

# *Ezekiel Ministry*

*A Ministry of Hope and Healing*



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*“But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*

*Habakkuk 2:20*

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***Sharing the Light and Love of God to a Dark World***

***“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)***

Satan is out to steal our vision. Do you have a vision? A vision for God and what He wants you to do? Most people have never even thought about their vision. I will reword my statement. Satan wants to steal your vision or he wants to block the vision that God has for you. Don't be fooled, God does have a vision for you. Without a vision we tend to lose heart.

When Israel started into the promise land there were only two people that had a vision. It was Joshua and Caleb. Why did the others not have a vision? It was because of their lack of faith. They did not have faith in God to do what He promised. So many times we don't have a vision because we lack faith.

“And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas, my master what shall we do?’ So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” (2 Kings 6:15-17)

## *A Creed for Self-Discipline*

Discipline, an ugly word. In the world we live in today discipline seems to be a word that people don't like to hear. Satan does not like this word either. If we don't have discipline, Satan can get the upper hand in our life.

Life is a series of problems. Do we want to moan about them or do we want to solve them? Do we want to teach our children to solve them?

Discipline is a set of tools that we use to solve life's problems. Without discipline we can solve no problems. All self-discipline might be defined as teaching ourselves to do what is unnatural. It is not our nature to be self-disciplined. A creed for self-discipline.

- † Will Power - Recognizing that the power of the Will is the Supreme Court over all other departments of the mind. I will exercise it today. I have a choice to follow God or Satan. I will choose to follow God and His will for my life.
- † Emotions - Realizing that my emotions are both positive and negative. I will not let my emotions rule my choices. I will seek positive emotions allowing God to control my direction.
- † Reason - I need to use my power to reason, but I will not let just my reason control what I do. So many times the things that God is telling us to do is not reasonable, but if we trust in God He will guide.
- † Memory - We use our memory to control our self-discipline. Faith looks back and draws courage, hope looks ahead and keeps desire alive. In our self-discipline we remember all that God has done for us and look forward to where God is leading us.

Self-discipline is hard but the rewards are great. Self-discipline cannot work by itself. It can only work if we are allowing God to control. Pray each day, “Lord, Let me know what you want me to do this day.” Have the self-discipline to do what He tells you.

“Then Moses answered and said, ‘But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, The Lord has not appeared to you.’ So the Lord said to him, what is that in your hand? He said a rod.’ And He said, ‘Cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Reach out your hand and take it by the tail and he reached down and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand.’” (Exodus 4:2-4)

God uses the simple things to teach us what we need to know and how we need to think. God does not use a knife that has been factory sharpened; He takes a rough stone and puts His own edge on that stone. To put that edge on the stone and for it to last it must go through the fire. So we must also go through the fire. There is no other way. We must go through the wilderness. ■

“When you choose to follow Jesus, you voluntarily surrender the right to choose, or the power to vary, the consequences of that decision. From that time on, what happens to you is the responsibility of the one you voluntarily designated as the Lord of your life. It is His responsibility to direct the course of your life so you will eventually “be conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). Thus every circumstance is part of God’s design to bring us to maturity.

We cannot serve Jesus Christ on our own terms. We cannot insist that, if we follow Him, he must guarantee that certain kinds of things must happen. Whatever method He chooses to shape our lives is His business, not ours. (Jamie Buckingham)

I pray that God will open your eyes to the vision that He has for you. Without a vision we perish. Yes, we must have a vision for God and keep our eyes on that vision not on the things of the world.

In this newsletter, I am writing about our wilderness. We all must go through our wilderness. Jesus went to the wilderness to find His vision. Paul went to his wilderness to find his vision. We need to remember that there are no short cuts to God. We also need to remember that the things of this world are only temporary.

The pictures on this page and the front are pictures of God’s beautiful world. How can anyone say that God does not exist and still look at what a wonderful world God has made for us to enjoy.

My vision is to share the beauty of God’s creation and to bring inner healing to the hurting through the power of Jesus Christ.



***Remember everything created by God reflects His glory.***

## *The Way through the Wilderness*

“Many shall be purified, made white and refined...” (Daniel 12:10)

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” (Romans 6:5-6)

As God takes us to the wilderness, Satan comes to us and tells us that we are in the wilderness because we are not loved by God or that He has left us and we are all alone. This is just another lie of Satan.

Sometimes I think that I stay in the wilderness. But the wilderness can be a good place to be. The wilderness is a place of purification and preparation. The wilderness is a place where we learn to distinguish between the clamoring voice of the world and the quiet, gentle voice of God.

This scripture in Daniel is talking about the end time and that in the end time we must be purified. This is what God is doing in these last days. He is getting His Church ready for His return. When He returns we must be purified. The wilderness is a place of purification and refining.

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.” (Exodus 3:1)

“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:10-11)

Moses spent forty years in the wilderness and then God called him to be a great leader. He told God he was not ready and he could not do this great thing for God. Sounds like us, doesn't it? This is the reason I think I stay in the wilderness. I have not learned to listen to God and know for sure that it is God talking. But God continues to deal with me until I listen. This is what is so great about God. ►

The cost of discipleship is much greater than the accompanying glory. Sometimes it costs us more in the world to follow God than we receive in worldly glory. But God is so good that the peace makes it all worth the cost.

We have got to go through the wilderness, if we are to be what God wants us to be. If we by-pass the wilderness on our way to the promise land, we are by-passing God. The wilderness is the place that we learn and grow. The place where we find the wisdom that we must have to follow God into the calling He has for our lives.

One thing that we learn in the wilderness is that a need seen by you does not mean a calling on you to fulfill that need. We may see many needs around us and God knows about all of these needs, but He may not be calling you to fulfill these needs. He may have someone else in line to fill that need. As we travel on our journey, we learn to listen to God and what He has for our life not someone else's life. If we don't go through the wilderness, we will never learn to listen. We must learn to distinguish between passion and purpose, between impulse and settled purpose.

We learn that in the wilderness we need each other. Without each other we cannot make it through. Satan knows that if we are alone we are open for attack. As we walk through the wilderness, we have God and our friends, but so many times all our friends can do for us is pray for us. We need our friends and loved ones but we need to realize they cannot go through the wilderness for us and they cannot bring us out of our wilderness only God can do this.

As we walk through the wilderness, at some point we hear God's voice and we know that this is the turning point. We may still be in the wilderness, but we can see the light and we can hear God talking to us. So many times as we go through our wilderness, we miss what God has for us. We miss the blessing of God because we want out of the wilderness and we listen to the wrong voice. We must learn to wait on God and what He is telling us. We get in too much of a hurry. In this modern world we live in, we want everything now and God does not work that way. God's timetable is not the same as our timetable. ►