He is doing in the body, so stay tuned...

Blessings,
John Fenn
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Playing with weeds / Prophetic word # 2

2012-04-28, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

Rearranging Priorities

Last week I spoke of 'playing with weeds' as an introduction to a visitation I had in February from the Lord. When He appears to me He usually speaks to me about what He is doing in the body of Christ. This visitation was no exception. However, this visitation differed from other recent ones in the way He spoke of His body.

If you have read the messages to the 7 churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, you'll know the Lord says with each, "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches", each accompanied before or after by a promise to "him who overcomes".

Each of the 7 messages is different as each is sent to the body of Christ in a different city. Therefore each message is tailored exactly for the people in that city, yet on the other hand, the letter that became our book of The Revelation was copied and read by the whole body of Christ all over their world and certainly in ours.

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Therefore each individual message is also for the body of Christ as a whole.

Family by choice

As with all prophetic messages, they are received and acted upon voluntarily, by those who indeed do have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying. To the rest, the message(s) are just blah blah blah in the wind.

When the Lord appeared to me He spoke of a very serious season now upon the body of Christ. To you who have heeded what the Spirit is saying already, you will recognize it. The Lord spoke of His body growing up, putting away childish things, becoming Christ-like, and all that is headed towards a unity in the body of true disciples unlike the world has seen since the book of Acts. That is the final outcome of the 7 points He outlined to me in February - unity in the body of Christ unlike the world has seen since Acts.

Seven elements

These are the 7 things He spoke to me about:

1) **Setting priorities** in life geared towards maturity in Him. - When we reset our priorities in life, things once getting merely a glance, now become important, and those we once gave ourselves to, fall by the way side. When I was a child I played with children's toys. When I became an adult I put them aside - no more thinking spiritual 'weeds' are something to chase.

That means no more throw away Christian relationships. No more cutting people out of our lives because we don't agree with them, or they aren't doing what we want them to do, or they changed churches. It means what Jesus said becomes #1 in our life, so we don't hold onto grudges or hurts - we don't have that luxury anymore.

2) Our brothers and sisters in the Lord are our **family by choice**. The brothers and sisters we fellowship with on a weekly basis, become our family. Especially in house church. When people become family (you can pick your friends but you have to love your family) they become more important in our lives. If we are doing nothing more than running errands and a brother or sister in the Lord needs help getting to a doctor's appointment - family rearranges their errands to help the family member because they ARE family. We invest time with each other - getting together during lunch hours, over an evening meal - family by choice. What would your life look like if you made your closest Christian friends your family by choice?

3) The **underground economy** in the body, in which we care for one another in practical, every day ways. - Underground economy means exactly what it sounds like. Beneath all the traffic and people rushing this way and that, there is a group of believers who are helping their brothers and sisters in the Lord: I was...naked, hungry, thirsty, sick, in prison...and we clothed, fed, gave drink, visited them...invisible caring for one another no one sees but the people involved and the Lord.

4) **Simplicity of faith**; No more formulas, but instead truly know and walk with God, no distractions focusing on this or that 'special' teaching or latest and greatest thing hitting the Christian circuit. Simplicity of faith. Lay aside anything that complicates our faith. Don't chase spiritual rainbows and butterflies. People by nature would rather have a miracle than do the hard work of making decisions to face their circumstances in the eye and admit they made mistakes and need help digging out of the hole they created. It is much easier to blame it on the devil or God or someone else - but simple faith says I just have to grow up in Christ as my #1 priority and I don't care who is right or wrong; I must be like Jesus.

5) **Purity**; not using the grace of God as a license for sin, but as empowerment to live holy lives. Blessed are the pure, for they will see God. The Spirit is asking us to clean up our lives, but that can only be done if one really burns with the desire to see God - see Him in ourselves, our lives, our circumstances, to know Him.

6) **Without fear**; not reacting or acting out of fear of what will be, but moving forward through world events in simple and sincere faith, within a family and community of believers, doing good and growing in Him. He told me too many of His people are getting sidetracked by fear in the headlines of world events rather than learning how to receive the information without the spirit of fear attached. This was one of His most important points - to not do things out of fear; prudence yes, fear, no.

7) **Focused**; purposely setting aside distractions of faith and world attractions to focus our lives on Him and those disciples around us who are also on the same 'spiritual page'. Our focus is to be like Him. That means anything that would tempt me to exalt self must fall by the way side. We are to walk in the light of what we have, and not be concerned with other people's walks - that is their story before Him.

These 7 things He spoke to me about...you may hear in months ahead of some of these themes in conventions and conferences, in sermons and retreats - it is what the Spirit is saying to the churches...have an ear to hear and then

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apply yourself, and you will be one of those over comers.

More detail on each point next week...Blessings,

John Fenn

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Playing with weeds / Prophetic word #3

2012-05-05, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

Last part of the visitation

Last week I shared 7 elements the Lord spoke about concerning the body of Christ in this visitation.

It was an unusual visitation as I've only had 1 other where He gave me a bit of a history lesson. That was in 1992 when He said these things of the time when I was born again in 1974: "...of what you would call the 'Charismatic Renewal', a time when my people came out of the denominations because their needs were not being met. You met in home meetings, prayer groups, Bible studies, then soon (various) ministries started Bible schools to raise up leaders and many churches began as a result." (You are a product of those churches)

"But now, many of those churches have become as rigid, inflexible, and set on their own agenda as the denominations that preceded them, and my people will come out of them in large numbers, and you will hear of home churches, prayer meetings, home Bible studies and such because those churches are not meeting my people's needs..."

This year

So this year He again went back to when I was first saved: "When you first came to know Me and the Father, there were no resources for you to run to when you worked through issues in your life. When you needed to work through issues with your dad (earth dad), you did so just between us. There were no conferences dealing with forgiveness, no Internet to access other people's opinions, no books for your specific situation to read what others said on the subject - we worked through it together and I cherish those days."

"Remember how big it was when your city got its first Christian bookstore? And then, when the second one opened on the west side how thrilled and amazed you were? Today, my people have all sorts of resources to learn from, opinions and teachings on nearly every subject their heart desires, and many are running to and fro looking for answers - to everywhere but Me and my Word."

"These elements (see last week's Thoughts) are nothing more than calling my people back to Me and the Father, to lay aside all the distractions and opinions and teachings that pull them this way and that, to return to Me. They know about Me, but they are spiritual babies even though they have filled their mind with much knowledge."

"They don't have the knowledge they should, and many know nothing as they should, for knowing Me should be their first priority. Those who should be spiritual adults by now, remain only infants in Me for they've filled their lives with the voices of others while choosing not to apply my Word to their thoughts and lives."

"These are the people who will be most hurt in the days ahead; those who think they know Me, who think they know the Father, who think they know what faith is, yet they know more about us than truly knowing us. Their formulas will fail. Their false teachings will fail. However, some are already laying these aside as they answer the deep need in their spirit to know Me, and many are seeking. They shall find."

"Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Lay aside all those things and cling to Me, spend time getting to know the Father, spend time in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Find your answers in Me and my Word, not in the multitude of distractions which serve only to fill your mind with possibilities and error, opinion and formulas. Let us work through life's issues together, for then you will become strong in Me and walk with Me through life..."

My own time of distraction

When He was speaking, though He was gracious enough not to mention it though He certainly knew I was remembering it, I recalled when I was seeking the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and was guilty of the very thing He was talking about.

I read the Word, but then I read many, many books on the subject - all left me still seeking. It wasn't until our friends Janny and Vic gathered Barb and me and we went out into the country, found a patch of grass on someone's lawn, sat

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in a circle and they prayed for us to receive. My head was so filled with the words of others, it was hard for me to hear the voice of the Spirit leading me into the Baptism with the Spirit. (That's the problem so many have today)

Finally, Janny said "Johnny, (she remains the only person in the world who calls me Johnny) if you quiet your thoughts and rest, you'll find suggestions of words and syllables and combinations floating up from your spirit across your thoughts...when you see or sense those, grab hold of those and speak them out in faith, because that is the Holy Spirit giving you pieces of that prayer language. The devil will tell you it is just you, but the Word says 'the Spirit gave them the utterance', so you have to speak it out in faith."

I had been so distracted by what others said about the Lord on the subject, it took a while for me to lay aside those other voices to hear that still, small voice suggesting this and that combinations of letters...but I did, and that day changed me life.

Conclusion

The season was are in as a body is one where we are being called to voluntarily lay aside all those voices - not to get rid of a computer or tv or books - but to become discerning and disciplined from what and whom we receive - and learn how to work through life's issues WITH the Lord and us alone.

Many Christians grew up trained that the mega-church had all the answers like a mega-store has all the products one could ever need in life. Others were trained to go to this conference or that teacher for answers. Some are voracious readers and many now are sight and sound trained to listen to all the voices available.

But the Lord is saying in the days ahead, those who don't know Him and how to get answers directly from Him, will have a difficult time. They will find they know about Him, but don't truly know Him. The time is now for us to lay aside these other voices and just become focused on knowing God.

He is calling us to know Him

Let our hearts echo that of the apostle Paul, who in spite of his great training, his great spiritual experiences, in spite of being friends with the original apostles who walked with Jesus for other three years, said his heart's #1 goal was this:

For my determined purpose is that I may know Him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly, and that I may in that same way come to know the power out flowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers, and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness, even to His death..." Philippians 3:10 AMP

Amen! New subject next week, blessings,
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