Teaching Letter

SHARPENING THE FOCUS / TEACHING BY REV. SUZETTE HATTINGH

Sharpening the focus

When God gives someone or something a task, we see that He gives from the beginning a clear calling and destiny. That is why Romans 4:17b says "... calleth those things which be not as though they were" (KJV). The Amplified translation says "speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has **foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed**." So the Lord gives a command but with it also the promise of the fruit and outworking that the fulfilment of the command will bring. It is like visiting your future, making it known to you today!

For example:

a. In Genesis 12:1-3 God called Abraham to leave his land and go to a country He would show him. That was his destiny. However, with that command came the promise of the results of that destiny, even for generations to come. We are still reaping the results of that promise!

"It is time to refocus, with the eyes of faith, looking back to that promise as the springboard for the miracles of tomorrow."

b. In Luke 1:76-79 John the Baptist was born. His call and destiny clearly described him as a prophet to prepare the way of the Lord. The results: salvation, the remission of sins, and light for those who sat in darkness.

c. Jesus: the angels sang His destiny (Luke 2:11) and Simeon spoke His destiny (Luke 2:32-35). All this was fulfilled in the cross and we are still living in the blessing and salvation of that destiny and fulfilment.



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d. The Apostle Paul was destined to "be a chosen vessel" to bear God's name before kings and gentiles (Acts 9:15). That has happened again and again. We still experience the blessings of that in the wonderful, inspirational books of the New Testament.

Surely, somewhere in the distant past, God gave you a specific scripture or promise, maybe a prophetic word spoken over your life. Or the scripture you had for your child while still in the womb? With what scripture did God call you into your ministry, years ago? Return to that. It describes your destiny and needs to come into full focus again to impact your tomorrow.

The Apostle Paul gave Timothy a command to wage the "good warfare" (1 Tim 1:18). For it is that word which God watches over to bring into fulfilment (Jer 1:12). It is that word which God promised that cannot come back without results (Is 55:11). Indeed, God is obliged to watch over His Word! Not someone's idea or opinion.

When God calls it would be for a **Person** - Abraham (Gen 12:1-3), **City** - Jerusalem (Matt 23:37), **Nation** - Edom and Judah in Ezekiel 25. You as a person, your city or nation have a specific calling! It is time to refocus, with the eyes of faith, looking back to that promise as the springboard for the miracles of tomorrow.

Recently I have been at a place desperately praying for the need of someone dear to me, not knowing how to pray about the problem anymore. The Lord reminded me of the promise I had years back about that person even before birth. I started crying out that promise and word again! Sometimes we have to revisit the places of encouragement and revelation that God gave over the years to help us with the decisions of today and tomorrow.

When God gave you a promise, He knew you would need the encouragement later. He actually gave you long ago the promise of that which He has set for your future. That is what you need to speak, pray and meditate upon in the present, to help you keep the focus for the future.

When I was in my wheelchair in severe pain and despair due to the medical condition of my leg, it was the promise (scripture) that God gave me 32 years ago that kept me going at that stage. It kept me believing and remaining focused. It helped me once again to have faith for tomorrow in my pain of today!

Are you a pastor? What was the promise that you had for the church? It is time for you and your church members to pray and declare it again. Are you praying for children, family or business? Revisit the places of revelation and inspiration from the past. Bring them back into the present and declare them for the future. For God "... create[s] the fruit of the lips" (Is 57:19). Almost daily I am calling out again the destiny that was given to me 38 years ago to impact the present of today for the breakthrough of tomorrow!

Hear the word of the Lord for you: "For as [surely as] the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring forth, so [surely] the Lord God will cause rightness and justice and praise to spring forth before all the nations [through the selffulfilling power of His word]" (Is 61:11; AMPC).

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Suzette Hattingh

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