

A call to

# The Ancient Path



The Journey, the Garment and the Tent

Charles Ellsworth Smith

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*Where our companion musical CD, *The Ancient Path*, can be found.*

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## Foreword

*The Ancient Path...first love...God made,  
Not man made...path of uncut stones,  
An altar...self-sacrifice, broken, poured out,  
Resurrection filled...God's heart, unconditional love.*

*Man made paths, man made cities  
Spell comfort, self-centeredness, fear of change,  
Fear of pain, fear of a broken heart  
Causing us to stay walled up,  
With man made gods  
And religion that's easy.*

*To be awake and on the path  
Is frightening, exhilarating, adventurous.  
Death to our own rights, sacrifice of our own desires,  
Finding fulfillment in the spirit instead of our own works,  
Means discomfort, lack of privacy, putting people first,  
Putting their needs at the top,  
Willing to risk my heart being broken.*

*If we stay on the path,  
We will walk into supernatural experience,  
Because Jesus is the Way, the Ancient Path.  
He goes before us to prepare the way  
And this path will lead us to Him.*

*Mary Smith*

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## Our Quest part one



*When I was fifteen years old my mother, father and I moved from a home in Maryland to Baghdad, Iraq. As our plane came into Baghdad, I saw continuous cracks in the desert below. Baghdad looked like a green dot in the middle of a huge dry mud puddle. I was in the tenth grade. As a boy raised on baseball, trading cards, boy scouts, jazz music, hamburgers and milkshakes, I felt as if I'd landed on another planet.*

*Baghdad was only thirty miles from the sight of ancient Babylon. One day I went on a field trip with some friends to the Ziggurat near Baghdad. I liked it so well, I went back with my family. There, in the middle of the desert, was a mound over five hundred feet high, like a skyscraper in the middle of nowhere. It seemed so old, so mysterious. Was it like the ancient tower of Babel?*

*While we were looking at the Ziggurat, some men dug a ditch so that we could not return on the road we arrived. They wanted money to fill it in. My father refused and a serious situation was arising. As if magically a little shepherd boy came up and said,*

*“Come, I will show you a way. We go round and round.”*

*Because of this the men settled for a dollar and filled in the ditch. The shepherd boy risked a lot to offer us the way out. Years later, I read in the scriptures, “a little child shall lead them.”*



*After living in Iraq less than a year, we awoke to gunfire. A coup-d'etat was in progress. The King was killed, and his government overthrown. Mobs were loose in the city. The Prime Minister was found dressed like a woman and cut into pieces by the mob. My father, mother and I plotted our possible escape down the Tigris River. Americans were being rounded up*

and killed. However, God was merciful. He got us through those crowds to the airport. Through many harrowing adventures, my mother and I were evacuated to Rome, Italy.

Rome, the city of seven hills, has been likened to the Babylon of the Bible. It was the seat of the Roman Empire and is the home of the Vatican. I visited the Catacombs and the Coliseum where Christians were martyred for their faith. I attended the funeral of Pope Pious the XII. In St. Peter's Basilica, I witnessed the contrast between the golden ceiling and the poor women in black garments scrubbing the floors. I was caught in the crowd as millions pressed in to see the body of the Pope. My schoolmates were the children of the cast of the movie *Ben Hur*. Like a whirlwind, these events impacted my life, I didn't understand that these events were the beginning of my spiritual journey. First, I had to go to Babylon.



Ten years later, I was sitting by a stream in the Maryland countryside. Mary, my wife, was on the other side of the water. It was a warm summer afternoon and I was searching for the next step in my life.

"I think we are supposed to go west," Mary said.

We had recently returned from living in New York City and were waiting, sensing something new was supposed to happen. I was a songwriter musician. Mary sang with me and wrote music herself. As I listened to the water rushing by, peace like sun light began to warm me. "Go west" became the clear signal in my heart. I was sensing an end to where I was and a call to move on.

A few days later I traded my wooden clarinet to my sister for a Ford Falcon station wagon. Mary transformed it into a traveling tent with curtains and a mattress and little shelves. We prepared to head west. The night before we left, our friend Jim looked at me for a long time and said,

"When you find the light, call us."

We had seen enough to know that there was good, called light, and evil, called darkness. Our band had played opposite some well-known musicians and we had opportunity to see the result of drugs, sex and rock and roll. Some of those musicians died in their twenties, the light of their lives extinguished.

Many people were traveling around the country or living in communes searching for the answer. The religion that we had seen was empty. I had a feeling, which I wrote into songs, that the answer was just around the bend. We knew we had to go and find it. We didn't know that we were looking for the Ancient Path. We drove across the country searching for an answer to the questions in our hearts.

Matt 7:7

7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. NIV

## Chapter One – Two Paths



Matt 7:13-14

13 Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

14 For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. NAS

It is evident that two paths are before us. We can choose the broad way or the narrow way. These roads lead to two different destinations. One road leads to light and life, the other to darkness and destruction. It is not just a choice of a day or a year's journey, it is the choice of an eternal destination. According to Jesus most of us choose the broad way that leads to destruction. The narrow way is difficult, and few find it. History tells us that one generation can respond to the call and find the narrow way, and the next, forget it.

For many years I wondered why so many of God's people stumbled and left the path of blessing to prefer darkness and idolatry. I searched for the reason for God's repeated judgements of Israel, his people in the Old Testament.

Two years ago I read a chapter of the Bible that was to change my life, Jeremiah chapter six. In this passage, I saw five problems that caused God to judge his people followed by the way of escape for anyone who will listen.

Jer 6:10

To whom shall I speak and give warning,  
That they may hear?

Indeed their ear is uncircumcised,  
And they cannot give heed.

Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them;

They have no delight in it. NKJV

### Vs.13-15

13 From the least to the greatest,  
all are greedy for gain;  
prophets and priests alike,  
all practice deceit.

14 They dress the wound of my people  
as though it were not serious  
'Peace, peace,' they say,  
when there is no peace.

15 Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct?  
No, they have no shame at all;  
they do not even know how to blush. NIV

Or in the New Living

13 From the least to the greatest, they trick others to get what does not belong to them. Yes, even my prophets and priests are like that!

14 They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when all is war.

15 Are they ashamed when they do these disgusting things? No, not at all--they don't even blush! Therefore, they will lie among the slaughtered. They will be humbled beneath my punishing anger," says the LORD.

### Quest part 2

*Mary and I had lived in New York and had seen the cutthroat and deceitful methods of the music industry. Mary had grown up in the church, had heard the words, but had never seen the path of life. We had lived through three assassinations and an undeclared war that caused us to doubt the moral authority of our leaders. Our band had played opposite Jimi Hendrix and the Beach Boys. We had seen the life style first hand that was destroying so many young people in our nation. We had even performed a concert in a church whose minister had been having secret meetings. He was passing a marijuana joint around calling it communion and committing sexual acts with those who would participate with him. We heard of people taking LSD and dancing before the altar of that church.*

*Though I was not a Christian, my conscience told me this was wrong. We had been told by Timothy Leary to turn on, tune in and drop out. One night Mary had seen a vision of an abyss, a deep hole sucking her down. It was calling for us. I had only barely escaped death on a drug trip. We were sick of false advertising, lies and manipulation and we wanted the truth. How about you?*

Thirty years later I began reading this passage that sheds light on what I had seen both as a young musician and later as a Pastor.

### The Five Problems

From the writings of Jeremiah, the prophet, we find five things the people were doing that were destroying the nation of Israel. Do they fit us today?

1. No hunger for truth – When we are not hungry we are full. But what are we full of? When someone speaks the truth in our hearing, do we want to close our ears and get away because the word convicts us and we do not want to change our ways? Do we find fault with the messenger rather than letting the word he or she brings search our hearts? Are our ears so full of the sounds of this world that we can not hear the Lord calling? Do singers, commentators, entertainers and sports figures fill up our thoughts so we cannot hear the voice of the Lord?

2. Love of dishonest gain - From Madison Avenue to the way some of our ministers preach the gospel, do we hear the love of money interwoven into the message? From the lottery screen in our local restaurant inviting us to gamble, to the content of today's movies and TV shows, do we hear the voice repeating,

“Whatever feels good do it”.

Isn't the message to our young people,

“ It's all about money, sex and power?”

3. Sham – deceit as a way of life – It's not just the getting of money and power but getting it through any means possible. When con men are glorified and honest people are forgotten, when cynicism and manipulation assault our senses at every turn, when both priest and prophet are willing to alter the truth, we face that leaven which Jesus called hypocrisy ([Mt.12:1](#)) Are we pretending to be something we are not? Are we laughing at the very things that are destroying us?

4. The pretense of healing, revival and peace – What is superficial healing? Is it putting a Band-Aid on a festering wound that needs cleaning, cauterizing and stitching? Is it telling people they are revived when they know in their hearts there is still deep repetitive sin and they need to turn away and be delivered?

Is it saying all is well when destruction is imminent? Is it creating a false sense that prosperity will sustain you when scripture tells us not to place our hopes in uncertain riches?

5. No shame at their idolatry - How is it that we can forget to blush? Is it because our eyes see so much violence and our imaginations are filled with such impurity that light can no longer penetrate our thinking processes? Have we placed our trust in the works of our hands above trust in the Living God?



Ps 146:3-4

3 Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortal men, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing. NIV

Ps 36:9

For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light. NIV

What if our rejection of God and his Spirit causes us to no longer believe there is goodness and light? Jesus said,

John 12:35-36

35 Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.

36 Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light. NIV

### Quest part 3

*When things get difficult, as they did with us, we began to search for a way out. We were tired of confusion as a way of life. We wanted clarity. I remember a discussion where someone claimed the end of all things was chaos. I told that individual I believed the end of all things was peace.*

*I wanted no more conflicts in my conscience. Mary and I came to the crossroads. We knew that somehow we had to get into the light, or our marriage would not hold together. Something or someone was calling us to a different way of life.*

*One night our car broke down on the California, Oregon border. I had been picking up hitchhikers and overloaded our Ford Falcon. I dropped the transmission. Because of a housemate's insistence, we were going to see a guru in California. When the car broke down our friend and the hitchhikers all left. There we were on the California border at the town of Hornbrook at 2 am in the morning.*

*We slept for awhile in our car, and when dawn came, we walked several miles into town. Ahead of us, we saw a sign over a restaurant that said "LAST CHANCE". We found that it would take several days to get our car repaired, and we wondered where we could stay. We went into the "Last Chance" restaurant and had breakfast with a kind elderly man named Wayne who took us home to his trailer. A few days later, when we were ready to leave town, we noticed the other side of the restaurant sign said "First Chance". Feeling encouraged, we picked up another hitchhiker and drove down the road back home. When we let him out, he left a Bible in our car. I began to read it.*

*On New Years eve the musicians union sent me to play at a Greek restaurant. Afterwards, Mary and I went to one of the musician's home and jammed til early in the morning. I met a bass player that night. He told me he was moving to Florida and asked me if I would like to rent his house complete with piano. I said yes and we moved across the street from a church called *Friendly Chapel* and a coffeehouse called the *Prince of Peace*.*

## The Solution

Jer 6:16-17 NIV

16 This is what the LORD says:

"Stand at the crossroads and look;

ask for the ancient paths,

ask where the good way is, and walk in it,

and you will find rest for your souls.

But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

17 I appointed watchmen over you and said,

'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!'

But you said, 'We will not listen.'

## Alternate readings

Stand in the pathways (crossroads) and see (take heed, behold, discern) and ask for the ancient (properly concealed, vanishing, time out of mind eternal, perpetual, of old but of any time) pathway (beaten track) where the good way is (journey, course of life, mode of action) and walk in it and you will find (discover, acquire) rest (a resting place) for your souls. But they said we will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen (observers, those who peer into the distance) over you saying listen (hearken, give heed, mark well, the sound (voice, cry) of the shophar (trumpet)). But you said, "We will not listen."

## The way

There is a path available that many have walked from the beginning. Jesus tells us it is a narrow, compressed way and few will find it.

Noah responded to this ancient walk when he was instructed to build an ark. Abraham heard the call when he left Ur and Haran and went to Canaan land. David heard it when he pitched a tent in Jerusalem.

Isaiah in chapter 35 reveals a highway of holiness originating in the desert that we are to walk on. A light blinded Saul so that he could hear the call, leave the road of destruction and walk the Ancient Path; his name dynamically changed to Paul.

Paul later wrote:

2 Cor 6:17

Therefore come out from them,  
and be separate, says the Lord.

The early church members were called *followers of the Way*. The word church means the *called out ones*. They came out to John, met the Messiah and walked the Way that the master had revealed to them.

Jesus made it clear .

“ I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me.”

[Isa 30:20-21](#)

20 Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction,  
your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it. NIV

### We must go out to the crossroads to find it

I asked the Lord to tell me what single thing is missing most in the thinking and teaching of today. In my heart I heard Him say, “ Wisdom.”

Prov 8:1-3

1 Does not wisdom call out?  
Does not understanding raise her voice?  
2 On the heights along the way,  
where the paths meet, she takes her stand;  
3 beside the gates leading into the city,  
at the entrances, she cries aloud. NIV

There at the crossroads, where the paths meet, we find the house of Wisdom.

In Proverbs 9 two women call to us.

“ Whoever is naïve (simple of mind) and to those who lack discernment turn in here.”

Wisdom then asks the traveler to eat of her food and drink of her wine. Forsake folly and live and proceed in the way of understanding [Pr.9:5-6]. In other words reject the broad road and travel the narrow way, the Ancient Path to life.

Prov 9:1-6

1 Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn out its seven pillars.

2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.

4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding."

### Prov 9:13-18

13 The woman Folly (foolish women) is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge.

14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, 15 calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way.

16 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

17 "Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!"

18 But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave. NIV

Folly offers stolen water and bread eaten in secret. The wise woman advises the traveler to drink water from his own cistern. This is a call to faithful covenant relationship with God and spouse. The visitor to Folly or harlotry is directed to leave the narrow way, break covenant and be unfaithful. He does not understand that departed spirits are in the foolish women's house, and her guests are in the depths of Sheol. The visitor does not understand that *what looks like entertainment, is a downhill slide to destruction.*

### Quest 3 continued

*We had come to the crossroads. We were in a house across the street from a church and though we were making progress and had a Bible, we were still confused. Little did we know what God had planned for us.*

## Chapter Two – Coming out



2 Cor 6:17

"Therefore come out from them  
and be separate," says the Lord.

"Touch no unclean thing,  
and I will receive you.

I will be a Father to you,  
and you will be my sons and daughters,"  
says the Lord Almighty. NIV

### Quest part four

*When we arrived out west, we left our friends and former life style behind. We didn't do that intentionally; it was the result of the search. Time and distance began to form new possibilities in our lives.*

*Our house was in a neighborhood near the Psychedelic Supermarket. People were walking up and down the streets high on every kind of drug available. Sometimes people would wander into my house off the street and I didn't even know them.*

*I was eating breakfast one morning when two young women just walked in and sat down at the table with me. One time I was playing the piano, I turned around and six to eight people were dancing in my living room. Babylon means confusion. I was in Babylon. I needed a way out.*

When the multitudes come out of the city to the desert pathways, in order to listen to John the Baptist, they are drawn there not by slick advertising or fancy technology, they are drawn by the Holy Spirit who inhabits John. The spirit is calling, "Come out from amongst them. Repent!"

At the same time they feel the pressure from various sects to line up with their viewpoints. The Hellenists cry, " We will make a culture like Greek humanism."

The Saducees say, " We are practical men we will concern ourselves only with reality."

The Pharisees cry, " to the law and rules, and the future resurrection."

In the far distance Essenes say, "withdraw from this sick culture."

In the midst of this babble, John came as a *voice calling in the desert*. He called them to *prepare the way* for the Lord. It's the same today. We are to prepare the way for the Lord. John was and is pointing the way to the Ancient Path. He stood in the desert pointing to Christ. Only a straight path would do. Only a level, lowly path will take us to our destination. And the Christ we are pointing to is both the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and the resurrected King returning to rule over the earth.

Luke 3:2-6

2 The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert.

3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the desert,  
Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

6 The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

And all mankind will see God's salvation." NIV

The low places must be filled and the high places brought low. This Ancient Way is the path of humility. It has to be or we will not see the Ancient One, Christ, even if he is among us.

John 8:57-59

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham?"

58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. NIV

Jesus disciples had the same problem

**John 14:8-9**

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." NIV

**They could not see Him**

What about the scholars and religious leaders of Jesus time? When the Ancient One appeared, they could not see him.

**John 9:39-41**

39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." NIV

Saul of Tarsus could not see him until he was blinded.

**Acts 9:8-9**

8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. NIV

**Acts 9:17-18**

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized NIV

How do you become blind to causes for which you are zealous? This is what had to happen to Saul. It had already happened to Israel for a different reason.

**Rom 11:25**

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. KJV

Israel was made blind so that the Gentiles could find the way of salvation. The church of Laodicea [Rev.3:18] thought they could see but were spiritually blind. Only

pride can tell us we are on the path when we are not, and only humility can show us how to enter the Ancient Path.

### Quest part five

*I had come to downtown Seattle to get food stamps because I was almost broke. As I came out of the building, I looked across the street. A young man was motioning me to come over. I saw light coming out of his eyes towards me. I knew in advance, whatever he had to tell me would be true. As I drew near he said,*

*“Would you like to meet the Lord?”*

*I heard myself saying,*

*“Yes”.*

*The young man said,*

*“Get down on your knees and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart,”*

*I did just that, and my life began an amazing change of direction.*

*When we had just arrived out west, while in California, I had boasted to Mary of great things I could do. Within a few minutes, a playful Doberman Pincher was on top of me. I became afraid. The dog sensed it. All my boasting went down the drain. I heard a voice speak within me. I believe it was the Lord. He said,*

*“You are not the captain of your own destiny.”*



## Chapter Three -The Sound of the Trumpet



Artist unknown

Jer.6:17

I appointed watchmen over you and said,  
'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!'

We are not only called to the Ancient Path but to *listen for the sound of the trumpet* (shophar). What does a trumpet do? It calls us to awaken. It calls us to assemble. It calls us to battle. It tells us when to attack. It can tell us when to rest, and it calls us to the way of the Lord.

John the Baptist was a trumpet voice to his generation and his message rings in our hearts today preparing us for the Ancient Path.

Scripture compares the shophar, the trumpet or rams horn, to the prophetic voice, the word of the watchmen. It must be clear and distinct, and God's people must be concerned to listen for it.

1 Cor 14:8

For if the trumpet give an uncertain voice, who shall prepare himself for war? ASV

As we listen for the trumpet, we are reminded of the blowing of the trumpets before the feast of tabernacles.

Lev 25:9-10

9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan. NIV

This is a prophetic picture, trumpets announcing the return of the Lord of Hosts to tabernacle with men. The spirit says in effect,

"Jesus is returning hear my prophetic messengers. He will come suddenly. Be ready. Your redemption draws near."

#### Mal 3:1-2

1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts  
2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: KJV

The trumpet sounds because we must be prepared. Otherwise we will be overwhelmed, asleep and indifferent to the times we live in. A trumpet properly blown can send a chill up your spine. It seems to say, "Awake, fear God and live!!

#### Rev 1:10-11

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,  
11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," NKJV

The apostle John hears the prophetic voice of Jesus. He turns and is astounded. Jesus has a revelation to impart to him.

#### Rev.19:10

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

As a watchman, John begins to record the message. The watchman must be honest and willing to speak the truth. Just as angels are bearers of the message, so his ministers are a flame of fire. Jesus referred to John the Baptist as a burning torch (Jn.5:35). The watchman is both a listener for, and a blower of, the trumpet. The apostle John became a bearer of the pure word, refined in the fire.

#### John 5:35

John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. NIV

#### Ps 104:4

Who makes . . .

His ministers a flame of fire. NKJV

The Trumpet announces liberty in both the old and the new testaments. It announces freedom and restoration. Before the journey is over, we will hear that trumpet

Rev 11:15

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." NIV

### Quest part 6

*Six months had gone by since I asked the Lord into my heart and I had forgotten all about it. I had not yet come fully out of my former life style. One night I went into the church across and up the street from me. There was a light on every night. It turned out to be a little coffeehouse in the church building. There they asked me if I had been born again. I didn't know.*

*The man said, "Go home, pray, and ask Jesus to forgive you and come into your heart. Ask him to fill you with the Holy Spirit."*

*Up until that moment, I knew something was right about Jesus but I was still in confusion. I knew little of the Holy Spirit, but I followed his advice. When I got home the house was empty. I went into an empty room and again asked Jesus to forgive me and come into me.*

*When I asked God to fill me with the Holy Spirit, a momentous change took place in my life as suddenly I felt like a whole new person. Now I know what it means when someone says, "A light suddenly came on!"*

*The next day and for many days afterward, I read the Bible almost continually. I knew I was born from above. I believed I had received eternal life. Shortly thereafter, Mary was also wonderfully saved and converted.*

*Our house, across the street from the church, had become a place where people were constantly sent for a place to stay. Though Mary and I had opened our home for any seeker, we were too young in the Lord to handle the many difficult situations that came our way. Sometimes we were up late into the morning trying to convince someone in a cult to come into the light. All types of people wound up at our house. One night we debated until two in the morning with a follower of Urantia. He was staying in our front bedroom with his dogs. The next morning we found dog dung in the bedroom and our music system stolen.*

*A local policeman, who was a Christian, saw our plight and invited us to live with him. During that period, I had a dream from the Lord that influenced the rest of my life. I will speak of that later. After leaving the policeman's home, we moved into a little cabin in a little town called Bridal Veil. I had been working with another man who painted houses. We had regular debates about the scripture. He said to me, "I see you have the Holy Spirit but you don't speak in tongues." I questioned the need of doing such a thing.*

*He answered me, "I'll pray for you, and you pray for me, and we'll see what happens."*

*The night after our conversation, I was lying in bed sound asleep when I heard someone speaking in a strange language. I tried to wake up. When I finally did, I discovered it was I who was speaking this strange language. I was speaking so loudly that I woke Mary up. The day before I had argued with my friend and said I didn't need to speak in tongues, I already had the Holy Spirit in my life. Now a fountain had broken forth in my heart, and a fresh fire was lit. God had answered my friend's prayer.*

#### *Acts 2:1-4*

*1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

*2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

*4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. NIV*

## Chapter Four – Judgement



Because the people refused to listen to the Lord through Jeremiah, God spoke the following:

**Jer 6:19**

Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it. ASV

The front of a magazine said, *Fantasy finishes*, inviting us to imagine the home interior of our dreams. The hidden message was to create an environment that isn't real, a comfort zone, to shield us from what is real. The thought of creating fantasies to occupy our thinking is behind the power of advertising. The idea is to create the idol of need and then bow down to it.

What we dream and imagine can come upon us. There is a movie, The Never-ending Story, which envisions a land being destroyed because *the Nothing* is devouring the good dreams of the people. When our life style and conversation are materialistic and self-centered we have nothing, and our dreams amount to nothing. The voice of the Holy Spirit is drowned in a sea of forgetfulness.

It isn't long before the enemy of our souls directs his legions to take us to the next step of destruction. If we don't turn back to God, we become like the people in the times of Noah.

**Gen. 6:5**

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**Gen 6:11**

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. NKJV

The destruction of God's people is a process of turning away from light, turning toward, and becoming fascinated with darkness. In doing so, a whole generation becomes blind to the conscience God has put within them.

Jer 7:23-24

23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. KJV

There is no middle ground. There is no place on the path to camp indefinitely. When we cease to go forward, we soon go backward. Paul encourages us to press onward and put every hindrance aside. If we don't, the judgement coming could be as fearful as the judgement God brought upon the people in the flood. Scripture tells us that the days proceeding Jesus return will be *like the days of Noah*. [Luke 17:26]

## Imaginations

In Noah's day people's imaginations were evil continually. God sent a flood to destroy them but the flood didn't end the sin problem in man. After the flood, Noah pronounced a curse upon Ham's seed Canaan reminiscent of a curse that came upon Adam's son Cain.

Gen 9:18-27

18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)

19 These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.

20 Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard.

21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.

22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside.

23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

24 When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him,

25 he said,

"Cursed be Canaan!

The lowest of slaves

will he be to his brothers."

26 He also said,  
 "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!  
 May Canaan be the slave of Shem.  
 27 May God extend the territory of Japheth;  
 may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,  
 and may Canaan be his slave." NIV.

The curse came upon Ham's son Canaan and continued to Ham's descendent Nimrod who fathered Babylon, Nineveh and other ancient cities. These places became centers of worship opposed to Yahweh, the God of Israel. They were places of man-centered thought.

### Gen 11:1-9

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.  
 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.  
 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.  
 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.  
 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.  
 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.  
 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.  
 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.  
 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. KJV

Man had a unity of language in those days unknown today. The land of Shinar or Mesopotamia is the site of ancient Babylon. They chose to build a monument from brick, just like the Egyptians after them, to make a name for themselves in the earth. Their thought was to make a city with a high tower reaching to heaven so that they would not be scattered. They were creating a center of commerce and power from which they could rule. History tells us that Ziggurats, like the one pictured at the beginning of this book, were used for astrology, worship of the heavens, and terrible human sacrifices.

When the Lord saw that their imagination would not be restrained from rebellious intent, he confused their language and scattered them abroad. Isn't it curious that the

thing they were afraid of came upon them? *So often, demonic fear, amplified by rebellious thought, produces the very thing man is trying to avoid.*

This ancient land, Mesopotamia, became what historians call the cradle of civilization. It not only produced Babylon but the country that Canaan/s descendents inhabited the land of Canaan.

Abraham left Ur to journey to that place. Israel was called out of Egypt to go there. Shem's seed was to eradicate the Canaanite. They never did.

From Mesopotamia, we can trace two ancient paths, Abraham's and Nimrod's. The narrow way that leads to life and the broad way that leads to destruction.

The poet Langston Hughes wrote,

*" Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."*

Obviously there are good and bad dreams and good and evil imaginations. For a young person to dream one day of being or doing something of benefit to others is part of his or her maturing process. The KJV tells us to cast down vain imaginations. The meaning here is arguments, speculations, lofty thoughts etc.

**2 Cor 10:4-6**

**4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**

**5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

**6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. NIV**

### Quest part seven

*One day someone told me there was a camp meeting outside of town. We decided to go. As I approached the building, I heard an amazing sound. Thousands of people praising the Lord at once. I walked in the building and was instantly engulfed in the Spirit of God. It was not only powerful but also beautiful.*

*As Mary and I sang around the state, we encouraged people to join in this Song of the Lord. We felt ourselves like young plants springing up before the Lord. About that time, I read Is.61. It concluded by saying*



Is.61:11

As the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise  
spring up before all nations. NIV

*We began to see thankfulness and praise release power that set us free to think sane thoughts and live a pure life. As we worshipped as a way of life we saw Satan's attempt to bring emptiness and wickedness cast out of our hearts. Since that time, God has given us hundreds of songs and encircled Mary and I with songs of deliverance.*

Ps 32:7

7 You are my hiding place;  
you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance. NIV

*As I grew in faith, I learned to begin my day singing and praying in tongues. I might have started my day with a bad dream. But that time of praise and pleading the blood of Jesus took away the darkness.*

*Sometimes I pray in the spirit and in the process of prayer the word of the Lord comes to me. Other times God speaks to me out of the silence. When I hear I know what I am to say or do. It is the presence of God's spirit that sifts my imagination and protects me. The real goal of our walk is to be led of the Spirit. Without the ministry of the Holy Spirit it is impossible to win this thought battle.*

*Every morning by His grace, I open the scriptures, often with Mary and my children and allow the word to penetrate my heart and mind. God has given us the gift of language. He is the author of our ability to think and reason. Through the new birth we have received the mind of Christ, what a marvelous truth. Remember none of this is easy. We must contend for the faith given to us. (Jude1:3)*

1 Cor 2:12&16

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

16 We have the mind of Christ. NIV

Ps 143:8

8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
For in You do I trust;  
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,  
For I lift up my soul to You. NKJV

*I discovered that the morning is an amazing time. After years of being a night person, I found that an ounce of morning is better than a pound of afternoon. Beginning the day with prayer, praise and the scriptures began to change the quality of my life. I was walking the Ancient Path; walking in the light.*

Jer 7:25

25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: KJV

### The highway of holiness

Our call is to the Ancient Path where we find rest for our souls.

Jer 6:16

Stop right where you are! Look for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. NLT

In times of stress, rest is the greatest need of the traveler. We cannot have vision without it. In fact, *Noah* means Rest.

Many years ago God spoke to me that *Holiness is to be free from anxiety. Holiness and rest are inseparable.* The Ancient Path is also called the highway of holiness. It is a place where anxiety flees because we have chosen to walk with the master.

Isa. 35:1

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Isa. 35:8-10

8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness.

The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.

9 No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it;

they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,

10 and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. NIV

Notice that the desert is glad, for the highway is there. It is the highway to Zion, the Heavenly Jerusalem. Gladness and joy replace sorrow and sighing as the journey progresses.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes that we are not to be anxious. He directs us to be reconciled to one another, forsake anger, be faithful to our mates, make no vows, agree with our adversaries and love our enemies. He tells us not to lay up treasure in earth but in heaven.

*Matt 6:30-34*

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. NIV

He calls his follower's disciples or listeners. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, is telling us how to walk the Ancient Path. Are you listening? Even now the trumpet is blowing. Are you breaking camp?

*Isa. 30:15*

For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: KJV

### Quest part 8

*While we were still in Bridal Veil I had to make a big decision. I had taken the civil service exam and obtained a job at a distant post office. I started driving many miles a day to work in an old truck that burned a quart of oil each way.*

*At the same time, I received an offer from the people at the coffeehouse to open a girl's ministry house that Mary and I would oversee. I was a young Christian; so I opened my Bible closed my eyes and pointed my finger. The scripture my finger landed on said,*

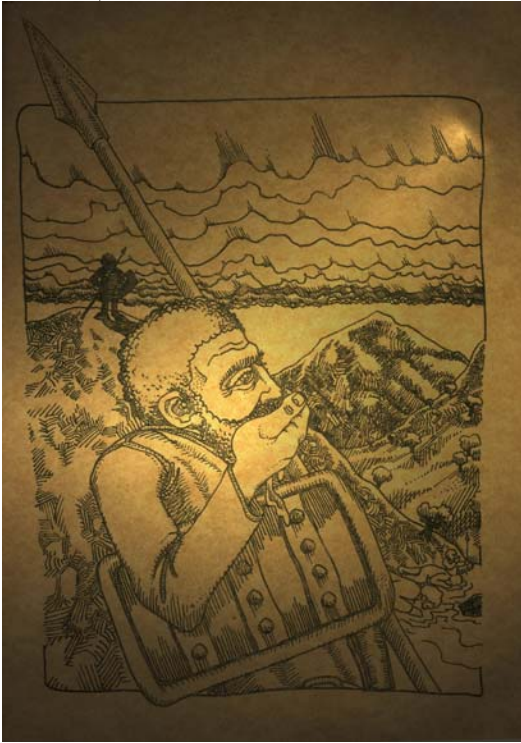
*“Seek the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you. “ (Lk.12:31)*

*What could that mean? Should I work at the post office or open the ministry house. We prayed and felt we were called to minister, to seek the Kingdom and not worry about supply. God would supply. We felt that God was calling us to people, and people were in the city. We hated to leave Bridal Veil. It had been like a honeymoon time with Jesus.*

*Often at night, the wind would whistle down the Columbia Gorge banging against our cabin. I would go outside and walk underneath the canopy of stars. Sometimes the train would go by not 100 feet from our house. Off in the distance I could hear the freeway heading into town. There was a highway calling us to leave Bridal Veil. Our stay was only a stop on a much longer journey.*

*That year we moved into *The House of Grace* in Portland, Or. Over a period of two years more than fifty young women stayed in that house, some of them having a life changing experience with Christ.*

## Chapter Five - Do I have your attention?



Gideon's men © 2001 Robert Churchill

### Luke 12:54-56

54 He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. 55 And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. 56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? NIV

We are all travelers on the highway of life. We all deal with *time, loneliness and discipline*. We all have the same amount of hours in a day and days in a week. Have you ever thought, "the time just got away from me." Part of the challenge is to redeem the time for the days are evil.

*One night I had a dream. I saw my soprano sax glistening in the light. On it, instead of its name brand Selmer, it said Treadwell. The dream told me that to tread well, I must use the gifts God had put in my life. This too, is an important part of the journey.*

### Eph 5:15-20

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,  
 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.  
 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;  
 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ KJV

We must all face loneliness and misunderstanding. Loneliness can drive us to drink, to overeat, or to withdraw into ourselves and become uncommunicative. The response to loneliness and difficulty must be to overcome. I must use the resources God has provided. I must learn to receive His discipline. *In the desert places we find the sweetest water and the simple path to life that sustains us.* The training we receive is then released through the gifts that God puts in our lives in order to help others. I love the line from *Chariots of Fire*. "When I run I feel His pleasure." When I play my horn for Jesus, I feel this incredible blessing come into my heart.

We must commit to the journey. The journey requires adventurers. Adventurers require frontiers. Where there are frontiers there are visionaries who see them and want to find them. What are the frontiers on the Ancient Path?

Have you ever pioneered a church fellowship? Have you worked in a new field to reach people who don't know Him? Have you prayed and worshipped until you heard songs and words you had never heard before? Have you persisted in prayer for the sick until real people began getting healed? Have you walked into Satan's territory, someone's darkened life, and set them free from darkness?

This is the way Isaiah and Jesus put it.

Luke 4:18-19 (Is.61.1)

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
 because he has anointed me  
 to preach good news to the poor.  
 He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
 and recovery of sight for the blind,  
 to release the oppressed,  
 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." NIV

1 John 3:8

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV

### Explorers, Pioneers and Settlers

Explorers look for earthly frontiers to conquer. When geographical frontiers are no longer available, explorers look elsewhere, for instance to outer space.

For some people, our destiny on this planet is to explore the visible universe. At this time there is no rocket ship available to take us there, so some of us prepare for this new frontier in our imaginations. While we envision being on a star ship exploring, scripture declares a different destiny. The Bible reveals that the Creator is

about to return to this tiny planet, earth, in this solar system, and the universe as we know it will be rolled up like a scroll. There will be a new heaven and a new earth ruled by the Creator.

There are lures in every age to riches and conquest. The gold rush of the nineteenth century caused thousands to leave home and hearth to strike it rich. The recent Internet gold rush caused millions to plow money into technology with articles touting a new economy that no longer recognizes or believes in the law of sowing and reaping. The new frontier seemed to be the World Wide Web. But like the gold rushes of old, many have lost more than they gained.

Of course, Daniel warned us about these days.

Dan 12:4

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." NKJV

It seems to be increasing exponentially.

Of course there are explorers in the spirit. There are those who want to touch the hem of his garment and hear what the spirit is saying to the church. There are many such men in the church age. Paul of Tarsus was an explorer. Martin Luther was an explorer. John Wesley was an explorer, a seeker.

Pioneers usually follow the explorer. They begin to settle the territory that the explorer discovered. During this period there is a struggle to settle the land. When the land begins to be pacified, the settlers arrive. Towns are built and roads are constructed. Now the unfamiliar slowly becomes familiar. Tradition begins to establish its patterns. This is the way of social groups.

Oftentimes a genius like Albert Einstein opens our thinking or discovers something we can benefit from. If the explorer receives too much praise, fame and fortune for his discoveries he may be distracted from the path. However, the explorer discoverer doesn't always gain from the discovery financially or personally. He moves on to something else while another comes along and develops his thought.

Often the goal of the founder explorer is modified to fit the needs of the culture the settlers create. One of the settlers benefits from the discovery and defines its use, and he reaps the financial reward and the fame.

After a while, settlers put up fences. They tend to codify what has been discovered and devise a system to communicate their beliefs. If the explorer or inventor were to return he would not recognize his discovery. The settlers would not recognize the explorer because he would not match up to the image of the explorer they created in their system. A statue of the hero by his silence can be manipulated to say anything the settlers want. If the hero himself returned, he could become a threat, as he would inevitably challenge the goals of the entrenched system.

Did Jesus create Christianity, as we know it today? For that matter, did Buddha create Buddhism as it is practiced today? If George Washington returned, would

America be the country of his dreams? If John Wesley returned would Methodism today be the church he envisioned?

When I visited Antigua, Guatemala I entered a church building with no windows. At the front of the sanctuary was a glass coffin with a wooden, dead Jesus inside. There was such oppression, such darkness in that place. But that was the only Jesus they were allowed to know. Candles were lit and people were chanting but Jesus himself, the risen Christ, was far removed from their thinking.

This is why we need regular revival and renewal. When this occurs it bypasses the system and *reminds the people of the journey*. It calls out explorers from the safety and comfort of the settlement. It reminds them of the Creator's eternal values. This is why God sends the spirit of Elijah to a generation. This is why John the Baptist stood in the Jordan.

### A wake up call

Deut.4:36

Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.

It's one thing to hear about what God says and another to have his voice burn inside you. Sometimes we go to the church meeting, listen to a message and in the background think about the roast awaiting us at home. Of course I have preached messages that would encourage people to do just that. Sometimes we hear a good teaching and do our best to remember that the God we believe in said these things. "Help me remember this," we pray as we hastily jot down notes.

On the other hand, I've been in meetings where the Holy Spirit was so present that I could not stop shaking and weeping, and I've heard the word of the Lord from the midst of his refining fire. Right there on the spot something changed within me.

Jer 23:28-29

29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? NIV

What else can break up the stony places in our hearts, the fallow ground? The anointed word, like a fire, illuminates and destroys the works of the devil. Jesus came to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with Fire. He further indicates that relationships are salted with fire. It is in the midst of the fiery furnace that the Lord transforms His people. Egypt was a furnace for Israel and the world is a furnace for the body of Christ. Out of the midst of these fires, God forms His word in us

Jer 20:9

9 But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. NIV

It is not easy to be a spokesman for the Lord, a prophet.

Jeremiah cannot contain what he has to say even if it brings him harm. God has spoken to him now he must open his heart and let the fire and the hammer do their work.

Luke 12:49

49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! NIV

### Quest part 9

*When we lived with the policeman (my brother in the Lord) and his wife, I had a dream. I saw Mary and I as little children looking at our grown up selves through a cabin window. I felt God's concern for the children who didn't know Him. I heard someone praying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Then I heard the loudest deepest infinite voice speak saying, "SAVE THE CHILDREN." I was literally flung, awake and shaking, from my bed.*

*This is what it is like to hear the voice of the Lord out of the midst of the fire. These times of fire shape who we are and our destiny in the earth.*

### Sept 11, 2001

Many of us turned on our televisions on Sept. 11, 2001 and watched American passenger planes being flown into the World Trade Center towers. Smoke rose up into the sky, and fire exploded from the buildings. We realized that people like ourselves were being instantly vaporized. Citizens that expected to be home for dinner would not return. As we sat there thinking of the little children without fathers and mothers, we began the inevitable examination.

How have I lived my life?

Am I prepared for death?

What if that were me, or my wife, child, mother, father?

Much has been said about sleepers, people who blend into society until their moment to do a destructive deed arrives. What about spiritual sleepers? Could it be that to go on the Ancient Path we must first awaken to the necessity of a journey that is based upon faith and not upon the senses? Like people wakened from a nightmare we realize we have been sleepwalking. Startled we find ourselves outside our dreams in a world that needs God's words, the words of Jesus. Could it be that now is the time for a great new awakening in the earth? Could it be that God is speaking from the midst of the flames? Are you hearing the trumpet call?



## The path begins in the Desert

We must remember that to embark on a journey is to leave someplace and someone behind. Over and over spiritual journeys begin in the wilderness. The Children of Israel, John the Baptist at the Jordan, and Jesus, before he began His ministry, began in the desert.

*Matt 4:1*

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. NIV*

It seems we must embrace emptiness and wilderness before we can receive fullness of spirit. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea into the wilderness of sin, and there, they were tested. They failed the test and could not continue the journey to the reward. Their heart was to turn back to Egypt, so they perished in the wilderness. The desert can make you hungry and thirsty, but if you are willing to trust God, you will reach your destination.

Jesus the man had to be completely submitted to the Holy Spirits leading to overcome Satan's temptations. He had to overcome temptation in order to begin His ministry. Because he succeeded, he emerged from the wilderness in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Paul expresses the challenge of walking in the way like this.

*Phil 2:3-9*

*3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

*4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

*5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

*6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: KJV*

Think of the risk Jesus took to leave his position in heaven to become a man and redeem a bride for himself. The journey is not without risk or it would not be a journey. The purpose of life is not to be fat and secure. The purpose of life is to bring glory to God by revealing Jesus Christ, our Lord, to the world.

Jesus said:

*Matt 5:3*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. NIV*

### Quest part 10

*Two years later we left the House of Grace. With two children and more on the way, we moved into our own home. Now I was asked to be assistant Pastor of *Friendly Chapel*, which soon became the *Prince of Peace Fellowship*. Mary and I were singing regularly in the coffeehouse on weekends, and hundreds of people were coming. Some were experiencing radical change in their lives. But many were wandering around from place to place without direction. We began to realize the deep need to be trained, to follow Jesus and understand the purpose and vision of God. We needed to learn more of this covenant keeping God.*

*I knew I was being called to shepherd His people. I had been given oversight of nine community houses we had at that time. Every day I was involved in the lives of the members of that community. I began to appreciate Moses who had to oversee millions of people. How difficult it is to be sensitive to the needs of others. How challenging to be both visionary and tender hearted at the same time. How hard to release people to go into all the world with the gospel when your soul wants them to stay with you. Yet release them we did and they went. We learned that the new covenant, as an act of love, required us to Go into the world and preach the gospel.*

## Chapter Six – The Bond of the Covenant



A few years ago, along with many others Mary and I began to journal. We began to recognize that the path we were on was inward as well as outward. We needed to have a record of what we were hearing from above as well as what we were hearing from one another.

I believe the great revelation of the New Testament is that the veil of the temple was ripped open at the cross. It is our Father's intention to reveal His Son. Now we can see Jesus, now we can receive the spirit of God into our hearts. With God on the inside our perspective changes and we receive vision and direction from within.

1 Cor 6:19

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? NIV

Suddenly issues like personal transformation become real to us as, daily, God speaks to our hearts regarding growth and change. This change is accomplished as we travel the Ancient Path. The change is accomplished through Grace.

Then God spoke to Noah.

Can you imagine how that was?

Noah, out of the blue, begins to hear a voice that no one else on the earth is hearing. The voice asks him to build something that no one has ever seen, that this project will take over a hundred years, that he will be mocked and laughed at, that only his family will listen. Could you somehow go there?

God cut a covenant with Noah that day and it has never ended. It was an everlasting covenant. To go on the Ancient Path we have to enter a covenant with God and believe in the covenant rewards, otherwise we have no strength for the journey.

### Heb 11:6-7

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. NKJ

The New Testament refers to the church as followers of the way. The apostle Paul, another covenant man, said this when he was required to testify before the king.

### Acts 24:14-16

14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect.

15 I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. NIV

Whether we are looking at Noah or Paul, both men were mindful of the journey. They remembered that they were in a covenant relationship with a God who would bring them through tears and joy to be face to face with Him.

### Ps 84:5-7

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. {the highways to Zion }

6 As they pass through the Valley of Weeping  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools. ( blessings }

7 They go from strength to strength,  
everyone of them appears before God in Zion.

Along the way, we pass through the valley of weeping (Ps.84) and the Valley of the shadow of death {Ps.23} until finally we arrive at the heights of Zion, the New Jerusalem descending from above. We used to preach

“Come to Jesus and everything will be all right. Get ready for the rapture. Just ask Him into your heart.”

While some of the above is true it is an incomplete message. The way is difficult and we need to understand that. Paul described his journey like this

### 2 Cor 11:21-29

What anyone else dares to boast about-I am speaking as a fool-I also dare to boast about. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am

out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? NIV

Most of us don't experience everything Paul did. We recognize that if they hated the master they will hate the servant. In order to truly begin our pilgrimage, like Paul, we must make a life time commitment to Christ and to the journey. If we do, pain and difficulty as well as joy become our instructors.

### Covenant man

Abraham is probably the greatest model for pilgrimage. He is a family man like most of us. He must deal with the basic issues of life and death. But above everything he is a covenant man, a man who hears the voice of God. This voice leads him from Ur of the Chaldees to Canaan land without knowing where precisely he is to go or what precisely he is to do. He has a sense of destiny. He doesn't hop in his car to go check it out. He walks with his family over six hundred miles to a place he has never seen.

#### Heb 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign {land} dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. NAS

He feels compelled to journey because within him he knows he must change and to change he must grow and to grow he must GO.

Have you felt the tug, the call, the urging, and the prompting? Are you looking for a city you have yet to find?

Abraham knew within, what Jesus later articulated.

### John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you **to go** and bear fruit-fruit that will last. NIV

Those little words, *to go*, have everything to do with *bearing fruit*. We are not called to the world, or to man made religious institutions. The children of Israel tried to camp out in the desert and stay there, when God was calling them on to Canaan land. The fruit is in Canaan. You have to go there to get it. The desire for security can stop us from completing the journey. Two tribes of Israel wanted their inheritance on the wrong side of the Jordan. They didn't persevere and see what God had prepared for them.

The law of the planet is change. We are called to go on a journey that changes us into the image of Christ. If we balk, we get changes anyway, often times disastrous. Remember that we are on a quest for truth and beauty. The Holy Grail we are pursuing is Christ himself.

### 1 Jn 3:2-3

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope {fixed} on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. NAS

### 2 Cor 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. NKJV

Not long ago I held a series of men's meetings on my porch. We called them the *transformers meetings*. We began to discover that to have fellowship we had to be changing. We had to be on the way. To be on the way we needed to admit our deep dependency on Christ, on one another, and share our trials and triumphs along the way. To share our trials we began to identify with the tax collector.

### Luke 18:10-14

10 Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:

'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner'.

14 I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. NIV

I have come to believe that the men's movement we need most should be called *Chest thumpers*. The journey always begins with repentance, turning away from the outward sensual life (bios) and turning toward the inward spiritual life (zoe). We are not here to master God. *God is here to master us*. He is our King.

In order to master sin that is crouching at the door we must be taught and led by the master who has traveled the way before us.

Our good works our creative efforts and our efforts for the Kingdom are like sandcastles. If we enjoy building them but allow the tide to our sandcastles away we are free. We are changed from sandcastle to sandcastle. We do not enshrine the sandcastle or spray it in plastic. We let the tide do it's work. Consequently, we are transformed.

The issue is becoming like Jesus. It is not getting rich or famous.

### Passing under the rod

I was sitting in a meeting twenty years ago when God brought this passage to my mind.

Ezek. 20:33-37

33 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. KJV

We must keep in mind that God has accomplished the first part of this passage and he will bring the rest to completion. In 1947 Israel was reborn, and in 1967 Jerusalem was no longer in the hands of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24

Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. NIV

Israel has been regathered from the countries. Behold the fig tree (Israel) and the nations.

Luke 21:29-33

29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. NIV

What happens to Israel effects all the Gentile nations. His goal is not simply to restore Israel to the land. It is to bring all his people into covenant relationship. It is not enough for us to give lip service to God, he wants us to become one with him. His desire is for us to have his moral authority.

Notice that God brings his people into the wilderness to plead with them. This is how he used John the Baptist. John was the Lord's voice crying in the wilderness. This is what happened to the people of Israel when they came out of Egypt. The Lord caused them to pass under His rod.

When a shepherd causes a sheep to pass under the rod, it is to count them, to see if they are healthy and to see if they are rebellious. The sheep is to obey the shepherd. If the sheep is sick and cannot pass under the rod the shepherd, if necessary, will carry him until he is well. If the sheep refuses to go under the rod the shepherd can break a leg of that sheep and carry him until he learns to hear the shepherd's voice. If the sheep still refuses to obey, the shepherd can eat him.

The rod is there to separate and bring the true sheep into the bond of the covenant. In a sense when we come to the cross and humble ourselves asking for God's forgiveness, we begin to pass under the rod.

When we enter into a covenant with the Lord we enter his sanctuary, his tabernacle, his sheepfold and begin to receive his character and way into our hearts.

Is:40

He will feed his flock like a shepherd and will gently carry those who are with young.



The Lord will bring those that pass under the rod into the bond of the covenant back to the Ancient Path walked by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Israel of old. Then their eyes will behold the one who was crucified for them.

While I was sitting in that meeting long ago this word burned in my heart. God wanted the men leading the meeting to humble themselves and pass under the rod. He wanted them to end the competition and prefer one another in love. If they would humble themselves all the young ministers listening to them would see a living example of the healing that was so desperately needed. I wanted to stand up and speak but no one was allowed to speak except those on the podium. Have you gone through that?

### Quest part 11

*In meeting after meeting I heard the Lord telling me, **the Church is One. Love is the perfect bond of unity.***

Col 3:14

*And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV*

*I had come back from a time of fasting and prayer. Some were asking us to go on the road with a worship ministry. While I was walking under the winter stars I felt God ask me to stay and shepherd his flock. I felt like Abraham who received his direction from a covenant keeping God. I saw that the ability to walk in covenant with my church family, depended upon my walking in unity with Jesus. It became a theme of what we preached and sang about at that time. We saw a glorious bride without spot or blemish, loving and adoring her Lord. We saw a church dressed in white linen for His return.*

*At the same time; we were now raising three children with two more yet to come. We wanted so much to experience covenant with them. Most nights we had a story time. Famous Bible figures saints of old, and modern day heroes would parade through our living room as we sought to establish these *people of the way* as heroes for our children. Sometimes we would play Bible charades and guess who one of the children or myself was pretending to be. I had the feeling we were preparing them for a special time in the earth. Has that time come?*

## Chapter 7 -The Second Coming



Turning and turning in a widening gyre,  
 The falcon cannot hear the falconer,  
 Things fall apart the centre cannot hold  
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.  
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned  
 The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
 Are filled with passionate intensity. [Excerpt] William Butler Yeats - From *The Second Coming*

Since I first read this poem I have felt it's beginning was true. The times of testing are upon us now.

2 Tim 3:1

Know this, in the last days times of stress will come.

2 Thess 2:5-12

6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. NIV

Is the restrainer being slowly removed? Is Anarchy as a force on the rise? Is the Prince of Persia again waging war against the saints as in Daniel's time? Are images

of the Beast and the Harlot beginning to play out in reality? Do cities look more and more like Sodom and Gomorrah of old? Jesus speaks to these questions in the Gospel of Luke.

## Noah and Lot

Luke 17:26-29

26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking; marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. NIV

Two men are depicted in this passage, Noah and Lot. Noah is a covenant man. He has heard the Lord speak. God has planted a vision in him. He is a man with a plan. For over one hundred years he will build a boat where there is no sea and save the animals and his family from a flood. Men will mock him and no one will believe what he says. But an ark is built. When Noah and his family enter it, God shuts the door and judgement begins.

What is the ark of our day? It doesn't seem to be a boat. Could it be the church, the people of God? Are we not to build one another up in Christ? This is something all of us can do. It can consume our lives.

Lot, though declared righteous like Noah was vexed and upset at what he saw in Sodom. He had chosen to move there and the results were disastrous for his family [Gen. 13:10-13]. Lot depended on Abraham's covenant understanding for his knowledge of God. As long as he was with Abraham things went well for him. But when the time came to separate, Lot's senses led him to *look toward* Sodom, *move near* Sodom, and finally to *move into* Sodom. God preserved him, but he had to be *dragged out* of Sodom. Two of his daughters and their families thought he was jesting and stayed behind. His wife turned back to look at Sodom where her family was being destroyed and became a pillar of salt. The other two daughters gave birth, through Lot, to the enemies of Israel.

Are we leaving things behind when God asks us to move on or are we looking back like Lot's wife or like the children of Israel who tried to return to Egypt? Are we gradually, like Lot, being seduced into Sodom when God is saying,

"Come out of her my people."

Remember the Ancient Path is a straight road not a circle.

The apostle Peter refers to Lot as a righteous man.

2 Peter 2:4-10

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;  
 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;  
 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly,  
 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men,  
 8 for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard.  
 9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.  
 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. NIV

God protected Noah, and he rescued Lot.

*Noah's name means rest*, and he rested in his relationship with God. The flood did not come until Noah willfully entered the Ark that he and his family had built. God shut the door.

*Lot was vexed*, tormented by his neighbors. He had no ongoing vision, nor does he appear to have been involved in any spiritual undertaking. He in effect was sidetracked, no longer on the journey, but still watchful for He saw the angels. He had to be rescued, dragged out of Sodom before God's judgement fell. He lost his family in the process and through his daughters gave birth to two nations that became enemies of God's people. (Gen 19:16-38)

Noah and Lot are *types of the church* in the last days. Both are saved but one has purpose and vision and the other barely has relationship with God. *One hears the trumpet the other has become deaf*. Which one would you prefer to be? There is still time to leave Sodom and build up today's ark, your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Noah heard the trumpet voice of the Lord and he responded. A generation is arising like Noah, who will hear the shophar sounding. They will commit to the Ancient Path, which embraces not evolution, not violence and anarchy but transformation. This is an Elijah generation who sense the need to be dressed in white linen for Jesus return.

## Merchants of Fear

I thought of writing a book called the *Merchants of Fear*. Think of all the information and technology aimed at making us afraid so that we can be protected; hiding us from difficulties in guise of stabilizing our lives. So much of it makes us dull and lazy and puts more barriers between us. It gets increasingly harder to talk to a living person when calling a business today and it takes so long to reach someone. However God is still here.

Isa.33:6

And He shall be the stability of your times, (NAS)

Television, newspapers and magazines sell us products we don't need when what we need to know is how to confront the challenges of this life and overcome fear with faith. Many movies are made to entrap us in fear. Fear then becomes a force that deceives our way to destruction.

Conspiracy theories run rampant in the world. Whether they are true or false is not the issue. Nothing must distract the pilgrim from the path.

Isa 8:11-14

11 The LORD spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people. He said:

12 "Do not call conspiracy  
everything that these people call conspiracy;  
do not fear what they fear,  
and do not dread it.

13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy,  
he is the one you are to fear,  
he is the one you are to dread,

14 and he will be a sanctuary; NIV

He will be and is a sanctuary, a place of refuge. Jesus said he would never leave us or forsake us.

There is a fear that causes timidity, a fear of man, a fear of death. On the other hand there is a fear, a respect, that makes us clean and honorable. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever.

Heb.11.6

Noah was heard because of his godly fear

## Quest part 12

*As time went by and our children became teen-agers I often felt more like Lot than Noah. I discovered while living in a big city that powerful enemies are at work to destroy God's people.*

Rev 12:17

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. NIV

*Satan wishes to destroy all covenant-keeping followers of Christ. He wants to destroy our families, churches and in fact all God given authority. We are called to be an example of His love in these perilous times.*

*Mary often reminds me that Jesus says it comes down to two things, love God and love one another. This is His unconditional love.*

*We must help our children and our grandchildren as they face an onslaught of evil. Noah stayed with the purpose and vision he was given for over a hundred years until the vision came to pass. He was heard because of his godly fear.*

*I began to study the Fear of the Lord. Not only is it the beginning of wisdom but it is clean and endures forever. Psalm 34 mentions that to learn to fear God, keep your lips from speaking evil. Seek peace and pursue it. The friendship (secret) of the Lord is with them that fear Him or the Lord confides in them that fear him and shows them His covenant. (Ps.25)*

*If I wanted to be like Noah, I must learn to fear God.*

## Chapter 8 -The Garment



### Rev 5:6-10

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased men for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth." \_NIV

### 20-20 Vision

To accurately see the Lord I must look at the Jesus of Revelation as well as the Jesus of the Gospels. My vision must embrace the Lamb of God suffering on the cross and the resurrected King whose eyes are flames of fire. If I want a relationship that is deep and meaningful, I must remember He is the God who was, and is and is to come. He is the God of Noah and Abraham. He is the God of Peter, John and Paul and He is the risen King returning to rule and reign in the earth.

We are to rule and reign with Him. When I began to see things this way, I gained depth perception. I saw in the present what I was becoming through faith in the future.

*Rev 19:6-16*

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

8 Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear. [Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.]

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. NIV

### A robe dipped in blood

This magnificent king had first to be clad in a garment dipped in blood, his blood. This king came first to save and then to reign. All those who follow him dressed in fine white linen have gained this place through the blood of the lamb. The saints that follow Him have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb.



The old hymn asks,  
 "Are your garments spotless are they white as snow; are you washed in the blood of the lamb?"

Rev.12:11 tells us we overcome Satan by the blood of the lamb, by the word of our testimony and we love not our lives to the death.

Without the washing of the blood, there is no entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Heb 9:22

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. NIV

Not only is King Jesus' garment spotless but ours must be spotless also. We are granted forgiveness, a white garment, through faith in His shed blood. After we have acquired this white garment, we are directed to keep it spotless. *It is not the obtaining but the maintaining that becomes the issue of the walk.* To maintain we must walk the Ancient Path.

Rev 3:4-6

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my  
 6 Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Grace is a wonder. It is freely given and it is freely received. With grace come robes of righteousness given to us through the blood of the lamb.

Rev.7:14-17

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

It is the blood that does this cleansing work. It is the Holy Spirit who keeps us and leads us to walk in an upright path. We are given our garment but we are to keep it pure.

Rev 16:15

Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. NKJV

### Imitation

Mankind has a great tendency to imitate and idolize. We want to be accepted. We are willing often to pretend we are something we are not. We want to fit in. The only pattern we have been given from God is Jesus the Messiah. He is the pattern man. When we imitate others, we are only fooling ourselves.

Paul said:

1 Cor 11:1

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. NIV

In [Mathew 25](#), ten virgins gather to meet the returning Lord. Everything is the same about them except five have extra oil with their lamps and five do not. Five are foolish, and five are wise. In effect, five have visited the house of the Wise Woman the other five the house of the foolish women, Folly.

We must have oil on the journey to get through the dark places and be ready to meet the master. We can only get the anointing from Him. It does us no good to act out the outward faith of others when there is a desperate emptiness inside of us. We must get the oil ourselves.

Prov 21:20

There is desirable treasure,  
And oil in the dwelling of the wise,  
But a foolish man squanders it. NKJV

We are to treasure the anointing of the Holy Spirit and experience it together whenever we can. This is the oil that sustains the fire of worship. We are created to worship and are never fulfilled on the journey until we burn for Him. This is the secret of a white garment.

Are you seeking?

Are you burning?

### Quest part13

*One night we were playing prophetic music and worshipping at a church service in a nearby community. Afterward the pastor came to me and said,*

*“ I’ve never seen anything like that before. It was like you were making love to Jesus.”*

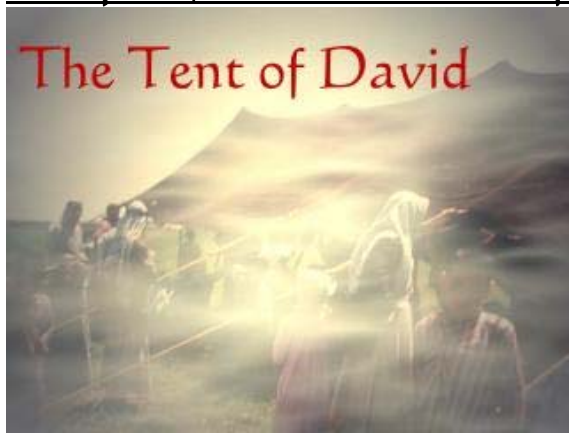
*Sometimes, when we are in His presence, I feel the oil of His anointing cover me like a garment. I feel His deep peace and security. The garment of praise replaces the spirit of heaviness.*

*In truth we are a bride being prepared for her husband. This can be difficult language for a man to accept when he sees himself as a warrior. The scriptures declare that we are the Bride of Christ. Jesus has laid down his life for a bride without spot or blemish or any such thing [Eph.5:25-32].*

*Mary got quite sick. I became impatient with her. It wasn’t long before I got sick. I was suddenly hit with a paralysis in my bathtub. I could barely move. Mary had to drag me to our bed. I had to lay on my side for almost a week. During that time God spoke to me from the Song of Solomon. We are not to arouse, force or awaken love until love itself shall please (Song 3:5). Love requires sensitivity to the timing of God. I am to be tender toward others especially my wife. If I walk in love and wait for loves timing, God will bring genuine love into my life. Something changed in me after that. The anxiety to get changed to the peace to receive.*

*Our heavenly destiny is not hanging on to what we are. We step in to what we are becoming through faith, as we walk the Ancient Path.*

## Chapter Nine -The Tent of David



Acts 15:5-18

5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?

11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

13 When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me.

14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

16 After this I will return  
and rebuild David's fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild,

and I will restore it,

17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,

and all the Gentiles who bear my name,  
says the Lord, who does these things  
18 that have been known for ages". NIV [Amos 9:11-12]

In the midst of this heated debate regarding the nature of the church, James quotes [Amos 9:11-12](#) to describe the place the church [*ekklesia* - called out ones] will enter.

When Samuel was a boy, before David was born, Eli's sons, by their despicable behavior, and Eli the high priest by his passivity, had caused the glory to depart from Israel. Consequently, the Ark of the Covenant had been captured. After years with the Ark in the possession of the Philistines and at various places in Israel, David brought it up to Jerusalem.

David pitched a tent in Jerusalem, during the 33 years of his reign there, as a place for the Ark. The formalities of temple worship declared by the law were set aside for that period. The Ark was kept in the tent, worship was presented round the clock and no formal building was begun. It is a wonderful picture of Grace in the midst of the Old Covenant law. God had told Nathan the prophet to tell David He was content to live in a tent as He had done in Moses day. The centerpiece of the tent is the Ark. The mercy seat is upon and above it. It is the glory of the Lord that inhabits the mercy seat between the Cherubim. In effect God is saying, I will gather the remnant of men, the Gentiles who receive me into my tent. They will behold the glory of the Lord and afterwards I will restore Israel to her land. Amos continues.

[Amos 9:13 - 15](#)

13 "The days are coming," declares the LORD,  
"when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman  
and the planter by the one treading grapes.

New wine will drip from the mountains  
and flow from all the hills.

14 I will bring back my exiled people Israel;  
they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.

They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;  
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 I will plant Israel in their own land,  
never again to be uprooted from the  
land I have given them,"

says the LORD your God. NIV

Jesus, when speaking of the temple, describes it as his body.

[John 2:18-21](#)

18 Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

20 The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. NIV

Paul speaks of the temple as all believers and the human body.

1 Cor 3:16-17

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. NIV

1 Cor 6:18-20

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

NIV

Paul also describes the human body as a tent.

2 Cor 5:1-5

1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

In these passages we understand that the place the Holy Spirit dwells is in the tent, the temple of the human body, Jesus being the proto type.

Heb 10:19-20

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

NIV

Just as David's tent held the ark so Jesus' body contained the spirit without measure. When he died, and his body was pierced, the curtain, or veil, of the temple was ripped open. Everyone who believes can now receive the Holy Spirit and enter the Most Holy Place. And that is exactly what happened at Cornelius's house one day when Peter began preaching the gospel to these Gentiles.

*Acts 10:44-47*

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said,

47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have" NIV

Jesus goes on to say:

*Matt 18:19-20*

19 Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." NIV

*Wherever two or three gather, the tent is erected, and the temple is revealed because Jesus is there with them, in their midst. Therefore, the tent is portable, invisible, held up not by stakes and cords but by the breath of the Holy Spirit. In the Tent of David the gifts of the spirit are exercised. This can happen on a Sunday morning, a weeknight, in an office prayer room or in one's own home.*

Paul makes it clear that God sees a follower of the Way from the inside out.

*1 Thess 5:23-24*

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. NIV

From God's point of view, we are first spirit, then soul, and lastly body. He sees us from the inside out. That is why God does not regard the outward man but the inward person of the heart. Because He dwells inside of us, as we journey, He instructs us in the Way. The Old Testament pattern for this was the tabernacle. It had three parts, the outer court where the body of the animal was sacrificed, the sanctuary, within the tent, where the articles of worship were and the Holy of Holies

within the tent beyond the veil where the Glory of God was found above the Mercy Seat. This is where God dwelt with man. Now through the resurrection of Christ the veil is torn and the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of his followers. John speaks to it this way.

1 John 2:26-27

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.  
27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. NIV

This passage is not written to discount the ministry gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd teacher in the body of Christ. This does not say it's just me and Jesus, I don't need to listen to any one else. This passage exposes Gods intent that we can depend on the Holy Spirit within us, within the tent, to guide us and give us discernment about what we are hearing, what to receive and what to discard. God can speak to us in innumerable ways. This of course requires humility of heart and the willingness to follow.

In a sense, this understanding of the tent puts to death the divisions that so easily come to the body of Christ. We are one body, one faith, and we are one tent. When you enter David's tent the only article in the tent is the Ark, the place of His presence and glory. There is no furniture, no pictures, and no seats. When the scriptures tell us to build one another up in love we are building people, living tents, and we are the Church of the Living God.

### People on Buses

The church can act like people on buses. Each bus is a different group of believers. The bus is intended to take us into the tent but we argue about the color of the bus, who is to sit where, who is to drive, whose bus is the best and we never go anywhere. Remember that we are called to the journey. *We are called out in order to go in.* If we are on the Ancient Path, wearing the garment of grace, and gathering regularly in the tent we find the freedom of worshipping with all believers called to the journey.

We are citizens of the Kingdom and inhabitants of the earth. As inhabitants of a particular culture or nation we can pick up the attributes of that society which seem good but may not allow us to walk on the Way. One of the aspects of our journey is to leave behind the attachments to culture and tradition that can destroy our souls.

I still remember a speaker from Latin America saying,

*"The Germans turned the church into a philosophy, the Romans turned the church into a government, and the Americans turned the church into a business."*

Here we see three different nations and their negative effect upon the church. *Our only philosophy is obedience, our only government is upon His shoulders, and our only business the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.*



### Quest part 14

*In the Prince of Peace coffeehouse, in the main room, a parachute was spread out across the ceiling. It made it seem like a tent. People from every imaginable background and denominational affiliation would come on the weekends to participate in the meetings. Some came to give, others to receive. When someone got saved, the people overseeing the meeting didn't try to bring them to their own church gathering. They sought for an expression of the Body of Christ near where the person lived, a group that had a good reputation in the Christian community. There was a refreshing non-sectarian feeling there that honored Christ. One felt free to grow in such an atmosphere and it drew people to Jesus Christ.*

*Opportunity was made for people of diverse giftings to minister. People would wander in with any imaginable problem and had the potential to receive personal attention.*

*Sometimes difficulties would arise that took us out of our depth One night I was leading our music group in song and a huge man walked in the door. Within a short time he started growling and threatening me. As he headed menacingly toward us I threw up my arms and began praising the Lord. Soon hundreds of others joined with me. When I opened my eyes minutes later the man was gone. The fear of the Lord was in that place that night.*

## Chapter Ten - Liberty enlightening the world



### The Statue of Liberty

When France gave the United States the Statue of Liberty it was called *Liberty enlightening the world*. Liberty should cause us to be free from bondage. Like slaves released from an evil master, liberty causes light to break forth in our lives and a pathway to open up before our feet. Years ago I asked the Lord for a definition of liberty. In response I heard, *Liberty is found in boundaries of Love*.

God sets boundaries within our lives. When we stay within the boundaries, we are free to love. Liberty is not freedom to do whatever we want. Jesus says that man prefers darkness to light. If left to our own, we will explore every terrible possibility, as our novels and movies prove. The Statue of Liberty is like the wise women in proverbs. The poor, ignorant and disenfranchised people of the earth can come to her shores and find help.

Liberty is the opposite of captivity. Liberty helps to free those who all their lifetimes were under bondage.

#### Ps 126

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. KJV

A cry is going up to Him from intercessors who love His name. Turn again our captivity O God. Send us forth with seed for the harvest.

Gal 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. KJV

On the other hand, scripture speaks of  
The Whore of Babylon

Rev 17:4-6

4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. 5 This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT  
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. NIV

This woman sits on the back of a beast that gives her power to control the world's economy, even buying and selling souls. This harlot lures men and women to lust after money and power, above mercy and love. This voice is like the sirens of Homer's *Odyssey* where Odysseus (Ulysses) must be tied to a mast so he won't follow the voices to his doom. He wants to hear the song but not respond to its message.

How many of us are like Odysseus, listening to the harlot on the radio or in the movies while trying to find the path of life? Magazines appeal to us to check out the latest adulterous affair or recent divorce of the so-called stars (in the Bible, "stars" is usually a term applied to heavenly bodies and sometimes to fallen angels).

We see this woman uncovering herself to the eyes of anyone who will pay to look. Like the foolish women in proverbs we hear her voice coming through singers on the radio inviting souls to be seduced and entrapped. She raises up the ancient religions of Babylon to oppose those committed to the Ancient Path. Jesus said the way was difficult and few would find it.

These two figures, Liberty and the Mother of Harlots, in my vision are vying for the affections of the American people and consequently the imagination of the western world. The Harlot invites us to do whatever we want. Sexual impurity is redefined as liberation and the murder of children as the right to choose. Her siren

voice is so strong and the wine of her fornication so powerful, that men lose their sense of right and wrong. Her philosophy of an evolving man tells us it is all right to cast off the old restraints, that a New World is emerging. Liberty thus becomes a license for the imagination to travel the downward road to Sodom. The Harlot makes the use of drugs seem enlightening or sensually fulfilling. Scripture tells us that the Beast eventually devours the Harlot. On September 11, 2001 we saw the Statue of Liberty against the backdrop of the smoking trade towers. How wonderful that statue looked to me. What a momentous choice presents itself before us.

Is. 30:15

In returning and rest is your salvation. In quietness and confidence is your strength.

To be able to choose wisely our souls must return to the Lord. He provides the condition of heart by which we can see. Turn our captivity O Lord!

Ps 97:11

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. KJV

*We can expect light to break forth before us when we are on the Ancient Path.* The light bearer has gone before us and we are walking into the dawning day. Like Joshua , we will say to those around us:

Josh 24:15

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. NIV

John the Baptist was a burning torch to his generation. The Lord is raising up many burning torches in this generation.

Someone once said, "I'd rather burn out for Jesus than rust out for the devil." I think the real issue is not to burn out but to receive the fire, keep burning brighter and ignite other brothers and sisters as you journey.

Prov.4:18

The path of the just is as a shining light that gets ever brighter until the dawning of the day.

A generation is arising in the earth. It defies age group, color or nationality. It is a generation that will burn brightly until His return. This generation will cause righteousness and praise to be heard and seen in the earth [Is. 61:11]. This generation will walk the Ancient Path while *understanding the prophetic hour* and willing to be

witnesses and examples. It is an Elijah generation that will break down walls and open ancient doors. Now is the time; no other will do.

#### Mal 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. KJV

This is the generation of those who seek your face.

#### Psalms 24 - A psalm of David

1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;

2 for he founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the waters.

3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to an idol  
or swear by what is false.

5 He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and vindication from God his Savior.

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Selah

7 Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD Almighty--  
he is the King of glory.

Selah NIV

The ancient doors are lifted up, the gates are opened, and the Ancient Path is revealed. In comes the King of Glory. He will lead us to his Holy hill. Yes Lord, come quickly. Now is the time.

### Quest final



Luke 13:23-25

23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. NIV

1 John 3:2-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

*Many times over the years I have felt God tell me to look down the length of a sidewalk. He told me to imagine Him standing at the other end, to see myself walking down the sidewalk toward him, to know and understand that as I stay on the sidewalk I will inevitably reach Him, to see Him with his arms outstretched beckoning me, to see myself as a conqueror following in the footsteps of the King and to know that with each step down this Ancient Path I will be changed into the image of Christ from glory to glory.*

*Nothing and no one can force me off the path.*

John 10:27-30

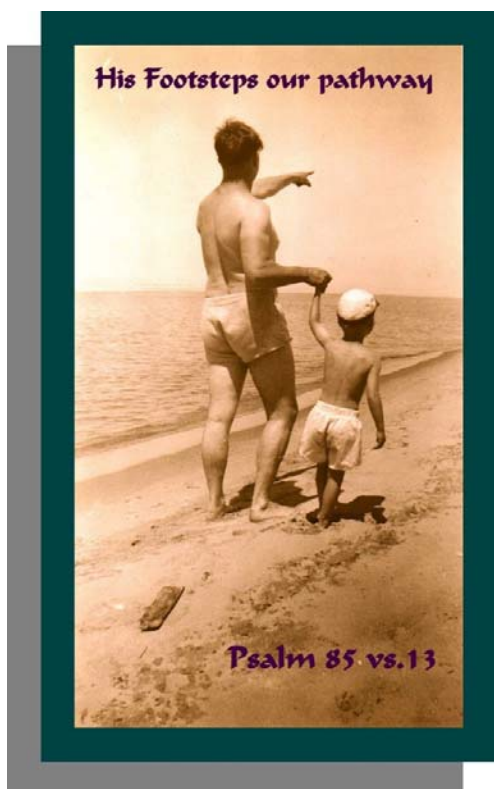
27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and the Father are one. NIV

*The sheep listen and follow. The Shepherd knows us, gives us eternal life, preserves us, and unifies us with our Father. It is His work to save, ours is to believe and follow.*



**Ps 85:13-86:1**

13 Righteousness will go before Him,  
And shall make His footsteps our pathway. NKJV

**Rom 8:31-39**

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?  
32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?  
33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.  
34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.  
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?  
36 As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,  
 neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,  
 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to  
 separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV



*If you have never asked or you know you have wandered from God, stop now. Confess your sins to Christ, invite Him into your life and ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit!! Turn to Jesus. Get ready for the journey. You will never regret your choice.*

His peace be with you  
 A fellow traveler  
 Charles Ellsworth Smith