

Gethsemane Preparation

We all want Resurrection Life in Jesus. We want to walk in oneness with Him and let His powerful life flow through us. There is a pathway of preparation that leads to that resurrection power. It includes dying in order to rise again in life. But, even before the dying, there is the preparation to die. That is what Jesus went through in the garden of Gethsemane the night before He was crucified.

The Lord had tried to lead His disciples into an awareness of what was about to happen, but they were not listening attentively. While Jesus warned them that He had to die, He was about to be persecuted and killed, they were distracted and dull of hearing.

Jesus came to example how we should live. He did not walk in His power as God, but came in the flesh of a man, yet without sin. He laid down His life, His entire life. He had no home, no wife, no physical beauty, and spent Himself for others. He never did His own will, but sought and yielded to the will of Father God. He laid down his life, and laid down His life again, and again and finally laid down His life in death. This was the pattern He set, and we are to follow. Yet, His followers did not expect death to be the final lesson. They expected Him to fight, to resist the enemy and win the victory. They failed to realize that His death was the victory, until they saw Him rise from the dead. They heard what they wanted to hear. They held to what they wanted to believe. Some of us want the same thing. We think that since Jesus died for us, now we just get to walk in the resurrection power. We don't want to hear that we have a death process to experience first, just as He did. He paid for all of our sins and gave us life freely. But, if we want to walk in freedom and power on this earth, we too must defeat the powers of the enemy here. Of course it is only through Jesus in us that we can do that.

Today we hear the church talk about the last days with great expectation. They marvel at the promises of power, miracles, revivals, and great things the Lord will do. All of those things are true, but they also accompany the laying down of our lives. We are entering a period of time where the church will face persecutions and suffering as we get to lay down our lives for the

Gospel of Jesus. If all we focus on is the miracles coming and the power of the gifts of God, we will not be ready for the persecution.

So, to the Garden of Gethsemane the Lord led His disciples. He took all but one, the Betrayer Judas. He led the others to the garden to be prepared. He took them to watch Him as He readied Himself for His own suffering and death.

He took three of them a little farther with Him. He hoped just a few could endure the night, but they were weary and could not fight the desire to sleep. The result was that they all fell the next day. Even the most determined Peter, who swore never to deny His Lord, did exactly that. He denied Jesus three times. Our devotion, our determination will not be enough to keep us strong. We must allow Him to prepare us. It is only in His own strength that we will survive and prevail in the day of temptation and persecutions.

So, let's learn from their mistakes. Let's not be sleepy in our hour of preparation, but awake, alert, ready to hear the truth of His warnings about what is coming for the church. Let's allow His preparations to make us ready so we do not bring shame on our precious Savior by denying Him.

Some, in the church, are already in the garden of preparation. Others are still approaching it. Those approaching are being told what is coming, yet many are not listening. This is a time of Awakening for us. We must have ears that can hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. As I study the book of Revelation I see a repeated message to the churches. There is a process that leads us to a place where we can hear.

1. **Hold on to what you have that is true.**

There must be a solid foundation of Biblical truth and experience for you to stand on.

2. **Repent**

We are in a time of deeper repentance as the Lord is cleansing away all addictions, sins, guilt and shame. He is even after the hidden things that we thought could never change. Forgiveness is a great part of this process.

3. **Overcome**

This is not always about sin, but belief systems we hold to. It is also about woundedness and brokenness. We also have to overcome the world, distractions, obsessions, and our own flesh in its desire for comfort and pleasures.

4. **Hear what the Spirit says to the churches**

The first three points prepare us to be able to hear. We cannot hear what God wants us to hear until we are prepared by the first three steps.

Let's read Mat. 26

Matthew 26

¹And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

²Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, **and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.**

³Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

⁴And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

⁵But they said, not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

⁶Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

⁷There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

⁸But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

⁹For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

¹⁰When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

¹¹For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

¹²For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

²⁶And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

³⁰And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

³¹Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

³²But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

³³Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

³⁴Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

³⁵Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

³⁶Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

³⁷And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

³⁸Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

³⁹And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

⁴⁰And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁴¹Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

⁴²He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴³And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Let's look at some lessons we can extract from the Word.

The Oil Press

The word Gethsemane means **Oil Press**. An oil press is used to get the richness out of something, such as the olive oil which was then perfumed and used as anointing oil.

Jesus does not lead the heathen into the garden of preparation; there is no oil in them. He leads us, who possess the oil of the Holy Spirit, there to press us and release the sweet fragrance of the Spirit that He has anointed us with. He is speaking to His disciples, not even every Christian, but to the ones who have chosen to be disciplined followers. Vs.36

Jesus Is In The Press With Us

Vs. 36 Then comes Jesus with them. He is in this difficult place with us, even though it may seem He has abandoned us at times. This is His plan for us and He is with us.

The Lord works in each person accordingly. To some He said, "Sit here", to others He took further with Him. The Lord had different plans for the three. He knew what would be needed for their future. He also thought these three were the ones who had said they wanted to go further with Him

Remember that Peter had declared that he would die for the Lord, and so he would. John and James had desired to sit on the throne with Jesus (Mt.20:21-23). The Lord asked them if they were able to be baptized with the same baptism that Jesus would be baptized with. They had answered "Yes, we can". And Jesus said, Ok, you will.

But, there is a stopping place in all of us. A place where Jesus walks further, but we cannot. We need to become aware of what it is in us that stops us.

Sit Here

Why can't we go further? What is our weakness? What are our limitations? How much do we want to go further? But, for each disciple there was a chosen place where the Lord said, "Sit here". And to each of us there is a time and place when He says, "Here is the place you must be crushed to release the anointing oil I have placed in you. This is your place to sit, to wait, to endure, to prepare to go further in the plans I have for you." That place is not only a physical one, and a chosen period of time. It is both, but also a place inside of us. The place He is pointing out to us where we need to pay attention.

I am lingering in a place of purging out insecurity. It has had a stronghold in me all of my life. It won't be removed in one quick

realization and confession. In 1 Jn. 1:9 we are told that once we confess our sins He is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I saw the sin of insecurity when He shined His light of truth on it. I confessed it and repented immediately. But I have to stay in an awareness of the constant attacks of the spirit of insecurity still trying to control my life. I had accepted many lies that took root and grew offshoots of belief systems and reactions in me. As I tarry in awareness of this weakness I see more and more truths that take my freedom to greater levels of deliverance. I can't move on to the "little bit further" place with Jesus until I conquer this place. **We can't try to escape our oil press or hurry it.**

Jesus Goes To Prepare The Way Before Us

The Lord said, "Sit here while I go yonder and pray". That little sentence is full of hope for us. First of all, **Jesus is our Example**. He urged them to 'watch and pray'. Every minute of His life was an example for us to follow. He showed us how to live in the Spirit, how to succeed in our Christian walk. In the garden He is showing us how to prepare for the hard things coming to the church. He was entering His own crushing, the greatest, hardest crushing any man would ever endure. He would be pressed severely before the sweet oil of His own life would be extracted from Him. His crushing was so deep and complete that He wept, He even sweat drops of blood while praying. He agonized against every human resistance in Himself. He struggled against the attacks of the enemy of His soul and the body of His flesh until God prevailed. And, in His victory, He became our example and our guide in our Garden of Preparation.

Secondly, the Lord goes before us in prayer, for us, to prepare the way.

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them

Romans 8:34

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:27

And he that **searcheth the hearts** knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because **he maketh intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.

He has searched our hearts and knows what is in us that must be crushed, evicted, repented of, healed, or revealed. Then He prays for us. That is awesome! I always wanted an Intercessor who would cover me that way. There is no one on earth capable of that degree of Intercession.

A Little Further

Only three disciples were ready to be taken a little further. They had made the hard decisions. They were full of love for the Lord and zeal to serve Him. Peter had boldly stated that he was ready to die for Jesus. John was a simple lover of the Lord. His heart was soft and tender. I don't even know much about James, except that he would later become a Pastor, a Shepherd of the flock. These three had completely surrendered everything to God.

These three who went a little further were taken to a place where Jesus began to be sorrowful and very heavy. vs. 37.

In vs 38 Jesus shares the deeper agony of His own heart. He says, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death: **tarry ye here and watch with Me.**"

This is a place, in our Lord, that only a few are even permitted entrance. To go deeper, further with God, often means that He is willing to share the agony of His heart. To share it means that you too must experience it. As humans it is natural to protect ourselves from grief. We don't like to experience sorrow.

Jesus spoke here of His soul. His Spirit was already yielded, ready for whatever would come. But, **the flesh was still in need of preparation.**

The flesh still cried out for survival, for comfort, for rescue. That is the nature of flesh. It must be conquered and made to submit to the Spirit.

The Lord invited the three to watch Him as He exemplified how to bring the flesh into submission, how to win the battle and be ready for the persecutions ahead. Unfortunately they failed at this level. They were too controlled of flesh to conquer it. Their bodies begged for sleep and they gave in to them.

We are at a time in history when the Lord is calling us to wake up. We're entering a move of God that is being called a **Great Awakening!** This is the time when the Lord is speaking the same words to us, "Wake up, Watch Me, and I will show you how to prepare." We can't defeat our flesh! We don't even know all of our own weaknesses. We need Him to reveal and take us through deliverance. We need to know how to survive our days of trials. We have to wake up and watch.

The three disciples did not watch, they slept. And the following day they failed. They discovered that they were not ready to follow unto death with Jesus. They ran and hid in depression, fear, discouragement, hopelessness. They didn't understand what was coming and they didn't get ready.

There is a day of resurrection power coming for us, but it is preceded by the time of death first. The death process will prepare us to carry the very presence of God and release Him on earth as never before. But, you cannot have the power of that life until your life has experienced death and the rising in new life, His life, in you. It is the way of the cross. **And the victory of the cross experience requires a night in The Garden of Gethsemane for preparation.**

It is our Time

I watched some things unfolding recently that led me to this study of Gethsemane. We were in a leadership meeting one evening and a few things happened that drew my attention.

One lady brought an alabaster box to present her heart to her husband. **The alabaster box**, in Bible times, possessed perfumes, representing all that a young virgin would offer to her espoused husband. She would break it open and pour it out at his feet. It was her way of offering him all of herself, her love, her devotion. Before Jesus entered the garden a woman had poured out expensive perfumes on Him. The disciples saw it as a waste, but the Lord knew it was anointing Him for His death.

It is amazing how many times Jesus had told the disciples that He was going to die. They didn't want to hear that. He has told us, throughout Scripture and in the book of Revelation what is coming for the church. Some Christians just are not listening.

In the upper room **Jesus washed the feet of His followers**. He did that to show that we must live a life of servanthood to others. Foot washing was a custom in the land. They wore sandals and walked dusty roads. The servants would wash their master's feet when they came into a house. For Jesus to take the role of servant was humbling Himself to His followers. It was an example for us to know how to lead others. We serve them, we love them. We do not rule, but lead. But, this time it was also one of the last things the Lord did before entering the garden.

In our leadership meeting one young man was led of God to wash the feet of our Apostle. I think the Lord used the alabaster box, and the foot washing to jog our minds, to pay attention to the time period we are entering. This is a time where we are drawing near to our union with our Bridegroom.

It is time to pour ourselves out at His feet. It is a time for us to be crushed as the petal of a flower until the sweet ointment of our life is flowing out to Him like a precious perfume.

It is time to lay down our lives for others as He did in washing their feet. It isn't a time for pride to rule in us. We need to realize that **pride is the seed where all sin is rooted**. It is at the core of every one of us and must be discovered, revealed, and evicted. It is a seed deeply embedded and will not come out easily. But, as we enter our Garden of Preparation we must allow a process to take place in us. It is the same one Jesus exemplified when He went a little further. Not one disciple followed Him there. We do not have a complete blueprint of how to go there. But, He's alive! He is here to lead us into the further place in the garden where they did not follow.

I had prayed a few weeks earlier that I wanted to go with Jesus into the hour of watching where they failed to go. I had no idea what I was asking for. I think the Spirit caused me to pray for that as a prophetic statement of where He was getting ready to take us.

Jesus is coming back for His Bride. And when he does she will be ready. She will be the spotless Bride who is ready for Him. That means He will have to get us ready. He is planning to make us 'without spot or wrinkle'. Wow! Without spot or wrinkle? Can you even imagine that? The Church has never experienced that. The disciples did not experience that either. But, we are going to! That is His plan. There is a generation that will actually stay awake, go all the way with Jesus, and be ready to overcome the flesh and sin. That place has not yet been discovered and entered into. I don't know if we will make it all the way to be that Church. Maybe we will go a little further and our children will go all the way. I hope to go all the way myself, but I dare not boast of any ability to do that. It is only by His mercy that He will take me as far as I can go.

It is only by repentance and forgiveness that we can go one step further in any area of our life. But my heart cries to go further than where I am. My heart has begged to watch with Him the one hour that the three did not watch. When He said, “**Could you not watch with Me one hour?**” it gripped my heart, and I cried out, “I want that hour! I want to give you that hour! Will you share with me what happened during that hour that no man would watch with you?”

A Little Further

Perhaps I will get to watch that hour. Yet, I know the Lord went further yet than even that hour. He had drawn Peter, John and James to a point in their lives where they could have watched one more hour. They would have been prepared for the next day. Yet, the Lord went more than one hour. That one hour was for them, in their day, in their need. I believe there were a few more hours even beyond that point. Those hours were for us, for the end time generation. The preparation He suffered that night went before us to make a way into our day of persecution. Our time coming is different than that of the disciples that night. They needed to be ready for Jesus to be arrested, interrogated, tortured, crucified, die, and to believe He would come alive again. The hour they failed to watch would have prepared them for that time in history. But, we are called to live during a different move of God. We're here for the end of the story, the completion of our salvation and the victory over all evil. Our battle will be different, our preparation includes the foundation laid already in the revelation of what the disciples already lived. All they learned by walking with Jesus, by their own failure that night to prepare, and all they gained as they repented and did prepare later.

Even in all of the miracles, the wonderful Spirit-filled years that the Apostles walked in, they still died. They had not conquered sin. We have not

conquered sin either, but there will come a day when the Lord will finally deliver us from the clutches of all sin. He is in process of giving us the keys to stand in His Spirit and defeat the sin that is killing us.

In the end the Church will have been victorious and death will be defeated. When Jesus returns, and the graves open, those who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them alive. We will be ready for the final transformation and our bodies will be glorified as we rise up to meet Him. That indicates that something happened to defeat death and those alive did not experience death at all. Sin had to be overcome for that to be possible.

Sin is a Deceiver and Liar. We are still in the prison of death awaiting our execution! But the keys to life are inside of the cell with us. The truth will turn on the lights and reveal the key to deliverance. I know that our garden of preparation includes giving us those keys of truth. We are the end-time Church and we are going to see death defeated. It must be defeated in us, one person at a time. We must follow the Lord as He goes deeper inside of us to reveal, unveil things that are deceiving us so He can set us free!

As I am considering all of the things they learned later and how they rose up and served the Lord, I am understanding that the deeper, further place our Lord went in the garden was not for them, but for us. We can experience the one hour they missed and move a little further as He unfolds what He encountered even beyond that hour. He will take us further, and further, until we are prepared for our 'tomorrows'. There is a place for each of us. We don't choose that place, He does. He knows the plans He has for us. He has created us to be His reflection here on earth. We have a purpose and He has a preparation for us to bring us 'ready for our time'.

We each must desire to go further. We each must break open our alabaster boxes and pour out all that we are in surrender to Him. We cry for oneness with Him, but that requires that we must decrease so He can increase.

It won't be easy. In fact, it will be very excruciating at the time. But, the freedom, the power, the strength, the fellowship with Him is worth every moment of it. It's only hard when we struggle and resist. It only seems hard because the enemy of our soul has deceived us and implanted fear, distrust, defensiveness, and the seed of pride. But, the joy, the freedom, the truth and revelation that set us free to become who we were created to be, oh that is so wonderful beyond explanation. If you have not experienced that kind of transformation, translation from a dark stronghold into the glorious light of truth and freedom, then you just don't know, yet, how wonderfully addictive it is to be set free. Come and find out! Dare to let Him take you a little further.

Prayer is Preparation

We do know that what Jesus went further to do was pray. Each time He went further He was praying again. He did not live in the power of His ability as God. He lived in the frailty of a human body, just as we do. He did this to show us how to do it. When He faced the most difficult time of suffering and sacrifice He did it through deep prayer and dependency on His Father, God.

There is no other way for us, but through prayer. So let's see what He did reveal in His hour of prayer.

We know there were many hours of the dark night in which Jesus prayed. Yet, we only have a few of His words to hold on to. We have to extract everything we can from them to help us prepare.

³⁹And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

⁴²He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴⁴And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Three times Jesus prayed revealing, a desire to escape the suffering He knew was to come, yet He surrendered to accept it. He was aware, He was facing the truth of what was coming and facing it. He knew how horrible it was going to be. He experienced a desire, in the flesh, to escape it. He dreaded the pain, the humiliation, the torture, the lies, and the rejections coming. He felt everything a human could feel as He fully faced what was ahead.

Think about it, God Himself fell on His face in prayer!

There was another thing that happened when the Lord gathered his disciples together for the last supper. Not only did He example a servant's heart by washing their feet. He also shared communion with them. In that He instructed them to remember His body which was broken for them and His blood which was spilt for them. That reminds me of the time he told people that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood. They didn't understand that He was inviting them to experience what He did in His own flesh. He had lived, and would soon die physically. He had laid down His right to be God and showed us how to live in the flesh. He was telling us that we have to partake of the same life and death that He exemplified. That is eating, nourishing ourselves by seeing, watching what the Lord did in the flesh.

Then He said to drink His blood. We must accept the payment of His blood sacrifice for our sins, but beyond that we have to know how to depend on the power of His blood to apply that power to everything that holds us prisoner to our own flesh. The only way to overcome the sin, the unforgiveness, the abuses and the distractions and addictions of this life is through the blood of Christ.

Revelation 12:11

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Between the times He prayed He said **⁴¹Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

The disciples came with willing spirits to serve God, to go anywhere, do anything, live and die for Him. But Jesus knew that no one could do this in the ability of human efforts, not even Him. He knew He would need to rely on the power of Father God to overcome the arguments of His own flesh, the pleading of His own flesh to avoid what was ahead. The Spirit had to overcome the weak and helpless flesh. That would be accomplished through prayer and faith. He could have depended on His own power, He is God. But He had to do this in the same way He would later expect us to do it. He had to be our example.

When the Lord reveals what is coming for us we will want to run, to hide, to avoid it. We are not capable of enduring it. But, as we pray and seek God, we come to a place where we know that grace will be there when the time comes. If we have yielded it all to God, surrendered to His Will, we will walk straight ahead into the place we know we cannot go. We will because we trust that He will be our strength when all of our flesh cannot endure.

This applies to our preparation and our day of tribulation ahead. First we must face our weak flesh in our night of preparation. As we face every weakness within, yielding it to the Lord, we experience the victory that we thought was impossible. That leads us to the next level. It begins to come faster, and faster, as we fall in love with our own deliverance from sin.

Those experiences lead us to trust Him to be there when we face the final tribulations. Our flesh is crying out, "I can't do that! I'm afraid. I can't take pain, I know I will break and fail. I can't accept that, I cannot endure it. But, I have seen the Glory of the Lord; I have experienced the impossible with Him. I know His power and He will be there to supply the grace, so I yield. I say, with Jesus, "If this cup cannot pass from me, then I will drink it".

For some of us it is physical pain that threatens our weak flesh. For others it will be many various things. Maybe, for you, it is insecurity as it was with me. Maybe you cannot face losing someone you love. You think you could not live if that person was not there to love and support you.

Perhaps it is poverty that scares you. In the terrible economic condition of our world today we will be tested in our attachment to the things money can buy. That is really a big one for all of us. We depend on our jobs, our income. We believe we need a house, a car, clothes, and food. But, if those things are your security, what would happen if they were all gone?

There are so many weaknesses in our flesh. They will be faced, one at a time, and tested. The things that weaken us will be exposed and the Lord will prepare us to trust Him in all areas. The enemy will find no place in us when he comes like a lion, seeking whom he may devour.

In the night of our Garden of Gethsemane we will have to face what hides within us before we can face what will come to face us out outwardly in the day of persecutions.

I'm sure we all have similar lists, such as fear, intimidation, insecurity, selfishness, comforts, relationship attachments, jealousy, control, anger, depression, giving up, doubt, confusion, dependency on others, seclusion, addictions, hate, paranoia, and pride. There is more, much more. We will all discover how these things have a hold in us and we will evict them from our lives so we can live in real freedom. We will live in the truth of who we were created to be. And that freedom is worth fighting for. It is worth the embarrassment, the humility, and whatever we have to go through to reach that freedom.

Our Guide Book

The book of Revelation was written for us. It is His letter to us to help us know what is coming and how to prepare for it. We have struggled with even understanding it. It is time to read, and read again. There is a blessing for all who simply read it. We are the end time generations, it is for us and He will help us understand it.

I have been in a study of what the Lord said to the churches in the book of Revelation. I won't attempt to share that entire study here, but I will share again the four points that are repeatedly made to the churches.

1. Hold on to what you do have. Hold on to what you know is true. You must have a firm foundation built on the truth of God. If you do not have solid, Scriptural truth to stand on you will not stand.
2. Repent. We must go deeper in repentance. The Lord took note of what was good and right in each church. But He also pointed out what was still wrong and lacking. He warned them that they must go deeper in repentance.
3. Overcome. This is different than repenting. We have to overcome the flesh and the world. Many things in our life are not sin, but they are hindrances, distractions, comforts, just things that keep us from the walk of oneness He seeks with us. We have to rise to the spiritual plain of life that is where we belong, not in this world.
4. Hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The first three points are preludes to the fourth. We must hear what He says to us. And we can't if we do not experience the first three points. These points are the pathway to being able to really hear what God is saying. Even Jesus said He could only do what He saw the Father do, and only speak what He heard the Father say.

Acts 4:20 ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

John 12:49

⁴⁹For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 3:11

¹¹Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

John 6:63

⁶³It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1Cor.2:7

⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

John 16:13

¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Church of the Last Days

The last church described is the one of Laodicia. She is seen in a lukewarm condition. The church, the world will be the same as in the days of Noah when Jesus returns. But, it was a split church. There was a remnant that was on fire for the Lord. It was here, in this last church age that He stood at the door knocking. Those who open to Him can still receive the preparation to become one of His Torch Bearers to carry His presence to the world.

He is knocking on our doors. He wants to come in and dine with us. He gets to choose the meal, the place, and the method. It will be a time to enjoy our last supper with Him, then into the Garden of Gethsemane to prepare for the final battle.

I opened that door and invited Him in. He set the scene for our meeting to be on the Sea of Awareness. In that vision He began to open my awareness to many things. One area of awareness is that to my own need for deeper repentance, deeper healing, deeper deliverance, and deeper preparation. I love it on this sea. I love this place of awareness that I am experiencing. I love it when I am set free, but I am learning to love repentance because I know the freedom and joy that follows it.

He is knocking on your door too. Will you open it and let Him enter you and take you to The Garden of Gethsemane?