

# BE STILL & KNOW THAT I AM GOD

STEVE HANEY

(PART TWO)

## **The Glory Of God Shining Through Broken Vessels**

The material that God will use for His kingdom will be composed of a people that have come to this place in their walk with Him where they have been humbled, emptied of self, and laid bare before Him. When we come to this place of total surrender and abandonment, that is when God has us right where He wants us.

When we come face-to-face with our human weakness, and instead of hardening our hearts and resisting the will of God in our foolish pride, we choose instead to soften our hearts and become a willing, pliable lump of clay in our heavenly Father's hands, God will be honored. If we cry out to Him from the depths of our hearts, praying prayers of relinquishment and surrender during those quiet, still moments that we have with Him, then Christ is able to rush in and fill that void with all the fullness of Himself. Then, to our surprise, we experience not only a great joy in yielding

to His will, but we also discover a reservoir of strength emerging that we didn't even know was there. That strength is the Christ within! Jesus says to us, as He said to Paul, "*My strength is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28-30). Here, Jesus is telling us that if we are heavily burdened with the cares of this life, then again, we must abandon ourselves to Him. When we do, he will give us His rest. We were not created to carry these burdens by ourselves. When we are overwhelmed with life's troubles, and we finally come to the conclusion that we can't "fix" them, then we must completely surrender our vessels unto Him. He says, "Take my yoke upon you," meaning, give Him our heavy yoke, and in exchange, He will give us His yoke, which is much lighter.

Then He says, *“Learn of Me.”* In other words, sit still and wait before Him, because when you do, you will learn an attribute of His character, that He is *“meek and lowly in heart,”* and we *“shall find rest for (our) souls.”* When we sit still before Him, and quietly commune with our Creator, then we feel His strong, loving arms holding us, and we hear His gentle, compassionate, reassuring voice comforting, strengthening, and reviving us. Finally, He says, *“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* We walk away from that intimate fellowship with our Lord, unburdened, light-hearted, and full of joy.

When we let go in complete surrender to Christ, and rest in the work of Jesus Christ in our lives, then the glory of Christ can begin to shine out to the world through all of our brokenness and tears. Though our flesh may feel very weak, we discover to our surprise, that a fountain of joy and peace bubbles up. A rush of power surges through us that is no longer us, but Christ, and our ministry becomes infinitely more powerful.

If our lives are broken and surrendered to Him in this way, and we feel the burning of the anointing of God for those in the body of Christ who are sad, lonely, fearful, or discouraged, and we call or write to or visit them and pray for them, then they will sense the presence of Jesus within us. They will somehow know that they are hearing the voice of Jesus comforting and encouraging them, and they will glorify their Father in heaven.

When people all around us quake in fear and in dread when adversity and clouds of darkness close in on them, and they see in us a calmness and a peace and a joy in the midst of it all, they will know that the Prince of Peace is there. There in the midst of them it will be as though Jesus, with raised hands, is calming the troubled waters in the midst of the storm and saying, *“Peace, be still.”* When we humbly present our bodies and our minds as a living sacrifice to Him, then we become the Master’s hands, feet, and mouthpiece on the earth. Then Christ alone will be glorified. This is what God wants to do. He wants to manifest His glory through His people!

So the glory that comes shining through His people cannot be their own glory, but only the glory of Jesus Christ. God’s people must come to the place where they have been broken and surrendered unto Him during the quiet, still moments that they spend with the Lord their God. When they come down from that holy mountain of the Lord each morning, and they encounter the people in their lives, there is an unmistakable glow upon their

countenance. This glow is the light of Christ that comes bursting forth, shining through their broken vessels onto others. This is the Light that will lighten that great holy City, the New Jerusalem that God is building.

### **The Light Of The City**

No one has to tell you about the spiritual condition of our world today. Socially, we are witnessing the fabric of the Christian family unraveling at an unprecedented rate. Marriage, as God designed it to be, is no longer sacred and is being redefined. The love of many is waxing cold. Apostasy, the falling away of the church, is rampant in our day.

On the national and world scene, we are witnessing corrupt human governments crumbling before our eyes. They simply are not equipped to handle the magnitude of crises facing nations that have sadly lost their way, because they have willfully turned their back upon God. Tyrannical governments are on the rise. Wars and rumors of wars fill the news headlines. Economically, we may be seeing days of leanness such as we have never seen in our lifetime.

Because of these things, fear is gripping the hearts of people. Even the non-believers can read the signs of the times. People today are desperately crying out for hopeful solutions, but you and I know that the answer to the crises facing our world today cannot be found in political parties, government intervention, military armies, man’s philosophies, economic theories, or financial, educational, social, or even religious institutions. The issues underlying the broken condition of our world today are far beyond the scope of any of these things, because they go far deeper. It is the souls of men all around the world that are spiritually sick and dying.

The world’s only hope is in a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, who must shine through God’s people. Even now, the citizens of this world long to see in a people, a picture of something real, something authentic that they can cling to, and they are searching for it.

In this great and glorious present move of the Spirit of God, God has visited His people in ways unlike He has in many years past. We have stood upon holy ground countless times as His prophetic voice has thundered down upon us from His high, holy mountain throughout the years. These are very serious days that we are living in. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the way that God has spoken so powerfully to us in our worship over



the years and up until this present day is not an end in itself. As important as all the gifts of the Spirit are, God intends for us to exercise these gifts for the purpose of a greater end, which is to equip and to encourage and to strengthen His people for the very serious days that lie ahead. Through the exercise of these gifts during our Sunday services, God has sought to prepare His people for the challenges of the coming week. In other words, the end of all our worship is not the gifts of the Spirit; God will ultimately be looking for the fruits of His harvest in His people. Through all the things God has been teaching us throughout the years, I believe God has been preparing the saints to become agents of light and hope and strength for the days of darkness that may be right around the corner.

Today, God is looking for a people who are being changed into the image and likeness of Christ more and more, as they wait in silence before the Lord daily. He is looking for a people who are completely sold out and surrendered to Him, a people who have been broken and weakened, yet strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is looking for a people who have been humbled through trials, proven and matured through testings, strengthened and perfected through sufferings, and transformed in mind, heart, and nature.

Then God's glory will arise upon this unknown people, a people prepared in the isolation of obscurity and in the furnace of affliction. God will manifest His power in them, and they will become this glorious City of God set high upon the holy hill of the Lord!

### **Let His Light Shine Out From You**

The light of Christ, which shall lighten this great City, will be a source of healing for the sick, freedom for those in spiritual bondage, bread and nourishment for the hungry, comfort for those in mourning, a peace and a calm for the fearful and the tormented, strength for the weak, and an encouragement for those who have no hope. This City will be the habitation of their God and of the Lamb, and a City of shelter and refuge from the storms of life for the nations who are groping in this world's darkness.

So, to the people who comprise this great City of our God, the prophet Isaiah encourages them to *"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee"* (Isaiah 60:1-2). Does Jesus Christ live within

you? If so, then God's light and glory already abides within you, and He tells us not to hide this light under a bushel, but to arise and shine, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee! This is God's encouraging word to you and me.

When the Gentiles find this City, this people of God that possesses something real, they will be drawn to her like a magnet. And they will cling to her as if their very lives will depend upon it. God will gather people from all nations to that City. They will come from the north, the south, the east, and the west. They will long to be fed of the Bread of Life, and to bask in the rays of the light that emanates from that great and fair City! The rich, the poor, the great, and the small shall gather themselves unto her. The prophet continues, *"And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side"* (Isaiah 60:3-4).

The extent and the intensity of all the hurt and all the fear that people harbor in their hearts all around us today is great. My friends, we will only pass this way on earth once, so let each of us brighten the corner of the world where we are while we still have a chance. Let His Light shine out from us like the stars of the heavens. Even those of us who may carry many heavy cares, burdens, hurts, and crosses ourselves, let us make every season and every day and every minute that God gives us breath on this earth, from now until the end of our days, count for the kingdom of God.

For the call shall go forth unto all the world to come to this beautiful shining City that is set upon a hill, that says, *"Ho, everyone who is hungry and thirsty, come to this City, this habitation of God, and be fed and nourished of the Lord. Bring to her all the fearful and the tormented, all the lost and the lonely, all the wounded and the weary, all the broken and the needy. Come to this beautiful shining City of God, wherein dwelleth the King of kings, and be comforted, strengthened, and fully restored!"*

### **Final Encouragements**

Dear saints, I know that God has seen all of our struggles as we walk down here on this pilgrim journey. I know that He has seen our failures, fears, trials, and tears. And sometimes we have been depleted of our human strength. But if, in the midst of our weaknesses and inability to "fix" things, we abandon ourselves before

the Lord in those daily, still moments that we spend with Him, He will infuse us with His strength, and He will be glorified.

And though He also knows our sins, He also knows the depths of our desire to please Him. If we seek after Him with our whole heart, and come to Him with the sincere, humble heart of a child, and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner, take my life, take all of it, and transform it for your glory," God will be right there to forgive us, to infuse us with His righteousness, and the actual empowerment to walk in that righteousness. If we cry out to Him in the midst of danger, He will be honored, and His promise is that He will be RIGHT THERE!

For in that place where we have abandoned ourselves to Him, we will find ourselves in a place of deep intimacy with Him. It is a special place of sweet communion and fellowship, a place beside green pastures and still waters, a place in the Spirit in which our souls are renewed and refreshed, a place in the Spirit which no man can invade.

In that place, our fears shall flee away. Our sorrows shall be turned into joy, and our tears shall be wiped away. Our emotional scars shall be removed. Our struggles and strivings in the flesh shall begin to fall away, and we shall learn to rest in His strong, loving arms. Our failures shall be forgotten, and our sins shall be forgiven, for He is forming a NEW MAN within us. Our strength shall be renewed as the eagle, and our soul shall be restored.

He has seen your faithfulness towards Him, and all your labors of love, and I know that He will not forget you. He will restore the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, for He has come to redeem us.

We must not tremble in fear for the things that are happening in the earth, but as we put all of our faith and trust in Him, we must stand tall and strong, for MIGHTY IS THE LORD OUR GOD THAT LIVES WITHIN US! Sometimes it may look like everything is spinning out of control in our world, but the truth is, all of these things are happening by His design. Adversities and troubles may bombard us from many directions and seem to work against us, but in the end, when we come out of the storm, we will find that those experiences will actually strengthen us. They will have built spiritual muscle. We will not be the same person that we were before.

Satan will have no power over our lives because of the God that we CRY OUT to in our private, quiet, daily appointments that we have had with Him. That same God is before us, He is behind us, He is above us, He is below us, He is around us, and He is IN us wherever we go. He is our mighty fortress, and we are a defended City. God jealously guards and watches over all His people. In the end of all these things, we know that God will be glorified, and that He will be glorified IN US!

*"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD: I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE HEATHEN, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH"* (Psalm 46:10). 

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