

On the Road with the Holy Spirit Joseph Herrin (05-05-2010)



My Xplorer Van

Acts 13:2-4

And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

What Christian would not like to have full confidence that it is the Spirit of Christ that has sent them out to some work? I have found that one of the most precious of all of life's experiences is knowing that the Father is attentive to my life. To know that He is ordering my steps and showing me clearly the path I am to walk is a source of tremendous comfort and spiritual rest.

Some Christians wish that they might experience those things described in the book of Acts. To know the leading of the Spirit is something many only dream about. I am persuaded, however, that a Spirit directed life is not to be considered exceptional. It is the normal Christian life.

As the people of God come into a greater surrender to the will of the Father, they too will begin to experience greater clarity regarding Yahweh's will for them. When we are willing to go where He sends, and do what He says, He will not fail to guide us, and to manifest extraordinary provision and anointing to

enable us to perform His will. Most do not know the experiences of the early apostles and saints because they are not living the life of surrender that they lived. Most Christians today have not counted and accepted the cost of discipleship.

I will share some recent personal experiences in this post, for I believe such things serve as encouragements to those Christians who are engaged in, or are contemplating, a surrendered walk with the Father.

I have shared previously the manner in which the Father provided the van that I now drive. I believe it was in 2005 that the Father provided it for me. I was at the Macon Rescue Mission working as Resident Manager for a group of thirty-plus men in an alcohol and drug recovery program. The Father had the previous year led me to lay aside the ministry of writing that had occupied my time for the previous five years.

As Resident Manager I received room and board and \$100 a week. I had given my car to my daughter, as she needed one to drive to a job the Father had provided for her. I was able to get around Macon on my bicycle, but I knew the Father would be providing me with a vehicle again.

For some time I had not been receiving any financial gifts from the body of Christ. My teachings and website were still posted, but I had not been directed by the Spirit to post any new writings for almost a year. (It would be a total of three years before He led me to do so.)

It was therefore with great surprise that I rode my bike to the Post Office one day to find that a brother in Christ from Canada had sent me a money order for \$800. It was out of the ordinary at that period of my life, so I immediately began pondering what the Father intended me to do with it. As I rode my bicycle back to the Rescue Mission I noticed a camper/van parked in their lot. The Spirit spoke to me clearly and said, "The money you just received will be used to purchase that van."

The van had been donated to the mission to be sold for their support. It was several months later when the mission held an auction on their front steps. Over a hundred people gathered to bid on approximately 25 vehicles. When it came time to bid on the van, several people were bidding against me. The bidding started very low, and was going up by \$50 increments. When the price reached about \$500 there was just myself and one other man bidding. He

continued to bid until he said \$750. He then stopped and bid no more. I got the van for the price of \$800, exactly as the Father had told me.

I have shared before that vehicles are symbolic, often representing ministries. My van is an *Xplorer* Van, and it came with a factory installed *Pioneer* sound system in it. Last year I upgraded the stereo as the cassette player did not work. I replaced it with another Pioneer system.



It is a significant upgrade from the previous system. It plays CDs and DVDs, MP3s and Apple Audio Files. It has a USB port and synchs via Bluetooth with my cellphone so I can talk hands-free while driving.

There is symbolism to these things. The Father has shown me that He has called me to walk as an Explorer and Pioneer down this path of surrender that I might serve as a guide to many more sons and daughters who are to follow in this generation. He recently affirmed this again as I purchased new tires some months back. After I had settled on some good tires at a reasonable price the tire store employee informed me of the name on the tires.



The path I have found is that which Christ spoke of to His disciples.

Matthew 7:14

"For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

When we surrender to be led of the Spirit we will find ourselves led over all

types of terrain. There will be seasons of loss, and seasons of gain. There will be suffering and sorrow as well as joy and peace. Christ will guide us tenderly as the Good Shepherd guiding His sheep. The end of this narrow and seldom traveled path is life to all who find it.

Last year the Father sent me out across the country to speak to His scattered remnant. Before I left a sister in Christ, Debbi Rennier, spoke a word of prophecy to me. She said the Father was about to fulfill Acts 14:22 in my life.

Acts 14:22

Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

I left Georgia with only one invitation. As I traveled more opportunities presented themselves. I was on the road for two months and spoke to twelve different gatherings of God's people.

At the beginning of this year the Father told me that He would be sending me out again this year. My first meeting was in North Georgia at the home of Kevin O'Connell and his wife Julie Sanders.



Randy Simmons speaking with Kevin and Julie

I had a similar assurance in going out to this meeting that Paul and Barnabas knew when they were sent out on their missionary journeys. The Father's hand was very evident. His presence at the meetings was known, and the messages shared are a revelation of His call to His sons and daughters at this hour. (Note, the audio messages should be in my hands soon and I will get

them posted online.)

I was confident that not only was I where I needed to be, but that the Father had brought those sons and daughters to the meetings that He desired to be there.



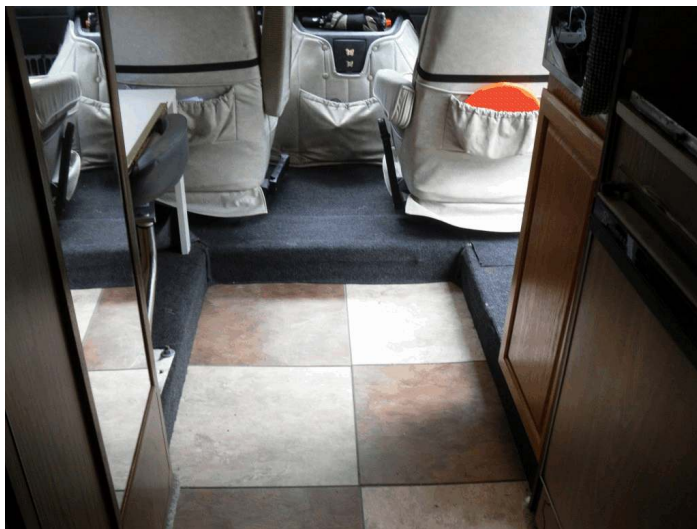
Some who came to the meetings

Over twenty people attended these meetings. Though the number is small, the message the Father spoke is one that only a remnant will ever accept. "Few there are" who find the narrow path to life.

After the meeting I returned to Macon to make preparations for a longer trip.

I have some dental appointments to remove some broken teeth. The brittle bone disease that runs in my family also causes the teeth to be brittle. Yahweh has graciously provided the means for me to get this taken care of at this time.

I have also been keeping myself busy with some interior remodeling to my van. Randy suggested that I take the rear two seats out and build a desk so that I could have a place to write while traveling. I sensed that it was the Father's will that I do so. At the same time, I have removed the 24 year old carpet from the van and laid down tile and new carpet. I also installed a floor cabinet where one of the rear seats had been, and mounted a microwave oven on top of it.



New Flooring in Van

I have sensed some symbolism in these various projects. Removing the ancient carpet reminded me of the following Scripture.

Isaiah 58:12

And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;
You will raise up the age-old foundations;
And you will be called the repairer of the breach,
The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.

The doctrine of Christ and His apostles once delivered to the church has been ruined through neglect and the introduction of much falsehood. The age old foundations have been abandoned. Christ will send forth laborers at this time to raise them back up. The message of the disciple's cross must be restored. The breaches through which gross error and deception have entered must be

closed up.



New Van Desk and Chair

After building a desk where one of the chairs had been in the van I thought for several days on what kind of chair to use with it. There were already bolts coming up from the floor where the former captain's chair had been mounted. I looked at many different chairs and nothing seemed right. One morning I prayed as I was driving to town and asked the Father what I should do. The thought immediately came to mind that I should go to Bass Pro Shops and look at the seats they sold to mount in fishing boats.

I found the perfect chair. It bolts to the floor. It is on a swivel, and the seat will swing up under the desk when not in use. As I pondered this I thought of those things the Father has been speaking to me regarding the ministry. I have written several writings on the subject of the 153 large fish that the disciples caught in the net after the resurrection of Christ. These 153 fish pulled up on the right side of the boat symbolize the righteous appointed to life. (See the following article.)

<http://parablesblog.blogspot.com/2008/04/third-appearance-of-christ.html>

It is the Father's will that of all those appointed to life, that none should be lost.

John 6:38-39

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

There is only one to not suffer loss. One must walk the narrow (afflicted) path that leads to life. The sons of God must embrace the disciples' cross. This is the message the Spirit of Christ has anointed me to proclaim. How symbolic it seems that the very chair He would guide me to use in the van is a fisherman's chair, and it is replacing a captain's seat. (Truly, the van drives like a boat.)

The Father made it plain some years back that He had called Randy Simmons to travel with me in the accomplishment of this ministry. One concern I had of late is that the van, although comfortable for two men to ride in, has only one bed and is really only large enough for one to live in. The Father had gone before us even in this matter.

Last year Randy's grandfather, Mr. Stanfield, who has oftentimes opened his home for me to stay in when I am in Macon, purchased a van very similar to mine. He sensed the leading of the Spirit to do so, but has not used it. He had previously offered for Randy to take it when he went with me camping. He has offered to let Randy use it as he accompanies me on this trip.



This van is five years newer than my own, and Randy was led down this narrow path some years after I was. The van is also called a Coach House, and the Father has often used Randy to Coach others in this walk of surrender to the will of the Father. It is a difficult walk, but the rewards far exceed the cost.

Last week I was driving back to Mr. Stanfield's house and was praying about the next step the Father would have me to take. I knew He had indicated that I was to travel more and teach, but I did not know where to begin. I told the Father that I could begin contacting those who had indicated that they would like to host meetings, but I would prefer it if someone contacted me so that I would know the starting point on this journey.

Upon arriving home I checked my e-mail and a brother in Christ from Tennessee had written to ask me to consider holding some meetings at his home. How precious is the leading of our Father.

On the Road with the Holy Spirit - Part 2

Joseph Herrin (05-07-2010)

One of the most blessed aspects of a surrendered life is experiencing the many evidences of the Father's presence, guidance, and provision in daily events. Many Christians rarely experience the evidence of the Father's leading, for they live lives of great independence. Most Christians make their life decisions from the counsel of their own soul. They may be choosing the course they think to be good, but few understand that the soul of man offers up counsel on the good and evil path that is independent, and often contrary, to the Father's own counsel. This subject is addressed in the book *Sabbath*.

I share many of my own experiences of being led of the Spirit to encourage the saints to look to the Father to guide them in the events of their lives. In this post I will share one such event that occurred today.

Today is my 49th birthday. I was born May 7, 1961. I have share with some that although I am officially 49 years of age, this date actually marks the beginning of my 50th year of life. For the next 365 days I will be experiencing my Jubilee and Pentecost year. I have a great anticipation for what the year will bring. Looking back over the last year, I surely had no idea I would pass through all the myriad of events that were my portion.

In preparing to go out on the road for an extended time of meetings with Yahweh's remnant I have had several things in mind that I felt the Spirit was leading me to do in preparation. I shared some of those things in the previous post. One further thing I desired was to get a cargo trailer to pull behind my van.

When I have traveled I have carried my computer, printer, projector, screen, and a variety of assorted gear in my van. This makes it difficult to move about, and I have found that I must unload things to be able to get around inside the camper/van. I have been praying that the Father would also provide the means for me to print out many of my teachings in bulk so that I could distribute them freely as I travel to meetings. To carry this material with me it seemed needful to have a trailer.

Because I am dependent upon the Father for all my provision, I have learned to seek His mind regarding expenditures. I don't want to get out of His will and put myself in a bind due to some independence in my spending. You may

well imagine that when one becomes dependent upon the Father for all things that life becomes very exciting. For the natural man it can also be very frightening.

I have shared in the autobiographical book *Evidence of Things Unseen* many of the struggles I have had in trusting the Father for provision for myself and my family.

When Yahweh called me out from my job as a computer professional to minister full-time, part of me was elated while part of me was exceedingly anxious. The Father does not want us to walk in fear, but neither does He desire that His sons walk carelessly. There is a need to be sensitive to the mind of the Father in all that we do.

Spending money on a major item like a cargo trailer is something in which I earnestly desired a witness from the Father. I knew that other needs would arise in traveling, and I did not want to foolishly squander the Father's provision on something that was not of His leading.

Some Christians believe it is unnecessary to be accountable to the Father for all their expenditures. There is a great independence fostered among mainline denominations who teach tithing. By resolving the concept of a Christian's money management down to a law such as tithing, great evil actually ensues. A great many Christians believe that if they give God 10% of their money that the remaining 90% is theirs to spend as their own soul directs. Such a concept is the antithesis of Christian discipleship.

Luke 16:10-12

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

In these words Christ is telling those who would be His disciples that money (mammon) is the least of the things the Father entrusts into our hands as stewards. Many have been confused at the parable that precedes it, but the moral of Christ's parable is found in the words cited above. We are given worldly things, including money as stewards. We are to be faithful in what we do with what we have been given. To use the resources Yahweh has given us

in a self-directed manner for our own selfish purposes, is similar to the unfaithful steward who was squandering his master's goods, as if they were his own possession.

Yahweh convicted me of this some years back, for I had been very much like the unfaithful steward. The Father made it known to me that if I desired to receive "true riches" that I would have to prove myself faithful with the least valuable things entrusted to me. Money is in God's sight the least of what He would give to His people. The anointing of His Spirit, spiritual gifts, revelation and understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom, intimate entrance into His presence, are all much more valuable.

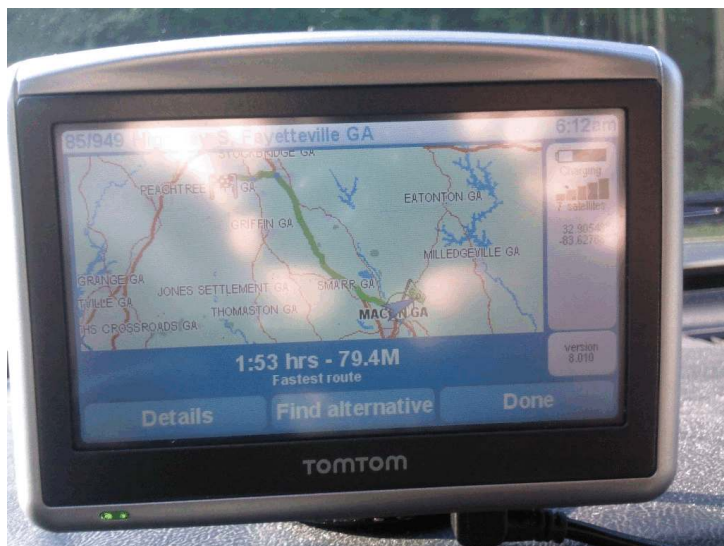
Not wanting to forfeit the true riches, I submitted to the Father's re-ordering of the area of my financial spending. I have grown much richer in spiritual things because of it.

Although I sensed the Spirit leading me to get a trailer, I wanted to be sure that this was from Him. I asked Him to give me some assurance of His will in the matter. I had a peace in my heart, so I proceeded to pursue this purchase, asking the Father to give me some token of His leading along the way. I was prepared to alter course, or abandon this course altogether, if He revealed His will to be something different.

I found some trailers for sale online at a local manufacturer here in Georgia. It struck me that the city bore the same name as my next meetings. The manufacturer was in Fayetteville, Ga, and my next meeting is in Fayetteville, TN. I thought this was interesting, but not conclusive evidence of the Father's will. I then noted that the brand name of the trailers was related to a song that the Father has been speaking to Randy Simmons through. Randy will be traveling with me, and will also be making use of the trailer. This too was interesting, but not conclusive.

This morning was the first opportunity I had to go look at trailers, and the thought came to mind that it was my birthday and the Father was going to give me a gift today, this gift being a trailer. Still, I wanted positive assurance.

I got in my van and drove to the end of the driveway. I stopped and plugged in the address of the trailer manufacturer. When the GPS plotted the course, the time estimated to drive there grabbed my attention.



The estimated time was 1:53 hrs. Those who have been reading these blogs for some time understand the significance of the number 153. It represents the sons of God given to Christ, of which He desires to not lose any. This is related to the miracle of the 153 large fish pulled up in the disciples' nets which did not break.

This was encouraging, but I told the Father that I would be looking to Him to make this matter very clear as I drove. I determined to be alert to His speaking.

As I had a lengthy drive, I spent much of the time in prayer. At one point I got behind a car whose license plate provided another affirmation. I sensed the Spirit witnessing to me through it, and I immediately felt a release and knew the Father had chosen for me to purchase a trailer and that I was being guided to the right place. I began praising the Father, and I had just uttered out loud a word of thanksgiving for God being my provider when I looked to my left and saw the following sign.



Jehovah - Jireh means “Jehovah - My Provider.” Some may remember the song made popular by Kenneth Copeland some years back by the same name. It has since been sung by many different musicians. The lyrics are as follows:

Jehovah Jireh
My provider
His grace is sufficient
For me, for me, for me
Jehovah Jireh
My provider
His grace is sufficient for me

My God shall supply all my needs
According to his riches in glory
He will give His angels
Charge over me
Jehovah Jireh cares
For me, for me, for me
Jehovah Jireh cares for me

When I saw this sign, having just praised Yahweh for being my provider, I was filled with joy. What an amazing coincidence. What are the chances?

I was just a short distance from the trailer manufacturer at this time, and I

found a very good deal on a nice trailer, and purchased it. On my way back I stopped by the Jehovah-Jireh sign and took another photo.



That is the new trailer the Father provided with the Jehovah-Jireh sign seen above it.

The trailer is manufactured by Carry-On Trailers.



I mentioned that the name reminded me of a song the Father has used to speak to Randy through in a profound manner. The song is an old Rock classic by the group Kansas. Following are the song lyrics.

Wayward Son - by Kansas

Carry on my wayward son,
There'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Don't you cry no more

Once I rose above the noise and confusion
Just to get a glimpse beyond this illusion
I was soaring ever higher, but I flew too high
Though my eyes could see I still was a blind man
Though my mind could think I still was a mad man
I hear the voices when I'm dreamin', I can hear them say:

Carry on my wayward son,
There'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Don't you cry no more

Masquerading as a man with a reason
My charade is the event of the season
And if I claim to be a wise man, it surely means that I don't know
On a stormy sea of moving emotion
Tossed about I'm like a ship on the ocean
I set a course for winds of fortune, but I hear the voices say:

Carry on my wayward son,
There'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Don't you cry no more NO!

Carry on, you will always remember
Carry on, nothing equals the splendor
Now your life's no longer empty
Surely heaven waits for you

Carry on my wayward son,
There'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Don't you cry
Don't you cry no more

This song contains a profound message for many of Yahweh's sons who are wrestling with thoughts and emotions that wage war against the counsel of the Spirit. Taking up the cross, following the Spirit wherever He leads, often does not make sense to the natural man. Great warfare rages inside many a soul like the raging of a stormy sea.

Our Father's counsel to Randy has been to Carry On. The Spirit of Christ has assured him that even if there is no understanding now, and a great battle rages inside, if he stays to the course there will be peace when he is done.

This message is true for every son of God who hears the call to take up the cross and follow Christ. We often feel like fainting along the way. We are often tempted to turn back. The Spirit is there urging us forward. We are encouraged to stay the course, assured that there will be peace and reward at the end of the journey.

It has been a remarkable journey for me these past eleven years. I am now blessed to be able to encourage others of Yahweh's sons and daughters to embrace this narrow way that leads to life. Our Father speaks in extraordinary ways to those who are looking to Him to guide them along life's journey. I wanted to share this day's experience with you.

On the Road with the Holy Spirit - Part Three

Joseph Herrin (05-20-20)



Joseph Herrin in Herrin, Illinois

Randy Simmons and I have been camping for a few days in Herrin, Illinois. It is amazing to me how the Father orchestrates our steps. We decided to drive a good distance toward Columbia, MO before stopping. Around 6 P.M. I sensed that I should get off the Interstate at the next exit that had a campground sign. Just a few miles further we came across one. Coming off the exit we were met with two signs. One said there was a campground 2 miles to the right. The other said there was a campground 4 miles to the left. I paused for a moment and turned to the left. It just happened that the campground to the left is in the town of Herrin. There were no signs at the exit pointing out this fact, but I am confident the Father led me this direction.

Some years earlier while I had been doing a genealogy search on my family's last name I noted that there was a city in Illinois named Herrin. As far as I know, it may be the only city in America with my last name. I have considered since that it would be interesting to visit the town. I had no idea it was on my route, and I certainly did not plan on camping here. What a marvelous guide the Holy Spirit is.

As I was traveling from Mike and Donna Mitchell's home in Tennessee the Father began speaking to me of the pioneer spirit He has called me to walk

out. The morning Randy and I were set to depart a dear sister who had attended the meetings (Pat Warren) showed up bringing Randy and I both a large bag of deer jerky she had made the night before. We had talked about various foods over the week-end and I had mentioned how much I like deer meat and deer jerky. What a treat it was for this precious sister to bring us this food. Along with it she also brought us jars of homemade jellies made from blueberries, strawberries, kudzu (Southerners will recognize the vine that grows everywhere), Locust blossom, and honeysuckle. Pat has been learning to use wild plants for wilderness living.

It just struck me as I was driving down the road, heading to a campsite and chewing on a piece of deer jerky, how many pioneer symbols were present at that moment in my life. I knew the Father had orchestrated this, and had placed it upon Pat's heart to share with us in this way. He has a marvelous way of testifying to things.

Randy and I in our camper/vans are types of modern spiritual pioneers. We are aliens and strangers in the land. We both have truly brought nearly everything we own with us. We have been led of the Father over the course of time to simplify our lives. There is a great freedom in this, and a liberty to go wherever the Spirit directs.

Upon arriving in Herrin I saw a street named Clark Trail. I told Randy that I bet that if I looked I would find some pioneer link to this town, and sure enough, on a small side street there was a neglected marker noting that George Rogers Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, had passed through this town in the 1780s.



George Rogers Clark Marker

It is interesting how mankind has romanticized pioneers and explorers, but few want to live the life of one. There are dangers, toils and snares that pioneers and explorers must face. Pioneers and explorers leave behind the security of hearth and home and strike out for places unknown.

I shared with the saints in Tennessee, which is Boone and Crockett territory, that I at times deal with some anxiety as I set forth to the places the Father sends me. There is a vulnerability in living such a life, but there is also great grace from our Father. I know that when I look back on my life I will be very satisfied that I accepted the risks and the uncertainties of the path the Father has chosen for me.

As I have mentioned before, the Father has testified that He has called me to walk as a pioneer and explorer. Vehicles represent ministries, and He supernaturally provided for me some years back an Xplorer van with a Pioneer stereo and Trail Pathfinder tires on it. This is truly the call He has placed on my life.

He has further shown me that as I have walked this path for the past eleven years, I am now to encourage His saints to follow in that specific path He has appointed for each of them. In 2008 when He called me out from laboring at the Macon Rescue Mission, He began to reveal these symbolic things relating to my van, and the ministry appointed to me. At that time I wrote an article setting forth the revelations of the Father for this very hour I am now walking in. The two part article is titled “*Explorers and Pioneers to Serve as Guides.*”

The Scriptures speak much of Yahweh’s overcomers in the typology of explorers and pioneers, of aliens and strangers in this earth. Hebrews chapters 11 is the Bible’s honor roll of pioneer saints. They endured many hardships, and at time suffered great loss, but the Father has a reward for them that far outshines their temporal struggles.

Hebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God... All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having

confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:37-39

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith...

I can say with a certainty that the Father has called all His sons and daughters to a life that is unusual and a departure from the ways of the world. Not all will live in wilderness places, for some find their wanderings in cities and suburbs. Yet, in a spiritual sense, they follow a very different path from those around them.

As the Father is sending me forth, He has led me to invite the saints to accept that specific path He has appointed to them. Many are being stirred up to accept the invitation of the Father. He is in the process of raising up a people who will be to the praise of His glory in the earth.

When your life is over, will your name be added to the honor roll of pioneers and men and women of faith? Will you be named among those who cast all over onto Christ and followed Him wherever He would lead you? He will certainly lead many who are weak, despised, and considered as nothing in this world's eyes to walk paths that the mighty shrink back from. They will be enabled to stand for they have a Mighty Champion and a Good Shepherd who walks with them all the way.

The words spoken to Joshua echo still as the Spirit's exhortation to the people of God.

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go."

On a closing note, at every meeting I have held thus far on this trip, there have been difficulties that have arisen suddenly among those who have volunteered to host the meetings. There have been divisions among friends. There have been physical obstacles. Yet, pressing through these things and refusing to shrink back, the meetings have been times of great encouragement and a manifestation of the Spirit of Christ.

At the Mitchell's house, a sudden court appearance was unexpectedly scheduled for that day. Around 9 A.M. their air conditioner went out, and their day was filled with a rush of activity. Pressing through it the Father worked all things out, and left a prophetic testimony behind in its place.

The Father had spoken to me some years back in my experiences through the air conditioners in the homes I was staying in. In perhaps the most painful experience of all, the home we were staying in had an air conditioner with the brand name Payne - Carrier. I was truly called to bear the cross and carry share in the sufferings of Christ while at this home. The air conditioner was hauled off the day we moved out of this home, for it had gone out. This was symbolic of the season of grace that followed. That very moment we were moving out the news reported that Tropical Storm Grace was heading for Corpus Christi, Texas. Corpus Christi is Latin for "the Body of Christ."

Some look at such signs as the product of an overactive imagination, but those who know their God see His hand all around them. The following year the Father led me to another experience where we stayed with a relative who began to treat me very rudely. This Christian acted more rudely than anyone I had ever encountered before. My son came to me one day and said, "Dad, did you notice the name on the air conditioner here?" I told him I had. It was a RUUD (pronounced Rude).

I am not suggesting that everyone should go out and look at the name on their air conditioner and look for some hidden meaning in it. It was the Spirit who drew my attention to these symbols in these two specific homes. He showed me that even as an air conditioner controls the environment of the home, that the experiences I had in these two places were prophesied symbolically by the units outside the houses.

The Mitchell's air conditioner that went out was a Carrier. We discussed it the morning Randy and I left. Donna told me that the bearings had gone out in the motor, and being an unusual motor, they could not find a replacement, but were able to have it rebuilt. It was installed by 3 P.M. the same day, in time for

the meeting to begin at 7 that night.

Mike and I discerned that the testimony of this event was that the environment God chose for these meetings was one of Carrying and Bearing the cross. We are called to be Carriers of Christ's cross. We must go forth Bearing that which our Father has appointed to us. The entire home was filled with the fragrance of this message the entire time this wonderful group of saints met there. Mike also mentioned that the Air Conditioner blows air into the home, being symbolic of the moving and breath of the Holy Spirit.

Mike and Donna could have grumbled about the demise of their air conditioner that morning. Instead, they pressed on and found that the Father not only had a provision, He had a testimony in this experience as well. What an awesome God we serve.

On the Road with the Holy Spirit - Part Four

Joseph Herrin (06-03-2010)

I shared previously concerning some of the difficulties that have arisen as Randy and I have journeyed forth on this trek the Spirit has sent us on. I am reminded of the missionary journeys of Paul, who first set out with Barnabas.

Acts 13:2-4

And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

A very key part of any successful ministry trip is knowing that it is initiated and directed by the Spirit of Christ. Having the assurance of being sent becomes all the more necessary as one encounters trials, obstacles, and difficulties along the way. In the previous post titled *Crossing the Stormy Sea* it was revealed that Christ repeatedly instructed His disciples to go places only to have some storm arise that made their journey difficult, and at times perilous. The same could certainly be testified of Paul's missionary journeys.

It is apparent in the passage above that it was the Spirit of Christ that initiated the journey for Paul and Barnabas. The many persecutions, distresses, and difficulties encountered were not the result of being out of the Father's will. From the beginning of Paul's conversion it was testified that it was appointed to him to suffer.

Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Back in 1999 the Spirit spoke to me while I was waiting upon Him to discern His will for my life. He said that He had called me to be "a cutter of grass, for all flesh is as grass."

Isaiah 40:6-7

A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of Yahweh blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.

He then testified that I must permit Him to cut the grass in my life before He could use me to cut the grass in other people's lives. I have submitted to this flesh cutting process during the last decade. At this time He is sending me out to encourage others to submit to this necessary flesh cutting in their lives. Although I am being sent out with this message, the process of reducing my flesh continues. It will not be complete until I lay aside this mortal body.

The Father has been testifying to Randy and I through a number of parables. I have shared previously how greatly the Father used the story *Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard to speak to me. This book presents an allegory of the afflicted path that all of God's children must walk if they are to attain to spiritual life. The book begins with Much Afraid dwelling much as a settler in the town of Fearing. The Shepherd calls Much Afraid to venture forth despite tremendous fear in her life.

The book employs the imagery of deer learning to walk over difficult places as a metaphor for the Christian. The main character begins the journey with crippled feet, and stumbles badly. Because she cannot walk with much grace, her way is exceedingly bitter. Over the course of time she grows more sure in her walk, and obstacles and difficulties are passed over much more easily.

Christians who accept the call to discipleship experience very similar things. It is necessary to embrace the walk appointed to by God, accepting it rather than choosing to complain bitterly, or murmur as did the Israelites in the wilderness. As we surrender willingly to Yahweh's course, we grow in our ability to overcome difficulties. We learn to lean heavily upon our Savior, placing no trust in our human abilities.

As Randy and I have traveled, we have repeatedly observed highway crews, campground personnel, and home and business owners out cutting grass. The unique thing is that our attention is repeatedly drawn to people cutting grass using John Deere mowers of all types and descriptions.



John Deere Mower at Campground



Another John Deere Mower

In the book by Hannah Hurnard, the main character makes it to her destination in the mountains of the Lord. She is then sent back to help others to make the same journey. What I have discerned the Spirit to be signifying through these John Deere mowers cutting grass is that He has led me through an afflicted path, just like Much Afraid, the main character of Hannah Hurnard's book. He is now sending me forth as one who has some experience in the journey to lead others to embrace the path that will result in their flesh being reduced and a spiritual creation arising.

At the same time, there continue to be obstacles in my path for me to surmount. Those who direct others to the narrow path to life must continue to walk it themselves. Randy and I have received many testimonies to this fact.

When we arrived in Spring, Texas after having passed through numerous difficulties, I was led to a specific campground. I had no idea until I registered that the campground had the word Trinity in its name. It was called Trinity Spring Oaks RV park. Below is a picture of the office.



Address 22014

Note the address next to the door. 22 is a number denoting flesh cutting. 14 is a number signifying transition into a new experience with God. I have written of the symbolism of these numbers elsewhere, and how the Father used them profoundly in my life to testify to these very things.

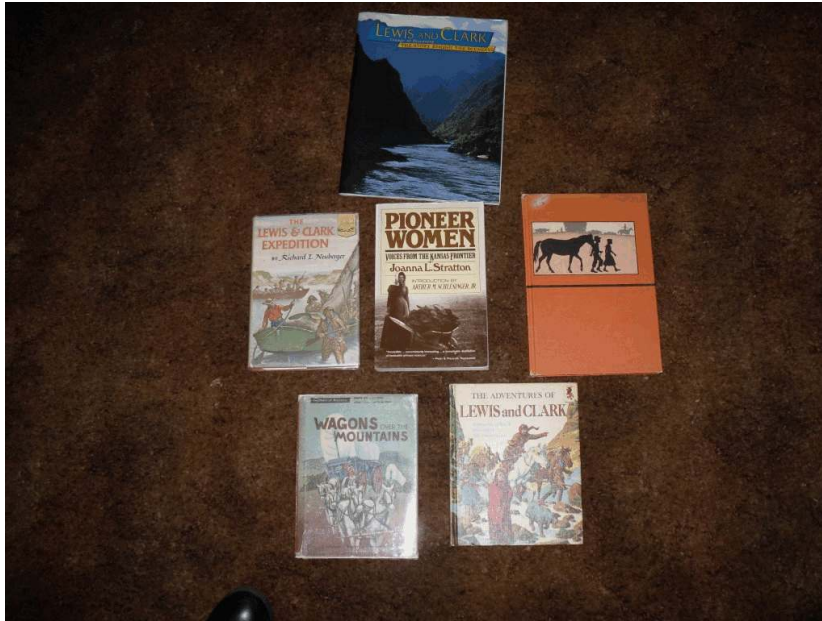
While in Spring, I was ministering to a group of saints in the home of Matthew Washington and his wife Tonetta.



Matthew Washington - Our Host in Spring, Texas

We had wonderful meetings there, with a good number in attendance. The message was consistently that there is an appointed path for each individual. Only as we walk the path the Father has chosen for us can we encounter the experiences necessary to conform us to the image of Christ. Only as we take up OUR CROSS daily and follow Christ can we experience those perfectly tailored events that will lead us to crucify the flesh, crush the soul, and allow a spiritual creation to arise. The Spirit was inviting all present to transition into a complete surrender to the path Yahweh has determined for their life.

Another metaphor the Father has been speaking through is that of pioneers. Randy and I have been encountering pioneer symbolism everywhere we go. While holding meetings in Columbia, Missouri, I was struck by all the books on the pioneers that our hosts had on their shelves.



A small sampling of the many books they had on Pioneers

While staying with David and Donna Miller in Columbia, they took us to a nearby town, and I observed markers for the Lewis and Clark Trail. The Father is calling His people to embrace a pioneering spirit. It is necessary to cast away the security the soul seeks in order to follow the path the Father appoints to us. We must be like Abram and Sarai who accepted the invitation of Yahweh to leave home, family, and all that was familiar, to go to a destination chosen by God.

Matthew Washington has four precious sons whose names are Matthew, John, Mark, and Luke. Mark is eight years old, and immediately befriended Randy and me. One of the last things spoken to me in Spring was by Mark. He said that he thought Randy and I were like Lewis and Clark. I asked him which one of us was whom. He thought for a moment and said to me, "You are Lewis, for he was the one who started first."

Such statements seem random. It was an unusual comment to come from an 8 year old boy. When Randy and I arrived at our campsite outside Hemphill, Texas the very next day, the comment Mark made came back to me. Our sites were side by side at the junction of two roads on the campground property.



Lewis and Lunker Lanes

A lunker is a large fish, such as a trophy bass. Randy is an avid fisherman, and I have no doubt that this natural affinity has a fulfillment in his spiritual call. The campground has great fishing, and it was the first thing the owners told us about.

Before passing on to other things, I want to share some of the testimonies of grace we have received amidst our trials. When we were driving into Spring, Texas and my oil pressure gauge dropped to the bottom, I stopped and had the oil changed and a thicker oil added, as well as some oil stabilizer. The bill came to \$55.50. The three fives in the cost are a testimony to a fulness of grace. Although my gauge continued to drop after this, I knew the grace of the Father was with us.

While staying in Spring I was seeking the Father to know what I should do regarding this issue. One mechanic had already told me that it might require the engine to be rebuilt to correct the low oil pressure problem. I was led to call a Christian brother I had met at the meetings in Helen, Georgia. Marc Lieberman is a skilled mechanic, and he told me more than once before he left that if I needed anything done to my van that he wished to help me.

I called Marc and described the problem. He shared that because I was not

hearing any clanging and tapping when the oil pressure gauge bottomed out that he would advise me to first look at the gauge as it might be defective. I purchased a mechanical oil pressure gauge, which are more reliable than electronic ones, and installed it that day. I then took the van out onto the Interstate around Houston to see what oil pressure readings I would get. Immediately as I got onto the Interstate I looked in front of me and saw the following site:



GRACE Tanker truck

I am not sure what type of truck this was, but it struck me as an oil truck. To see the word GRACE spelled in large letters as I was seeking the Father on this situation was a great encouragement.

I ran the van up and down the Interstate and the oil pressure, although somewhat low (about 32 PSI at cruising speeds), was not critically low. I felt that it was OK to continue to drive the van onto my next destination. In my van I have a small model ship made of metal with the following inscription below it:

"The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

Randy and I drove nearly two hundred miles yesterday with outside temperatures in East Texas of 98 degrees, and even pulling a trailer my van

did well. The oil pressure remained steady and the van never ran hot.

There is a vulnerability in a natural sense in following the path the Father appoints to us, but we are ever secure when we stand upon the Rock who goes with us.

Romans 8:34-39

Christ Yahshua is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Yahshua our Lord.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.