

# **THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH (MAL. 4:5-6)**

**COREY STARK**

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## ***The Spirit of Elijah – Power to Change the Heart***

***Mal. 4:5 Behold, I [LORD of Hosts] will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and [turn] the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.***

### **I. THE COMING ESCHATOLOGICAL STORM**

**A.** The prophets foresaw a storm coming at the end of the age that was so great in magnitude and so severe in devastation that unless the days were literally shortened (Mt. 24:22; Rev. 8:12), no human beings would be able to physically survive (Mt. 24:22; Mk. 13:20; Acts 3:18-24).

***Mt. 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [physically preserved]; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Dan. 12:1)***

**B.** The unique dynamics and unusual events of the ***Day of the Lord***, both great and terrible (Joel 2:11; Mal. 4:5), will grow in intensity like “birth pangs” ushering in the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:7-8, 21). Four ***“eschatological winds”*** will come together in fullness creating the “perfect storm” to purify the church, bring in the Great Harvest and remove all that hinders love. It will be greatest time of pressure the world has ever seen (Mt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1), being the catalyst that transitions the earth into the MK (Isa. 66:8; Dan. 7).

***Joel 2:11 For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Mal. 4:5)***

**C.** The ***“four-fold eschatological winds”*** are:

**1. Creations Groan** (Ps. 82:5; Is. 24:5-6, 20; Jer. 23:10; Mt. 24:7-8; Lk. 21:23-26; Rom. 8:18-22)

**2. Man's Sin** (Dan. 8:23; Joel 3:13-14; Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43; 2 Th. 2:7-10; Rev. 9:20-21; 14:17-20)

**3. Satan's Rage** (Dan. 7:19-25; Mt. 24:15-22; Rev. 12:7-17; Rev. 13)

**4. God's Zeal** displayed in a 7-fold shaking (Hag. 2:6-9) of wrath (Rev. 15:1) and glory (Acts 2:17-19).

**D. Creations Groan:** will progress from the “beginning of birth pangs” to final travail and birth (Isa. 66:8).

***Mt. 24:7 And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows [birth pangs].***

***Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.***

***Ps. 82:5 All the foundations of the earth are unstable... 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations.***

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E. **Man's Sin:** will become "fully ripe" for harvest, as the "tares" reach full expression (Dan. 8:23; Joel 3:13; Mt. 13:24-30; Rev. 9:20-21; 14:17-20). The ultimate manifestation of the sinfulness of man will be seen in the "**mystery of iniquity**" (2 Thes. 2:7), which is the unveiling of the "**man of sin**" or Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:3-4). The Harlot Babylon system will be the context in which man's sin reaches fullness by way of opportunity (ease, speed, hidden), variety and volume. The lust of men will demand satisfaction, even the "bodies and souls of men" (Rev. 18:13). Demon worship will be widespread and common (Rev. 9:20-21).

**Dan. 8:23** *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes.*

**Rev. 9:20** *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues [seal 1-7, trumpet 1-6], did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols... 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries [pharmaceuticals] or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

F. **Satan's Rage:** will be fully manifest during the last 3½ years of natural human history. Just as Daniel effectively released the angel Michael to push the prince of Persia out of the way in the heavenlies, through prayer and fasting (Dan. 10:12-14), so also the end-time Church as a corporate Daniel, will be instrumental in casting Satan out of his place in the heavenly realm once for all through prayer and fasting (Rev. 12:7-12). This will cause him, along with millions of his fallen angels (Eph. 6:12) to come down to the earth humiliated and enraged, unleashing the fullness of his rage against Israel and the end-time Church. The majority to be unleashed thru his "**seed**" (Gen. 3:15), the "**son of perdition**" (Dan. 7:15-25; Rev. 13:1-10).

**Rev. 12:7** *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon... 9 So the great dragon was cast out... he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him... 12 Woe to the inhabitants of the earth...! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time [3½ years]. 13 Now when the dragon had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [Israel] who gave birth to the male Child [Jesus]... 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman... went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who... have the testimony of Jesus [Church].*

G. **God's Zeal** displayed in a 7-fold shaking (Hag. 2:6-9) of wrath (Rev. 15:1) and glory (Acts 2:17-19).

1. **God's Wrath:** will be poured out full strength (Rev. 14:10; 15:1) upon the Antichrist Empire and those in agreement with it. The "**cup of the wine of God's fury**" will go forth like a whirlwind in every nation.

**Jer. 25:15** *"Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations... to drink it. 16 And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them." 28 And if they refuse... you shall say, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "You shall certainly drink! 31 A noise will come to the ends of the earth - for the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' ...Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. 33 At that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other... They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground. (Rev. 6:8; 9:15, 18)*

2. **God's Glory:** will be poured out upon the end-time Church in unprecedented power (Acts 2:17-19).

**Rev. 12:10** *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser... has been cast down.*

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## **II. THE LOVE OF MANY WILL GROW COLD (MT. 24:12)**

A. It's in the midst of this **“eschatological storm”** and the years preceding it, that the “love of many” will grow cold (Mt. 24:12). Jesus said that even parent's hearts will **“turn away”** from their own children. This can be seen in the escalating numbers of children being aborted daily in the US, currently 4,000 per day.

*Mt. 10:21 Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child [to death]...*

*Lk. 21:16 You will be betrayed even by parents... and they will put some of you to death.*

B. Through the natural process of “cause and effect” and the biblical principle of “sowing and reaping” (Gal. 6:7-8), this will promote anger, rebellion and lawlessness in the generations that follow. In other words, because the parent's hearts have first “turned away” from their children, the children's hearts will begin to **“turn away”** from their parents as well. This will continue to escalate and intensify throughout the following generations as time goes on much like the “ripple effect” in water. The parent's “seed's of selfishness” will mature, causing the children to feel abandoned as orphans, thus increasing lawlessness.

*Mt. 10:21 Now... a father [will deliver up] his child [to death]; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.*

*Mic. 7:6 For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own household.*

C. It is in this context of unparallel pressure upon society (temptation, persecution, lawlessness), when the very fabric of the family will be coming apart at the seams, that the Lord promised to send the **prophet Elijah** to be a **“catalyst”** that would prepare the people for His ultimate return and begin to **“turn the hearts”** of the people back toward Him (Father) and toward one another again (Lk. 1:16-17).

*Mal. 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and [turn] the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Lk. 1:16-17)*

## **III. THE COMING OF ELIJAH – LITERAL OR SPIRITUAL?**

A. The future tense coming of **“Elijah the prophet before the day of the Lord”** is both a spiritual coming and a literal coming. In its **“literal”** sense, it speaks of the coming again of Elijah the man that will **“restore all things”** as Jesus said (Mt 17:11). In its **“spiritual”** sense, it speaks of an operation or anointing of the Holy Spirit upon a believer that imparts a mission like unto Elijah's (i.e. the spirit of Elijah) that carries the same message and is accompanied by similar manifestations of power like Elijah (Acts 2:17-19; Jn. 14:12).

*Mt. 17:10 His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? [Before Messiah]” 11 Jesus answered... “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things [future tense, literal, 2nd coming]. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already [past tense, spiritual, 1st coming], and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished...” 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. (Mt. 11:14; Mk. 9:11-13)*

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B. In speaking of John the Baptist, the angel Gabriel said that he would go before Jesus' first coming in the "*spirit and power of Elijah*". In other words, he would be anointed with *power*, by an operation or anointing of the Holy Spirit to accomplish a *mission* with a *message* similar to that of the prophet Elijah's.

*Lk. 1:13 But the angel said... 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him [Jesus Messiah] in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Mt. 11:14; 17:10-13; Mk. 9:11-13; Lk. 1:67-80)*

*Lk. 1:67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying... 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins... 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

C. Today, in the same way that John operated in the "*spirit and power of Elijah*" to prepare the people to respond correctly to Jesus' first coming, the Spirit is raising up "*forerunner messengers*" all over the earth that have the *same mission*, the *same message* and operate in the *same power* as Elijah, to prepare people for Jesus' second coming. We understand through Isaiah that John was merely a "down payment" and *partial* fulfillment of a larger company of forerunners that were to emerge at the end of the age in *fullness*.

*Isa. 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness [John]: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God... 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh [all nations] shall see it together [at the same period of time during Jesus' second coming - Rev. 1:7].*

*Dan. 11:32 The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...*

D. At the end of the age, the point of the arrow for this larger company of forerunner messengers worldwide will be two men that stand as a witness before God in Jerusalem and prophesy against the antichrist regime.

*Rev. 11:3 And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days... 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Zech. 4:11-14)*

## IV. THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH – THREE PRIMARY GENERATIONS

Three primary generations unusually anointed with the "*spirit and power of Elijah*".

A. The generation of Elijah (1 Kgs. 17-21; 2 Kgs. 1-2) and Elisha (1 Kgs. 19; 2 Kgs. 2-9; 13)

B. The generation of Jesus' first coming, beginning with John the Baptist, Jesus and the Apostles (Gospels).

C. The final generation just prior to Jesus' second coming with the return of the prophet Elijah, the Two Witnesses and the worldwide company of forerunner messengers (Dan. 11:32-35; Mal. 4:5-6; Rev. 1-22)

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## V. THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH – THE MISSION AND THE MESSAGE

A. To understand the mission and the message of the “*spirit of Elijah*”, we must first look at the spiritual condition of the nation of Israel in Elijah’s day and the hearts of the people to whom he was sent.

B. The Bible first records Elijah’s ministry in the days of King Ahab who “*did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all [the kings of Israel] who were before him*”, “*who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up*” (1 Kgs. 16:30; 21:25). Jezebel, was “*the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians*” (1 Kgs. 16:31). Earlier, the Lord warned King Solomon concerning the Sidonians, “*You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods*” (1 Kgs. 11:2). Jezebel clearly did this by filling the land with “*harlotries... and witchcraft*” (2 Kings 9:22) negatively influencing King Ahab who “*went and served Baal and worshiped him... set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria ...made a wooden image and ...did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him*” (1 Kgs. 16:31-33). Jezebel then “*massacred the prophets of the Lord*” (1 Kgs. 18:4, 13) and established in their place “*450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table*” (1 Kgs. 18:19). It was in this climactic state of spiritual apostasy and national idolatry led by the King and Queen that God sent in the prophet Elijah to confront and to call back the “*heart*” of a nation!

C. Elijah’s primary mission was to prepare the people for the Lord by being a “*catalytic messenger*” that was used by God to “*turn their hearts*” back to Him. A “*catalyst*” increases the rate of a chemical reaction without being consumed by the reaction itself. Messenger + time + place + message = increased reaction

D. Elijah’s primary message concerned “*turning the heart*” of the people. It confronted the “*lies*” or “*idols*” that imprisoned their hearts (cope and sooth) and called back the people to the Truth that sets their hearts free (simplicity of relationship w/God). It was in context to this mission of preparing the people to respond correctly to God that He released massive amounts of power to confirm the message of “*turning the heart*” back to Him and empower the responsive to change.

*1 Kgs. 18:21 “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him... 22 Then Elijah said... “give us two bulls... 24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” 37 “Hear me, O Lord... that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.” 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”*

E. In preparing the nations to respond correctly to the Lord at His coming, He will release unprecedented amounts of power upon the Two Witnesses for 42 months (3½ years) to confirm the message of “*turning the heart*” and to empower the responsive to actually change.

*Rev. 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Zech. 4:11-14)*

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## VI. THE POWER OF ELIJAH – FOUR EXPRESSIONS

A. In each of the three primary “*Elijah generations*”, the **power** that is released upon the forerunner messengers is given to **confirm** and **empower** the same message – “*turn your heart*”!

*Acts 2:17 ‘ And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’*

1. **Supernatural Revelation** (vs. 17-18) A spirit of wisdom and revelation, prophecy, visions, dreams, “open heaven”, angelic ministry “Jacob’s ladder”, supernatural direction, translations, visitations, etc.

2. **Miracles, Signs and Wonders** (vs. 19-20) Wonders in heaven, signs in the earth, raising the dead, healing the sick, multiplying provision, supernatural protection, releasing plagues, transportations, “*greater works*” (Jn. 14:12), “*great exploits*” (Dan. 11:32), etc.

3. **Apostolic Preaching w/Zeal** (vs. 21) Supernatural clarity, boldness and manifest authority upon the preaching of the word of God (hammer, fire, arrow), grace upon the ears, eyes and hearts to receive like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24), authentic conviction and repentance like on Pentecost.

4. **Healing and Restoration** By “turning the heart” God can **fully restore** families, marriages and individuals, bringing lasting healing to emotions, relationships, circumstances and bodies (Mk. 3:5).

*Mt. 17:11 Jesus said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.” (Mk. 9:12)*

B. The coming of Elijah (Mal. 4:5) and the outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:31; Acts 2:20) are dynamically linked, being the only two Scriptures to declare that they happen “**before the coming of the Day of the Lord**”. I believe that this is very deliberate and intentionally used to connect the “spirit and power of Elijah” to the long-awaited and anticipated full global outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the end-times.

*Acts 2:17 I will pour out of My Spirit... 20 before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

*Mal. 4:5 I will send you [spirit of] Elijah... before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

C. The “**turning of the heart**” is two-fold: **first** to God and **secondly** toward one another, with a special emphasis upon the family, as God’s chosen institution upon the earth to reveal Himself as a “**tender Father**” and as a “**passionate Bridegroom**”. The spirit of Jezebel has especially targeted men, as the head of the family, to seduce and destroy it. She seeks to use both men and women to accomplish this evil purpose.

*Lk. 1:16 And he [John] will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...’*

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## VII. PREPARING THIS FINAL GENERATION OF FORERUNNER MESSENGERS

A. When we think of “*forerunner messengers*”, let’s not only think in terms of platform ministry. These emerging messengers are not only preachers, but artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (books, blogs, internet, etc.), in the media, marketplace, campuses, one-on-one discipleship (mom’s and dad’s).

B. In the Bible, God consistently prepared His messengers in the “*wilderness*”. Sometimes our “wilderness experiences” are *voluntary*, where we lay aside our strength in the form of our *time* (prayer/serving), *money* (giving) and *energy* (eyes/thoughts/words/fasting), entering into “*voluntary weakness*” in order to *encounter God* for the sake of love. Many times, our “wilderness experiences” are *involuntary*, where God in His mercy, places us in a “special season” of pressure and testing to *expose the faulty foundations* that we naively trust in (Lk 6:46-49) and to *remove the props* that we falsely lean upon (Heb. 11:21), so that our great need for God is *revealed* in the radiant clarity of our own barrenness “*God-size hole*”.

C. It is in the sometimes-difficult acceptance of our *true inward condition* or our “*weakness*” that we find the “*grace*” or “*power*” to overcome. For those who recognize that they are “*poor in spirit*” all the resources of Heaven are available (Mt. 5:3). Jesus told Paul, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness*” (2 Cor. 12:9). Peter and James tell us that God gives grace to those who acknowledge their need for Him (humility), but resists those who think that they don’t (pride) (Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5). With this understanding then, “*our weakness is the doorway to our fullness!*”

D. Whether voluntary or involuntary, the Lord’s desired outcome for us is that we would *encounter Him* there in the “wilderness” or barrenness of our own soul and that our *hearts* would be empowered to change, being transformed to be more like His – *authentic in identity* and “*fully alive in love*”.

*Jn. 8:32 And you shall know the truth [experiential], and the truth shall make you free.*

E. Why is this important? Because we can only *impart* and *multiply* what we are (Gen. 1:11-12, 21, 24-25, 26-28). In other words, we reproduce ourselves by divine design.

*Gen. 1: 11 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth... the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so... 12 And God saw that it was good.*

F. If we continue to operate in what the bible calls the “flesh”, the “false self” or the “old man”, we will not only reproduce more “fleshly fruit”, but actually have *no spiritual power* to impart the life of Christ to others in that area, because we aren’t flowing in it ourselves (Jn. 15:1-8).

*Jn. 15:4 As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself... 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

G. God desires to *remove* these false areas of identity that choke our hearts and reveal the truth of Christ in us (Gal 1:15-16; 2:20) by releasing genuine *power* to “*turn our hearts*” to the Truth (who is a Person), as we *acknowledge our need* for Him. We then become not only messengers *with* a message, but we actually *become* the very message itself (2 Cor. 3:2-3)! We become an *authentic voice* not merely another “echo”, and available to be used as a catalyst to “*turn the hearts*” of others. *A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an opinion.*

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## VIII. THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH – POWER TO TURN THE HEART (JAMES 5.16)

A. James 5:16 is the wisdom of God to position our heart to receive Divine grace (power) to change. As we position our hearts in humility before one another by confessing our weaknesses, and by asking for prayer in those areas, we become the very channel and means for one another by which Divine power flows to empower our hearts to change, receive healing and be restored to overcome in great victory.

*Jas. 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

*Jas. 4:6 Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Pet. 5:5-6)*

B. As we gain victory over the various areas of our weakness, we can then begin to partner with God in delivering others from the same bondage that we were bound with ourselves. In contrast, the blind can only lead the blind into a ditch (Mt. 15:14; Lk. 6:39). After defeating Goliath in battle, David used Goliath’s sword to defeat his enemies. What the enemy meant and used for evil, God redeemed and used for good!

*1 Sam. 21:8 And David said, “Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword?” 9 So the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here.” And David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.” (1 Sam. 17:51; 22:10, 13)*

C. When addressing the issues of our trespasses against one another, many times misunderstandings are rooted in the difference between intention and interpretation. It’s critical to understand the offenders “intention” to their action, because many times it is very opposite of one’s “interpretation” and therein lays the irreconcilable contention. We ask, “When you did \_\_\_\_ or said \_\_\_\_ what did you mean?”

D. Since the Fall, one of man’s greatest enemy’s has undoubtedly been fear (Gen 3). It not only caused Adam to hide from the only One that could ever cover (forgive), heal (restore) and cause him to triumph over his weakness (overcome), but it fooled him into thinking that he could hide (shame) and fix (false self) the problem himself. However, because “God’s strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 9.6), we don’t need to hide in shame or draw back in fear any longer, but rather we can come into the light of God’s truth and receive forgiveness, healing, restoration and triumph over our enemies! Remember, when seen in the right perspective, “our weakness is the doorway to our fullness!”

*Mk. 3:1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand [weakness]... 3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Step forward [vulnerability].” 5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand [which one?].” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other [100% full restoration, not 95%].*