

Blood For Time Isaiah 6:1-8; Matt. 25:1-10

In this new year of 2010, I trust we all want to flourish in the goodness of God.

In our experience, there would be no Holy Spirit if not for Jesus even though He has always existed. He was present at creation but did not indwell believers until after Jesus' resurrection. We want a move of the Holy Spirit but we need to acknowledge Jesus first, He is the subject of the entire Bible. What God did, you can do, He gave it all. God the Father gave God the Son; God the Son gave God the Holy Spirit. The action of the Bible is giving and it is the key to absolutely everything. This is not a message on tithing. Though giving includes finances, finances are not everything; they are not life. The key to everything is giving **give up, give in and give out**. Picture in your mind a hill and a man who walked up that hill to give it up. He was nailed to a cross and put on display and He gave in when He said, "It is finished." And He gave out when the tomb was found empty. Isaiah saw the Lord in the midst of his disappointment. What are our disappointments as we go into this new year? Whatever they are, we need to see the Lord. Look up; when you see the Lord, he will cause you to look in. When you come into an experience with Him He will inevitably show you yourself. Think of your most profound moments with the Lord, what did you walk away with? Was it not a picture of yourself? He doesn't stop there. The enemy will show us ourselves and leave us there. Jesus shows us a direction, a path, a way out of our discouragements, disappointments or situations if we will let Him. As we look to Him and allow Him to show us ourselves He will open a way out to better pastures, to still waters. Some have never walked in the prosperity of God that comes from meditating on His word because they have only given up. They said the sinner's prayer and have never experienced the abundant life of John 10:10 because they have never given in. We need to allow Him access to our lives, to come in, set up residence, and renovate our hearts. We need to give in to His plans and purposes for our lives. Whenever we are wondering about a topic, an issue or a situation in our lives, we need to go to the Red Letters, find out where Jesus addresses it in the Gospels and go there. **Matt. 16:24** the disciples had already given up but they needed to learn how to give in. the first step to following Jesus is denying self. We don't do that well, if at all, but if we want to flourish in the goodness of God we need to do it. If we can't deny ourselves in the flesh how can we deny ourselves in the spiritual? Jesus is speaking from experience; He gave up heaven to come here for 33 ½ years. He knows what it's like to deny Himself. Are you a follower of Jesus Christ? Then this is for you. Give up your rights and give in to His. Up with your rights, down with your joy. Down with your rights, up with your joy. (James MacDonald) Give up, give in, and give out. The issue at heart here is the issue of a hardened heart. **Prov. 28:14** reverent means submitted. Let God reign and it will bring the green grass which is the word of God. If our hearts are hard they will not receive the word of the Lord. People idolize stubbornness; A hard heart only leads to stubbornness; not good! Stubbornness is wanting our own way which is also a definition of sin **Is. 53:6**. Don't mistake stubbornness for perseverance; stubbornness is rebellion against God **1 Sam. 15:23**. is God speaking direction to you and are you still seeking to get your own way? **Matt. 9:30,31; Mark 1:43-45** Jesus sternly warned them not to say a word, but they couldn't stay quiet. Nor could we if Jesus healed us of some physical ailment, and that's as it should be. However, nothing tops healing like salvation, and Jesus told us to go and share that with everyone and we aren't. Have we forgotten that having our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life is far better than having a temporary dwelling repaired? Have we lost the idea that hell is a very real place, that heaven is a real place? Why aren't we telling everyone that the hill, the cross, the empty tomb is the greatest miracle of all? Because Isaiah was cleansed of his sin he was willing to go when the Lord asked whom they could send. As the saved, the redeemed, who will go for the Lord? Who will tell? Will we? God gave His blood to cleanse our sin but more than that; to buy back that which was lost, an intimate relationship, time spent with Him. Only through the mercy of God can it be restored. The five foolish virgins had no time for God, and when He showed up He had no time for them. Wise people invest time in a relationship with Jesus; the foolish do not. That's why today is the day of salvation. Invest some time today.