

Wednesday February 3rd 2010
Word of the Kingdom Conference 2010
Session One
You Are The Christ....

1). Well, who would have ever thought that we would find ourselves here for our fifth annual Word of the Kingdom Conference. 5 years have passed and we are still in pursuit of the Kingdom which is to come. Some of you here today were not at that first conference five years ago and some who were there are not here today and some, I am sorry to say, have walked away from the truth. But our determination is to continue in this race of faith, to continue to press toward the goal for the prize, we are determined to go the distance – and how blessed we are to have these days ahead of us to feast upon the Word of God and to encourage one another to love and good works and so much the more so as we see the Day approaching.

a). But let us also remember that this conference is not an end in itself, but one of many stepping stones in the pathway to maturity that God in His grace has provided for us.

b). So let us embrace the days of this year's conference with eyes that will see and ears that will hear and hearts that are softened to receive – let us –
Jas 1:1 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

c). Remembering - *Ro 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

2). Now hearing is a seemingly simple concept, but we are not talking about the ability to receive and process sound but the ability to receive and process the spiritual truth that the sound reveals - *1Co 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

3). So as we think about the hearing of spiritual truth this evening let us consider Israel for a moment – *Am 8:11 ¶ "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD. 12 They shall wander from sea to*

sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.

a). What we see here then is that the Lord will send a famine on the land of Israel, not a famine for something to eat or something to drink, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord, of hearing spiritual truth.

b). Now we should realize that this famine of hearing the words of the Lord is not an arbitrary action but is a consequence of Israel's choices to disobedience and unfaithfulness throughout their generations. This is a situation then, although sent by the Lord, that they have brought upon themselves that has resulted in their inability to hear spiritual truth even though they were quite capable of doing so.

c). This same inability to hear is also presented to us in - Isa 6:9 ¶ *And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed." 11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, 12 The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.*

d). In v9-10 the condition of the nation with respect to hearing and seeing that which God required is made plain. Then following this Isaiah asks a most pertinent question, 'Lord, how long?' – How long will this condition continue until they will hear again? When will the famine of Amos 8 be lifted? And in the Lord's answer we see that there will be no change in the heart of the nation that will enable them to hear until the events of the Tribulation bring them to repentance.

4). It may not be surprising then that we find reference to Israel's inability to hear and see as presented in Isaiah 6:9-10 quoted three times in the N/T and always in connection with the proclamation and offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

a). The first time we see it is in response to the disciples question about the Lord's use of parables in Matthew Chapter 13 – A Chapter that has 7 parables that specifically have to do with one thing - Mt 13:19 *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom,*

- Mt 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and

hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

b). The Christ has come to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and He has come as their King - Mt 2:2 saying, *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"*

Mr 15:2 Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered and said to him, "It is as you say."

c). Despite this however the situation is exactly as it is described in – Joh 1:11 *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

d). He came to His own things – the throne of His father David - and His own people did not receive Him - Joh 19:15 *But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

e). Now this rejection of the King and His Kingdom is poignantly portrayed in events in Matthew Chapter 12, events that immediately precede the Lord's use of parables in Matthew Chapter 13. In Matthew Chapter 12 we find Israel's religious leaders rejecting the sign of the Sabbath, a sign specifically pointing to the healing available for the nation in the 7th Day if they would repent – Mt 12:10 *And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" --that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. 14 ¶ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.*

f). And these same religious leaders then cross a line from which there is no return by attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to the power of the devil – Mt 12:22 ¶ *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*

g). Here in v23 we find the multitude asking a revealing question, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’ A question that opens up the possibility of believing exactly who Jesus is and what He has come for based upon that prophesied in 2 Samuel Chapter 7. And it is upon hearing this question - ‘now when the Pharisees heard it...’ - that they completely squash the idea by saying that the Lord’s power is Satanic in origin. And the multitude in a collective sense hear the words of the Pharisees rather than seeing the Kingdom, because of the King, manifest in their midst.

h). Now we may gain further insight into this through what is recorded in - Joh 8:43 *"Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.*

i). What we see here then is that these same religious leaders are not able to listen to the Lord’s word – hearing they do not hear – and the reason is because they are of their father the devil, and the desires of their father they want to do. Their hearts are hardened against the truth because they seek to follow the dictates of their own carnal nature thereby making them sons of the devil rather than sons of the Kingdom.

j). It is not that they didn’t have the scriptures or they were not able to receive spiritual truth, being eternally redeemed this was possible for them, but instead, because of their carnality they had allowed their hearts to become calloused, they had become hard of hearing and had chosen to close their eyes. And as a result, even though they have the truth, they do not believe.

5). And it is in John’s gospel that we find our scripture from Isaiah 6 quoted again which will give us further commentary on that which we have already looked at Joh 12:37 ¶ *But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" 39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." 41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.*

a). All the signs that the Lord performed pointed to the spiritual healing that was available to the nation upon repentance within the Millennial Kingdom. But even though they saw the signs they did not believe and even though they heard the

words of truth that the Lord spoke they could not hear and therefore believe. The King had come to offer them the Kingdom of the Heavens, but they could neither see it nor hear it and because of their intransigence they were a stumbling block to the people also - Mt 23:13 ¶ *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*

b). Mt 23:15 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of [Gehenna] as yourselves.*

6). And the third time we find Isaiah 6 quoted is at the end of the Book of Acts marking the close of the re-offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens to Israel by the church as Paul makes a last attempt to persuade the Jews in Rome from the scriptures - Ac 28:20 *"For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." 21 Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. 22 "But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere." 23 ¶ So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. 24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. 25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 "saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; 27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'" 28 "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!" 29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.*

a). So we see that Paul persuaded the Jews concerning Jesus from morning till evening from both the law of Moses and the prophets – some were persuaded and some disbelieved and because they could not agree amongst themselves they all left. And it is at this point that the Holy Spirit through Paul declares ‘that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!’

b). They will do what with it?

c). And so despite the Lord's death and resurrection and the spectacular events recorded in the Book of Acts that accompanied the preaching of the Kingdom the collective heart of the nation of Israel remained unchanged and remains so even until this day and will continue so until the end of the Tribulation just as was foretold in Isaiah.

7). Now let's return for a moment to something we read in Matthew Chapter 13 Mt 13:10 *And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

a). The nation of Israel collectively had become dull of heart and hard of hearing and had closed their eyes and so it had not been given to them to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens, so what was different about the disciples that it was given to them to know? They were after all Jews and had been subject to the same religious environment as everyone else. Well, the Lord gives us the answer - Mt 13:16 *"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;*

a). Simply then, their eyes see and their ears hear, so what might we know concerning the disciples that would help us to understand this?

b). Let's look at this incident recorded in Joh 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of [age lasting] life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

c). So what do we see here? Well in v64 there are some, and we would be talking about disciples here, who did not believe and as a result, as we see in v66 many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

d). Now the use of the word disciple implies a closer relationship with the Lord than we would see with the multitude. And we should remember that these many disciples heard the same words of spirit and life as the 12, so what marks the difference?

e). v69 *"Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

f). Notice that they have come to believe and know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

g). Although the 12 were equally perturbed by that which the Lord had just been saying, they believed what He was and who He was and this was sufficient to allow them to continue with Him.

8). Now contained in these two statements is spiritual truth of enormous proportions. Truth that takes us way beyond the words themselves.

a). Take firstly the statement ‘You are the Christ’ and we will immediately see in this the declaration of what He is. He is ‘the Christ’, the anointed One. The One anointed to be Prophet, Priest and King. A Prophet to the nation of Israel at His first coming, the Great High Priest to the eternally saved of this dispensation and the Great King Priest after the order of Melchizedek in the age to come. And in this office of Prophet the Lord comes to Israel in fulfillment of scripture –
De 18:18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

a). The admonition here is to hear with a dire consequence for those who will not hear.

b). And what do the religious leaders and the multitude not do with the words He speaks? They will not hear - *Joh 12:49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 "And I know that His command is [age lasting] life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*

9). Look at what we find recorded with regards to Israel in –

2Co 3:12 ¶ Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

a). This scripture makes reference to Exodus Chapter 34 where Moses’ face shone after being in the presence of the Lord and so he put a veil over his face because the children of Israel were afraid to come near him.

b). Moses’ face shone with the glory of God and Israel was afraid of it, so the glory was covered so they could not see it.

c). Their minds were blinded as a result of their unbelief. And so as Moses would be read they would literally hear the words, but when the Prophet of whom Moses wrote stood in their midst they could neither see Him nor hear Him. He came speaking of the glory of God, but the glory remained hidden behind the veil of their unbelief.

d). Now the veil being taken away in Christ cannot be a reference to the result of eternal salvation as we will remember that Israel's religious leaders and the multitude were eternally saved through God's provision for sin, the death and shed blood of the Passover lambs and the Christ was literally in their midst, and we shall see further proof of this later with respect to Christians.

e). So do you remember what it was that the 12 came to know and believe that resulted in the veil being taken from them? – 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. The veil is taken away for them because they believe that He is the Christ.

f). And so because the veil that covered the truth of the OT scriptures was removed for them through knowing and believing that He is the Christ we can see this taking place on the day of His resurrection - Lu 24:44 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. –*

g). Jesus said to them in - Mt 13:11 *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

h). And here we see in Luke the fulfillment of Matthew 13:12 – those who were given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens were given an abundance.

i). And to those who were not given to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens even what they had, their temple and their land was taken from them.

j). The disciples understanding being opened that they might comprehend the scriptures would enable them to understand the events of the night of the last supper just as Jesus had said - Joh 13:3 *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon*

Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

k). They would have made the connection with the instructions Moses gave to Aaron and his sons in - Ex 30:17 ¶ *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. 20 "When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die.,*

l). Knowing that Christ was teaching concerning His own High Priestly ministry for the eternally saved that would follow His resurrection - Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

m). 1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

n). They would have understood the type concerning Melchizedek presented in Genesis Chapter 14 and how this related to the Christ as presented in – Ps 110:1 ¶ *<<A Psalm of David.>> The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." 5 ¶ The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.*

o). A Psalm as we see that prophetically focuses on the 7th Day

p). Zec 6:13 *Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."*

q). And again, not to labor the point, this has come about because they had come to know and believe that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

10). Let's look at this revelation again specifically with reference to the church - Mt 16:13 ¶ *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.*

a). What we see here is that the revelation that He is the Christ is something that can only be brought forth from above for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. This is not just hearing the words but embracing the fullness of the spiritual truth that is contained within them. This is likely the reason He commanded His disciples to tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

b). And what is significant for us is that the Lord says, 'on this rock I will build My church'. The Rock is of course is Jesus, but Jesus in the revelation that He is the Christ and everything that is implied in that statement. It is upon the understanding of this revelation that His church is to be built.

c). Now the process of building will I hope take us back to - Ge 2:22 *Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He built into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

d). And would also take us to - Mt 7:24 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

e). So what will be apparent to us is that there is a distinction between those Christians who will ultimately be 'My church' and those Christians who won't. Although we are in the habit of calling all Christians the church, we will find that at Christ's Judgment Seat that His Church will comprise those called out of the

church that comprises His body as a whole - Mt 22:14 "*For many are called, but few are [called out of the called]chosen.*"

f). And here we have a direct parallel with the nation of Israel at Christ's first coming where we have the 12 distinguished from the many disciples and the multitude.

g). And the parallel with Israel at Christ's first coming does not end there 2Co 4:3 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

h). We find a direct reference here back to Moses in Exodus Chapter 34 where the veil covered the glory on his face.

i). Here it is 'our gospel' that is veiled, 'the gospel of the glory of Christ'. The good news concerning the coming Kingdom of Christ, the good news that Paul was drawing from the same OT scriptures, beginning with Moses, that remain veiled to Israel even to this day. And we see that the gospel of the glory of Christ is veiled for certain Christians because the god of this age has been able to blind their minds. But did you see why their minds were able to be blinded? Because they 'do not believe'. So the obvious question to ask would be, 'Not believe what?'

j). Well it's not rocket science to understand what it is – They don't believe that He is 'the Christ, the Son of the living God'. Now this is not to say that they don't comprehend the words because they do. Any Christian you come across will use the word 'Christ' when referring to Jesus, and all will know that Jesus is God's Son. But this of itself is not enough – we have to see and hear that which is brought forth from above regarding the Prophet, Priest and King and the promise made to David concerning his descendant whose throne would be established forever in 2 Samuel Chapter 7. And it is just not possible to have the revelation of this without seeing the Kingdom which is to come which will be established in the 7th Day. And failing to understand that which God has said concerning the Christ, the word of Christ, the word of the Kingdom means that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ cannot shine through the veil.

k). But we may look upon the face of Christ and see the glory as the light of the knowledge of the glory of God has shone in our hearts - 2Co 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

l). We may rejoice today that there are still those with eyes to see and ears to hear, and God continues to speak to those with an unquenchable thirst for the truth

m). Re 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

Lu 11:9 *"So I say to you, ask,[and continue asking] and it will be given to you; seek,[and continue seeking] and you will find; knock[and continue knocking], and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks[and continues asking] receives, and he who seeks[and continues seeking] finds, and to him who knocks[and continues knocking] it will be opened. 11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

Mt 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

11). However, before we become too excited let's remember what we see in – Heb 5:10 ¶ *called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," 11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

Ga 5:7 *You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.*

Re 2:4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen;*

1Co 10:11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

Heb 2:1 ¶ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,*

12). What God has given us in being able to gather together this week is enormous beyond description let us guard it and protect it with every fiber of our being and let's make sure we have ears to hear everything that the Lord speaks to us through His word and let us determine to be doers of the word and not hearers only

deceiving ourselves – let's pray - Eph 1:17 [We pray Lord that You]the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, 18 the eyes of our understanding might be enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Amen.