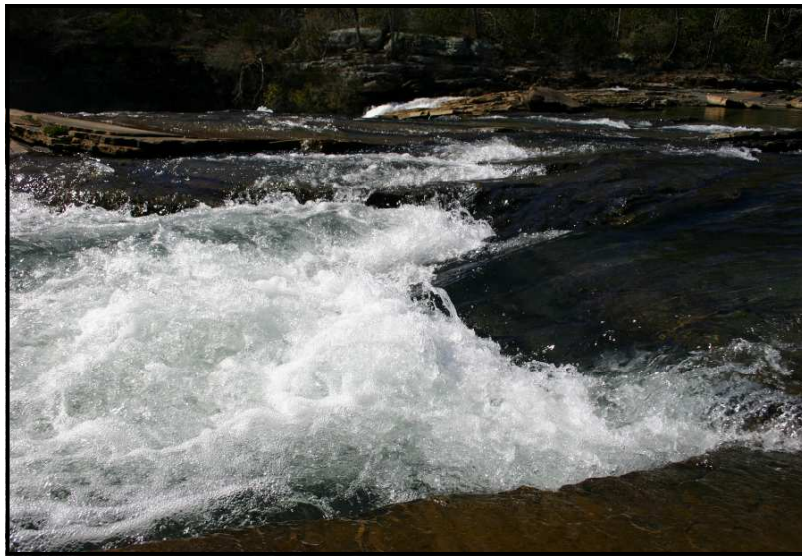


Ezekiel Ministry

A Ministry of Hope and Healing



“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it.”
Isaiah 2:1-2



Jesus will turn your deserts into streams of living water.

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”
(Revelation 22:1)

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Ezekiel Ministry

Sharing the Light and Love of God to a Dark World

“Many years ago I dreamed that I was standing in a meadow. Suddenly I saw a man approaching me. As he got nearer, I gasped to realize that it was Jesus in Blue Jeans. When he saw the expression on my face he said, ‘Why are you so surprised? I came to them wearing robes because they wore robes. I come to you in blue jeans because you wear blue jeans.’” (Laurie Beth Jones)

We need to realize that even though Jesus lived two thousand years ago, He still understands what we are going through today. If Jesus was walking on earth today as He did two thousand years ago, I believe that He would be wearing blue jeans. We need to apply Jesus to everything we do in our lives today.

This year has been a year of change in our lives. We moved and it has been a year of settling into a new place with many new people. I have had health problems, getting old is not for wimps. I lost my mother-in-law. She was the best mother-in-law that anyone could have. I know you hear all the in-law jokes, but to me my in-laws were as close to me as my parents. I loved them both dearly. But as I look back on 2008, I realize that God was present in all that happened. That He was in control of it all. Even if I did not see His hand I know it was there. At times it was carrying me and at other times it was just a comforting touch. In this year of change, I have learned to trust God more and allow Him more control of my life. I have learned that no matter what is happening God always has the best in mind for us. I have had real problems with my knees. I have been to the point that I could not walk. The pain at times affected my whole body. In my business I need to walk at times and be on my feet. As my knee got worse, I worried about how I was going to make a living. Through it all God was there reassuring me that He was in control. When I came to the point that I told God I knew He had the best in mind for me, no matter what, God started a healing work on my knees.

Not I But Christ

Not I, but Christ, be honored, loved, exalted.
Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard;
Not I, but Christ, in ever look and action,
Not I, but Christ, in every thought and word.

Not I, but Christ, to gently soothe in sorrow
Not I, but Christ, to wipe the falling tear;
Not I, but Christ, to lift the weary burden!
Not I, but Christ, to hush away all fear.

Christ, only Christ, no idle word e'er falling;
Christ, only Christ, no needless bustling sound;
Christ, only Christ, no self-important bearing;
Christ, only Christ, no trace of "I" be found.

Not I, but Christ, my every need supplying,
Not I, but Christ, my strength and health to be;
Christ, only Christ, for body, soul, and spirit,
Christ, only Christ, live then Thy life in me.

Christ, only Christ, ere long will fill my vision;
Glory excelling soon, full soon I'll see —
Christ, only Christ, my ever wish fulfilling —
Christ, only Christ, my all in all to be.

(Mrs. A. A. Worthington)

Standing in the Gap

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” (Ezekiel 22:30)

This is a sad verse and is a condemnation on Jerusalem. This is God talking. He is showing His mercy. If there is someone who will stand in the gap, He will not bring suffering and judgment on the people. But He could find no one. The theme in the old testament is a story of men standing in the gap. We have Abraham standing in the gap for Sodom. We have Moses standing in the gap for Israel. God today is looking for men and women that will stand in the gap for our nation. Satan is fighting on every front today and if we stand for God, we will be attacked. There are few people that are standing for God. It is much easier to just go with the flow. We have become comfortable with our spirituality. Yes, we go to church. We speak of how much we love God and want to be closer to Him but do we really? I feel that I don't do enough for God. I go to church, I put out a newsletter each month, I send out a devotion every week, I even teach Sunday school when needed, but I still feel that I don't do enough. I am not as committed as I feel I should be. I don't want to get out of my comfort zone. In Sunday school last week a man made the comment that most people believed in prayer, but we Christians keep quiet and let the other people take away our right to pray. We need to stand in the gap more.

God is trying to pour out His Spirit on His people today more than ever. We just need to be open to His Spirit and obedient to His voice. Is God telling you to stand in the gap? Is He telling you to do more for Him? If this is the case, you need to start today. I believe that the time is getting shorter. That the second coming of our Lord and Savior is near.

Jesus stood in the gap for us and He is still standing in the gap today!

Our world is in a mess. The economy is in shambles. We see people losing their jobs and their houses. I don't know how my business is going to be affected, but I do know that it is not my problem because I have given it all to God and He is in control of it all. Jesus is not some person that lived two thousand years ago and died. He is just as alive today as He was two thousand years ago. Today if He needs to wear blue jeans so we will trust Him and draw closer to Him, He will.

“And I prayed to the Lord my God to make request by prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled even departing from your precepts and Your judgments.’” (Daniel 9:3-5)



Life is Difficult

“Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult, once we truly understand it and accept it, then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.” (Scott Peck)

Yes, life is difficult. God never promised us that life was going to be easy. That everything was going to go our way. He did promise that if we walked with Him, we would have the peace that passes all understanding. Most people have never realized that life is difficult. They want to moan about how bad things are for them. How many problems they have. I have done my share of moaning about life’s problems. Even though God keeps telling me that no matter what, He is in control.

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea...now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.” (Matthew 3:1,4) The Bible tells us that John was clothed in camel hair. Camel hair is not very comfortable to wear. It is always sticking and scratching the skin. John the Baptist was not very comfortable. He knew that time was short and that he had a message he must get out before his time ran out. I have been walking with God since 1981 and I don’t know of a time where I have been comfortable at any point in my journey, God is always telling me that I need to go further with Him, have a closer relationship with Him. I must always be growing in my walk with God. Yes, there is always peace, but never at a point that I feel I can stop and rest on what I have done. Jesus provides us with the rest that we need. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

“And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, the Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.” (Zephaniah 1:12) The problem with getting comfortable in our walk with God is that we become complacent. We are satisfied in our walk with Jesus and this is not a good foundation to build on. Being comfortable is sinking sand.

If we continue on our path to growth as we should and as we must if we are going to have the peace that God promises us, we have a great promise. It is found in Ezekiel.

“For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgment and do them. Then you will dwell in the land that I gave your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of Famine among the nations.” (Ezekiel 36:24-30) What a wonderful promise, how loving and caring is our God.

Keep on growing and you will be closer to God!

