



## **NEW MAN FOCUS**

### **2012 U.S. NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

#### **Graham Cook – Saturday AM Session, October 6, 2012**

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Some of things that I have shared this weekend are not easy things to share in a way. They are not easy things to receive because they seem opposite to many things we feel we have grown up knowing. We are learning that we have to make a shift in order to understand the Beauty and Majesty of God.

When the Kingdom is not central to who we are and how we live, then all we have is church and church by itself is not credible without the Kingdom. Church by itself renders us more likely to have a religious experience than a God encounter and we are more likely to make God in our own image than actually us being made in the image of God.

One of the things we feel is a really important assignment for this conference in terms of how we progress into the future is that it is absolutely essential for us to get closure on the old man. We must really understand that our old man is dead. His time is over. He is finished. We are not even going to talk about him anymore.

#### **NEW MAN FOCUS**

We are going to focus on the new man. Because we are focusing on the new man, we are going to have to reinvent how we do pastoral ministry. You cannot make all things new and then revert to an old way of doing things. When you get revelation, it causes you to rethink who you have been, not only who you are becoming. Otherwise we want new, but we think old. We want to move into the new stuff, but we are always defaulting back to a previous style.

When something breaks into our lives in terms of the nature of God, we have to reorder everything that we have done; otherwise we do not get to keep what God is giving us. Revelation messes with us. The truth sets us free, but in order to set us free, it has to cut us off from all the things that have entangled us.

There is a world of difference from what is *true* and what *truth* is. A lot of what we have heard in church is true, but has not been the whole truth. I am learning how to acknowledge everything in my life according to the image of God and how to line up with who God is.

If what we're learning is not lined up with the nature of God, I don't think He's going to change. We are going to have to line up what we are learning and what we believe with the nature of who God really is and what God is really like. If what we are learning does not reflect the nature of God we cannot be aligned to it. It has to be readjusted so that it fits in with who God is.

We are learning to get closure on the old thing – old nature - and to walk in newness of life and enjoy the fact that we have a whole new set of possibilities now. We are not dealing with negatives. We are dealing with the possibilities of the Kingdom.

## **THE INTENTIONALITY OF GOD**

Last night really was a shocker because we are realizing there are depths to the intentionality of God. It is an amazing fact that God has thought everything through before He did anything. Before Genesis 1:1 He, Jesus and the Holy Spirit had conversations and they thought everything through. That is how intentional God is. He is very premeditated.

It is interesting to me that when God gives us a prophetic word, He is introducing us to our future. Very often the prophetic word does not make sense to us in the present because we are not there yet, but in a few years, what was a future word then is now a now word. Why? Because God is always previous.

I wonder how many of us are sitting here right now in situations wanting God to speak to us when maybe He already has. You need to go get those prophetic words because they will probably make sense right here, right now. The brilliant thing about prophecy is it gives you an outcome which absolutely means you are going to survive the process. This is kind of handy to know some days.

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## **GOD'S GREAT GRACE**

The most delicious thing about God is that everything about God is ultimately shocking. Did you notice that? If you are not scandalized by Grace, then you do not get it yet.

One of the purposes of Grace is to offend our carnality. Grace lets you know where you are not. Another purpose of Grace is to show up our wilderness. So getting angry at the Grace of God is a sure sign that you are on your way to something brilliant. The problem with Pharisees is they always stop at their anger. They are offended by who Jesus ate with, who He was walking with, who He talked to because they did not get it. Religious people do not get Grace.

I was talking to one guy about Grace and he said, "That is just cheap Grace." I said, "Dude, Grace is not cheap! It is free!" That was the end of that argument. Grace is free. It is a gift. It cost Somebody everything. Just because it cost you nothing, does not mean that it is cheap.

## **BE ASTONISHED**

What we are learning is, is that we can only talk about God in superlatives. We are learning that if we are not astonished, then we need to grow up. The things that were said about the early church were that they were always in awe. They were always astonished. There were so many signs, everyone was wondering, "What does this mean; what does that mean?" Everyone had this sense of awe about the Presence of God.

I believe we have to recapture the place of the early church so that we can surpass them. Because Jesus said, "Greater things than these will you do." Right now we need to capture something of our own history in the Kingdom. It is absolutely important that every church in the land should have a sense of awe about the Majesty, the Sovereignty, the beauty, and the greatness of God. And we should be astonished. If we are not astonished we are going to end up being dull.

I think there is a war between dullness and astonishment going on in the church right now. It is not enough for us to be conservative about what we believe. I do not understand conservative evangelicalism. What is it we are trying to conserve?

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Here is the thing; the Kingdom is about extremes. God is about extremes. You can't be a lover of God and not be an extremist about who He is. Not understand the lengths He will go to, to set someone free. Not understand the absolute extreme of the depth of God's love. Not understand the extreme of the height of all that He wants to take us to and show us and be for us. Not understand the lengths and breadths that He will go to in order to see you fulfilled. Everything about God is shocking and it's extreme.

When you look at the Bible, the Bible is a book of extremes. It's a book of encounters and experiences. How on earth you can read the Bible in a year and still be sane? I don't know. God didn't write it in a year and I am pretty much sure He doesn't want it read in a year. That is the dumbest way to treat the word of God is to try to cram the whole thing in a year and you all know that you are going to speed read Leviticus. You're going to treat it like some kind of grocery list. And then you're all going to feel guilty and mad because you're already fifteen chapters behind. And in the summer you're going to read your novel on the beach which puts you further behind. It is a brilliant way to come into condemnation. God wrote the Bible relationally and He wants it read relationally.

## **BE PRESENT/FUTURE**

Here is the thing that we are doing in Aglow in these days; we are not just speaking to your present, we are connecting you to your future. We all have to make decisions to stop being present/past. That means not allowing stuff from your past to come and affect you in the present.

Closing that door and opening up to a life that is present/future where you love who you are right now and you love who you are becoming. You love the journey and you love the fact that your story is changing. And if you do not like the chapter you are in well there is another one coming. Just make sure you get out of this chapter really well so that you do not have to repeat it later because that would be dumb. Some of you are in chapters right now that you do not want to repeat.

Here is the thing that we are learning. We are learning how to rejoice more powerfully. Rejoicing guarantees that there is more to come because it positions you for an upgrade. There is so much freedom coming our way and the beautiful thing is God is determined to make up for lost time. He is a Redeemer and He knows how to redeem time. Hand on heart - many of you know in this room that we

may be behind the time of our own development. We should be further on than we are right now. No blame, no shame, no condemnation. God does not do any of that stuff. But He does redeem time. He redeems time by speeding up our response.

We are in the stage right now that the Bible says that the first Adam was a living soul. **The second Adam, Jesus, is a life-giving Spirit. He is a quickening Spirit. And God wants to quicken us in our responses and our spirituality which means He can give us five years growth in one year.**

Here is the thing, we are going to have to learn to run. We are going to have to say “yes” faster. We are going to have to be ready to move. We are going to have to ditch all of our previous excuses why we cannot do something. If you want to move with God in these days, you are going to have to move quickly because there is a quickening Spirit abroad in the body of Christ.

## **IDENTITY IS THE KEY TO TRANSFORMATION**

I want to talk with you about identity because identity is the key to transformation.

Whenever God does something for the first time He always sets a precedent and by that precedent you know Him forever. So always study the first times in scripture because God is actually revealing way more than we can imagine in those times. Those were the first times when God really talks about Himself. He gets Moses to ask Him a question. Have you ever noticed that about God? He kind of backs you into a corner and He leaves you one opening and when you take it everything opens up. Or He gets you to ask Him a question that He always wanted to answer in the first place. So Moses said, “If I found favor in Your sight, show me Your glory.” Here is the thing, the Lord wanted to show His glory to Moses so He got him to ask the question. Always think about the questions you are asking right now.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND WHAT MUST I DO?**

The two best questions in the Bible are asked in Acts on the day of Pentecost. What does this mean and what must I do? Keep your life between those two questions and you will do pretty well. Never ask the “why” question. Because the why question never gets answered on earth. It is an invalid question that makes you an invalid if you ask it. Why me? Why now? Why this? Never ask the “why question” because it never gets answered. The question to ask is what does this mean? Lord, what does this mean for my relationship with You? And what must I do if I want that upgrade? Live between those two questions and you will have a great time.

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## **HIS GOODNESS**

So, He gets Moses into a position where they are on the mountain and He says, “Moses, I am going to stick you between these two rocks and I am going to put My hand over you.” Moses has asked to see the glory of God and God said, “Okay I will cause My Goodness to pass before you.” The glory of God is good, because He is good.

Here is the thing, the goodness of God is so powerful it could incinerate you. So, He has to put His hand over Moses. You cannot see My face but you can see My back. And so God goes marching out in front of him and this is what He says to Moses, "This is how I am known in Heaven. I am compassionate. I am gracious and sloooooooooooooow to anger, and merciful, and truthful and faithful and forgiving." What is He doing? "This is how I am known in Heaven."

## **JESUS DECLARES HOW HE IS KNOWN IN HEAVEN**

Jesus walks into His hometown church and He - normally what they do in the synagogue is they start reading from where they finished off last week. So the attendant hands Him the scroll and its right at the place where they should start reading but Jesus does not start there. Jesus reads Isaiah 61 and what He is saying is, "This is how I am known in Heaven." And He reads this out, "the Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners. I am here to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all those who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified. And those people will rebuild the ancient ruins, will raise up the former devastations, they will repair the ruined cities and the desolation of many generations. Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks and foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers, but you will be called the priests of the Lord. You will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will have a double portion. Instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land and everlasting joy will be theirs."

That is an identity statement right there! What He is saying is, "This is how I am known in Heaven, this is what I am here for, this is My assignment, this is how I am known." And later on Jesus is found saying to the disciples, "Boys, it is better for you if I go away." They are all going, "No it is not! You are not wrong about much Jesus, but You are actually

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wrong about that! I need You to be here for at least 100 years or maybe until I die anyway!" (Laughter) He said, "No, honestly, it is better for you if I go away because if I go away, He can come." And He starts talking about the Holy Spirit. And what He is saying is, this is how the Holy Spirit is known in Heaven.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ASSIGNMENT ON EARTH**

In John 16:5-15 He gives a description of the assignment of the Holy Spirit here on earth. This is how He is known in Heaven and this is how He is going to be known in the earth. He is your Helper in all things. He will convict the world system. He convinces people of their need for righteousness. He will judge the ruler of this world. He will lead you by experience into all the truth. He will disclose what is to come because He is a prophetic spirit. He will glorify Me to you and in you and you will take possession of all that I have for you to receive. This is the Holy Spirit's job. This is how He is known. It

is not just the only thing that He is known for, but there are several things - like He is known as the Comforter.

See, here you have the God-head all saying, "This is how We are known in Heaven." So, I want you to leave here this weekend understanding something about yourself and how you are known in Heaven. If you are going to really fulfill all the things that God has got for you, you have to realize what your identity is and what your destiny is. You have to know how you are known in Heaven.

So when the angel Gabriel comes to talk to Zacharias about his son John the Baptist, he says, "He will be great in the sight of God. He will drink no wine or liquor; he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother's womb. He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord. He will go as a forerunner before Him in the Spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to the children and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous to make a people ready for the Lord. That is how your son is known in Heaven. "

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## **THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPHETIC WORDS**

When you get a prophetic word, what is God saying to you? "This is how you are known in Heaven. This is going to be your identity." So your question should be once you receive a prophecy is, "What kind of man or woman do I need to become in order to see that word fulfilled?" The word is not just about a ministry, it is about an identity and your identity is about an upgrade of your personality. All of us have multiple identities but thankfully one personality.

You know what is true in the natural is true in the Spirit. In the natural, I am a son and a brother. I am an uncle, a cousin, a husband, a father. I am a grandfather. So when you get together with your clan on Thanksgiving, you do not talk to your father like he is your cousin. And you do not talk to your mother like she is your niece. You automatically assume the identity that can communicate to the person that is in front of you and you do it just like that!

## **OWN WHO YOU ARE**

What is true in the natural is true in the Spirit. We have multiple identities in the Spirit but one personality which is that gracious mix of who Jesus is with who we are. So you can be a leader, you can be a prophet, you can be a writer, you can have multiple things and you need to understand all those identities.

For me, when I go on assignment, I want to know what my identity is in that moment with those people. So to some people I am a prophet, to others I am apostolic, and to others I am a teacher. To others I am a consultant. I need to know, what is my identity for this people group this weekend? Then you have to step into something, you have to put on the identity and you have to speak through it, and you have to exactly know what you're doing and how you're doing it. That's what partnership with Jesus is all about.

## FULLNESS

The fullness is more than all of us can contain. The fullness to me is, I can be full of who God is but not really be full in terms of all that He is. So, what if each identity has its own level of fullness? It is like going to your closet with all your different identities. So you put on your batman outfit and you assume all the power and authority and everything that goes with it. Do you understand what I am saying here?

Fullness is more than just you being full. Fullness is you having the range of identities that are all full in themselves and you learn to step into each identity as God discloses it to you. So you have several relationships going on with God. You know He is never going to be only one of His identities to you, right? He is an extremist.

So as a prophet you have a whole different relationship with God as a prophet, if that is what you are. So we have relationship with God as children of God growing up to become sons of God. There are two relationships right there. And if you are a leader, you have another relationship with God because there is another whole fullness that God wants to give you there. God does not do anything in measure. So every identity has fullness and a provision attached to it. This is what makes life in the Kingdom fun because every identity has cash attached to it.

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So as a prophet I know what I can lean into with God in terms of finances. I am just moving to set up a training center so the teaching side of me needs some cash to set up a training center. I can always get money from God because He trusts me with it.

The key thing about money is if He can push it through you He will give it to you.

When you know how you are known in Heaven, your prayer life changes. Whatever God orders, He pays for. So, it is great to have multiple identities, and only one personality. Nudge your neighbor and say, "You are only allowed one personality." You can have as many identities as you want but you only get one personality.

Before something is established God starts speaking into it, just as He spoke through Gabriel to Zacharias about John the Baptist – before he was even born! If you have prophetic words over your life, then not only do you have an outcome, you have an identity and you have a destiny. And you need to get those prophetic words out and start working on them.

## STORY, JOURNEY, AND GOD'S WORD

Here's how God uses scripture most. Every one of us has a story. Every one of us is on a journey. God wants to give you words that are compatible with the story that He is building in your life. He wants to give you words that are a part of your road journey with Him as you move forward, as you change, as you become more, as you grow up into Christ in all things.

The Bible is a book of encounters and experiences. It tells you what is possible in relationship between you and the Lord. It is the story of how God thinks, how He sees, how He speaks, and how He likes to

do things. It is the story of how He likes to work with us and walk with us. It is the story of how He grows faith. It is the story of how He teaches us patience and persistence. It is the story of how we learn how to overcome and be victorious. It is the story of how we learn to be the beloved and live happily no matter the circumstances.

God's Word tells us everything that is available to us in this Kingdom here on earth. It tells us how to be citizens of Heaven here on earth. It tells us how to look into the unseen realm and how to bring that into this life, into this world. It tells us the extraordinary lengths that God will go to enable us to overcome and breakthrough not just for ourselves, but for a people group that we are called to. It tells us how God loves to provide. It tells us of the humor of God, of the niceness of God. It tells us of the ferocity of God and the Majesty of God. It tells us how that we are the Beloved and we are learning how to live in the fear of the Lord because it is a really powerful place. God's Word is a story of all those things. He tells us exactly what is available to us in any given situation.

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Many years ago the Lord said to me, "Graham, I want you to read Psalm 91 until I tell you to stop." I was like, "You mean all day?" He said, "No, for the next six months." Seriously? "Seriously. I do not want you reading anything else in the Bible and I do not want you reading any other book. I only want you reading Psalm 91."

I actually made it through to about two months. One morning I was desperate for a bit of Timothy. I like Timothy. I was a young guy then and I liked him. I always felt like I resonated with what Paul said to him. I was desperate for a bit of Timothy. So, I stuck my hand in Psalm 91 and I turned to I Timothy 1 and I did not even get through the first verse and my eyes went out of focus. And the Lord said to me, "What did I say to you?" I know. I know. I know. I know. But Lord I was just desperate for a bit of Timothy. He said, "Graham, do not think you can make Me laugh and get away with this." I said Lord it has worked in the past. He said, "Yes but I was being gracious then. I am not being gracious in this moment, son. This is too important to Me." I am thinking, "Why is this important to You?" He said, "Everything in Psalm 91 now belongs to you. Every promise in Psalm 91 is yours. Everything that is available in Psalm 91 now belongs to you and for where I am taking you I need you to learn to live in the secret place. There are battles I want to commit you to and I need you to learn to be fearless and that is what Psalm 91 is about. Graham, I need you to fully embrace, I need you to become the living embodiment of Psalm 91 because for where I want to take you, it is important."

## **INHERITANCE WORDS**

How many of us have had moments with God where we started reading a particular scripture or passage of scripture and it feels like this Word has jumped off the page and wrapped itself around your face. Your heart starts beating faster and you know, that you know, that God is speaking to you. How many have had that experience? What the Lord was doing was, He was giving you your inheritance word.

What do we do? We study that word so that we can teach about it in a Bible study or a Sunday morning. Not realizing that God is doing something much deeper. He is saying, "This is a word for you. I want you

to have this word. Everything in this word now belongs to you. Every promise belongs to you.” If there is someone’s name in that passage of scripture, then you can have the same experiences with God that they had.

A year or so after Psalm 91 the Lord gave me Number 13-14, the story of Caleb. He said, “I want you to study Caleb because I am making you into a man of a different spirit. I want you to study his mindset, his heart, his passion for God, his passion for the fight. The fact that he only saw a fight in one way and he never saw himself losing. I want you to study how excited he was at warfare. How with the last stronghold when the enemy is about to be vanquished and this is probably the last decent fight for a while, he elbows all the young guys out to one side and said, ‘I want this mountain, this is my fight. You all push off and get your own. This is my fight. I want this mountain. There are giants up there and I want their territory.’ He is a man of a different spirit.”

Here is the thing about inheritance words. When God gives you scriptures like that, He is saying this is how you are known in Heaven. This is how We see you. When He gives you a prophetic word, it is the same thing. This is how We see you. This is how you are known and so then what happens is all the circumstances of your life now actually empower you to become that person.

So if you are standing here and you get a prophetic word in 2012 about the next 10 years of your life, it is God 10 years down the line speaking something from your future into your present. What He is saying to you is, “This is now your territory.”

The gap between prophesy spoken and prophesy fulfilled is your territory, where you get changed as a human being to become that person, so that those things can actually come to pass. The question you have to ask the Lord is what kind of person do I need to become in order to see that word fulfilled?

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So if you get a word that you are going to be a mighty warrior and currently you are a wimp, the gap between being a wimp and becoming a warrior is where every single circumstance is designed to enable you to stop worrying, stop being a wimp and, to start to become a warrior.

So every circumstance in your life is designed to help you become a warrior. Every situation is designed to get you to step into a power, authority and anointing. Every difficult person, ever situation is designed to teach you how to overcome, how to step into that identity, how to embrace the destiny. So that you can become the living embodiment of the word that God spoke to you in the first place.

## **PROCESS FOLLOWS EVERY ENCOUNTER WITH GOD**

God loves encounter but every encounter is followed by a process. It is not magic. You know when people often come forward in meetings and they want an impartation, what they are subtly thinking is, ‘I want you to lay hands on me, and to pray for me in a way that magically transforms me from this idiot that I am now, to this super hero that I want to become.’

The thing is, you will have an encounter with God that gets you started, but process is what closes the deal. Process is the series of steps that you take walking with God. You learn how to relate with God. You learn how to relate in all your circumstances in line with the prophetic word that God has given

you. The brilliant thing is, if prophesy gives you an outcome, you are definitely going to survive the process. But process is not just for surviving. Process is designed to prosper you in who God is for you. So the process is designed to teach you how to overcome, to teach you how to stand, and to teach you how to press in.

All the circumstances between prophesy spoken and prophesy fulfilled are designed to establish the identity that God has already spoken to you. This now belongs to you, this is how you are known in Heaven. You have to embrace that here on earth so that you enter into a partnership with the Lord. When you get a prophetic word, it is the end of whining. It is the end of moaning and low self-esteem and pity parties. You cannot do that anymore because you have a prophetic word. If you engage in that kind of negative conversation then your confession about who you are is going to be seriously diminished. You understand that, right?

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## **NO MORE EXCUSES**

You realize what is happening this weekend is that you cannot be separated from the love of God, but you can be separated from all of your excuses. You realize that God has been stripping away all of your excuses. You cannot say that anymore, or that, or that. (Laughter) When you go home all of your friends will ask you what happened at the conference. You will say, "I went with all of my excuses and found out that God is not going to listen to them any longer." (Laughter)

If God has ever impressed a verse or passage of scripture on your heart, He was giving you - He was showing you - your inheritance. How many people have gotten more than one word? How many people have gotten like 3 or 4? How many people have gotten like 6? You are in so much trouble! (Laughter)

Here is the thing. You need to go and buy some journals. You need to buy a journal for every word God has given you. If you take that word seriously, a spirit of wisdom and revelation will come upon you and you will start to see yourself like God sees you. God will start to talk to you about who you are and reveal how you are known in Heaven. Those prophetic words and inheritance scriptures declare, 'this is how you are known in Heaven. This is how you are seen.' If you get hold of these words, they will propel you into a whole new place, a whole new time of upgrade and activity in the Holy Spirit. They will give you outcomes that will give you confidence for the journey you are taking. Those words need to become more real to you than any other because they are specifically given to you for that purpose.

Is there anybody here that never had that kind of encounter with scripture? A few people. Pick a number between 1 and 150 and read that Psalm. It will get you started. If the apostles can pick Judas's replacement by drawing lots, we can pick a Psalm to get us started. We need to get into a place of listening to the Lord and what the Holy Spirit says is what we go by. They drew lots because God does not want us wasting time on the mundane. You cannot lose when God is with you.

Pick a number between 1 and 150 and just start reading that Psalm because the whole thing is it will get you started and then what will happen is you will have a dream or something will happen or somebody will come to you and say, 'I was praying about you today and the Lord gave me this scripture'

and that could be another inheritance word. It is pretty cool. When you open yourself up to an inheritance word, half a dozen are going to come in the next few months. You do not need to worry about it. It is the goodness of God after all.

The thing is, those inheritance words are designed to tell you how you are known in Heaven. This is how We see you. This is how the Lord sees you and if you see yourself over here somewhere having a pity party the Lord is actually going to be speaking to this identity and you need to be the one that actually begins to make the adjustments.

## **CREATING ALIGNMENT**

All good leadership is about creating alignment in the house of the Lord so that the house of God, the church comes into alignment with what God is saying about us. So everything we are doing in ministry is creating alignments in people.

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## **NEW-MAN PRAYER**

Do you ever wonder why God does not answer some of your prayers? It is because He does not like them. (Laughter) He is thinking He knows what He wants to do because Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. So I think that He is pretty experienced right now. So He is thinking, I am praying this and they are praying for something over there and the Lord is saying, "I am not answering that. I want to answer this. So guess what? I do not change. You all need to keep moving. No, I am not answering that, definitely not answering that. Nope. Nope. Nope. Keep asking. Keep asking." That is why Jesus said you have got to ask and keep on asking. Because sometimes we ask from a place that is not our real self. Think about that.

I talked to a guy who said that God never answers his prayers. And I said, "Well maybe He thinks they're stupid. (Laughter) There has got to be a reason. So what are you praying?" He said, "This is what I am praying." I said, "Dude, which self is praying that? That is an old man prayer. God only is answering a new man prayer. You need to get into your new man and find out what God wants to do. You have Jesus in Heaven praying for us. You have the Holy Spirit on earth interceding for us. That is like prayer in stereo. The Bible says the Holy Spirit is groaning with intercession because He has to live with us. (Laughter) Jesus is praying, 'Lord, I am praying that Graham will get it' and the Holy Spirit is praying, 'Dear Father, please let Graham get it because I am so bored right now.' Between the two of Them you have prayer going on in stereo."

What if you are the third part of a threefold cord in prayer? What if prayer is not about praying towards God, what if it is praying with Him? What if it is not about praying to find an answer, what if it is praying with the answer?

We are coming into alignment. It is interesting that when you know who you are becoming, lots of other things start to fall into place. You start to think differently. You start to see differently. You start to speak differently. You connect with Heaven differently. When you have a prophetic word in your life

it is the end of prayer. It is the beginning of proclamation because you do not want to be asking the Lord to give you something that He has already told you that you can have!

Some of us have prophetic words and we are praying about our needs and so on and we have those prophetic words, and the Lord is saying, "What are you praying about that for? I gave you a prophetic word about it. "You have a promise about that. A promise means the end of prayer and the beginning of confession. It is the beginning of declaration. I have a promise. I am using this promise on this situation because that is what promises are for."

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A promise means the end of prayer  
and the beginning of confession.

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## **WE ARE GROWING UP INTO OUR PROPHECIES**

Do you understand what is happening here? We are starting to grow up. We are starting to have fun. We are starting to see things about ourselves. We are starting to understand that God has been previous. 'I have words in my life. That means I can overcome this situation.'

David went up against Goliath knowing one thing. Dave had a prophecy from Samuel that he would be king one day and his thought process is, listen, "Goliath, I am not king today, which means I cannot die so it sucks to be you! (Laughter)" And he ran towards Goliath knowing that he cannot die because he is not king yet. Prophecies are useful! Come on you need to get them out.

Get those scriptures out of the Bible and into a journal and start to study them. What kind of promises are here? What Presence of God is here? What things am I to inherit? What kind of person am I going to become because of these scriptures, because of these passages?

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDERNESS TIMES**

Another one of my inheritance words is Psalm 81 and it is about turning a place of weeping into springs of water. Another one was Hosea 2 about being captivated by the wilderness. You know the wilderness is a place where God takes you when He is happy with you. I know that seems unlikely but it is true. So Jesus has this open Heaven experience, He gets baptized, Heaven opens, Holy Spirit descends in bodily form. The Father says, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." What is the next thing that happens? He takes Him into the wilderness. To the wilderness is where God takes you when He is happy with you.

God was happy about bringing Israel out of Egypt. He took them into the wilderness because the wilderness is a place of no distractions. The wilderness is a place where we actually move quickly into the next place of our identity with God because there are no distractions. So the wilderness is where God takes you and it is a one on one encounter with Him and the wilderness is a place of acceleration. It is a place where you get converted from being a bunch of slaves to a disciplined army.

Here is the thing, when Israel did not get it, they wanted to go back to Egypt, and the Lord said, "You cannot go back to Egypt because that is certain death. You can go into the Promised Land and that is certain death, and you are not ready because you are going to get killed. The best thing is, stay here with Me in the wilderness." And He never left them alone. He stayed, too, because He likes the wilderness. The wilderness is a place where God can do fantastic business with us really quick.

I love it when the Lord says to me, 'Graham, there is a wilderness time coming up.' There was one time, I think it was April 5, God said to me, "Graham there is a wilderness time coming up September 1<sup>st</sup>. September 1<sup>st</sup>? How am I going to live between now and then? You should not have given me that date. That was bad! It was like, I have a few months and all I am going to be doing is drooling about the wilderness. Do not expect to get any work out of me in the next few months. The Lord said, "I only told you because you need to prepare for this one. Because this is going to be brilliant! But you need to get ready. I need to prepare you." He loves the wilderness.

Hosea 2:14-15 says that God captures our hearts and brings us into the wilderness to speak kindly to us and to give us our vineyards as our inheritance and as a door of hope.

The wilderness is always about you inheriting the next thing. It is about you receiving something huge that God wants you to have but He does not want to just give it to you. He wants to instruct you on how it is going to change your life, and how you get to use *that* thing and become *this* thing. That is a whole different message.

We are coming into a time where we get to know who we are. Here is the thing. When God gives you your inheritance word what He is doing is, He is giving you an elevated status in Jesus. Your inheritance word takes you to the next level where God wants you to live. It gives you legal authority over the enemy and it gives you permission to overcome every obstacle. God wants to put promises in your life that turn you into a different person. When God gives you your inheritance word, it is your time to pay attention.

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Your inheritance word takes you to the next level where God wants you to live. It gives you legal authority over the enemy and it gives you permission to overcome every obstacle.

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So here We are, Beloved, pay attention. You have inheritance words in your life. You have some homework to do. Your mission, should you chose to accept it, is to take those inheritance words, to take those prophetic words and begin to study them. Begin to ask questions.... What does this mean? What must I do? What kind of person do I need to become to see this fulfilled? And understand that all your situations now are about you becoming that person. So every situation is designed to develop you so that you actually fit the words God sees over you. Those words declare to you, 'This is how you are known in Heaven.' So you need to learn to become that person here on earth. When God shows up in our lives and calls us to a specific task, He is introducing us to our persona, our identity, as He defines it.

## GIDEON

Gideon is hiding out in a winepress making bread like you do when you are depressed. He has issues and God does not choose anybody that does not have issues. Right? Gideon is hiding away and he has issues about the nation. He has issues about what the Midianites are doing. He has a few issues about what he thinks the Lord should be doing and he has a few issues about himself, and what he is not. And the Lord comes along and gives him his inheritance word. 'Hello Gideon, you mighty man of valor!' I bet you a hundred bucks that he turned around in that winepress thinking, 'I thought I was by myself.

Are there two of us called Gideon here?' 'Go in your strength, deliver Israel, have I not sent you?' The last thing he feels like is a deliverer. What happens is all of his excuses start to come up.

Here is the thing about your promises, your prophesies, and your inheritance words. The first thing that is going to happen is all your negativity about yourself is going to rise to the surface because that prophesy, that inheritance word, is like a magnet over your head and they are going to draw up all your negativity like a magnet will draw iron filings. Every negative thought you have about you is going to come to the surface. *I am no good. My family is the poorest in our tribe and I am the youngest in my family. I am the youngest of the poor.* What does God do about that? Totally ignores it.

You can have all the excuses you like. God is not going to pay attention to any one of them and He is not going to pastor you out of them. He is giving you your inheritance word; you are the one who has to make an adjustment. He is not going to downgrade His prophesy because you do not feel like it. When God shows you who you are He is going to stick to it. Here is the thing. He is going to start relating to you as if you are a warrior. You better jump on board pretty quick.

Don't you love the ways of God? He so absolutely adores you that He is not going to listen to a single word you say when you are making excuses. It is like you never spoke. You come out with all these excuses and He says, 'We are not talking about that. He just totally ignores it.' *Go in your strength, have I not sent you?* - Judges 6:14. Gideon is thinking, 'Did I not just speak?' The Lord is just saying, 'Not according to Me. This is what I see about you.' If your vision of yourself is not compatible, you are the one who needs to change. God has given you this word so that you actually understand the pathway relationally that is opening up in your life right now.

## TIMOTHY

Timothy has this brilliant call of God, a young guy, and Paul has to admonish him and say, 'Timothy, stop saying that you are a child, because you have an inheritance word that says you are a man of God. Do not say you are a child.' You have to speak in line with your prophesy. You have to speak in line with your inheritance word. You have to speak in line with your identity, and with your destiny. You have to speak in line with what is starting to form in your life. No excuses! I just robbed you of every excuse. Feeling pretty pleased with myself! (Laughter) What did you do at Aglow? I stole all their excuses!

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You have to speak in line with your inheritance word.

You have to speak in line with your identity, and with your destiny.

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This is the time you have been praying for. You all have been praying and now this is where we are. Here is the brilliant news. What if you could make five years growth in a year? What if a year from now you would be unrecognizable from the person sitting here today? What if you could become so in tune with your identity, so in tune with how God sees you that you fundamentally change as a human being?

## LEARNING A DIFFERENT RHYTHM

What you are going to learn is a different rhythm. When your identity begins to form, your walk with God changes. Your ability to see in the Spirit gets magnified. Your ability to think like Jesus thinks increases and your whole language changes. Those are the three things about transformation in terms of your identity.

1. **Your perception changes.** How you view life and circumstances changes.
2. **How you think about yourself in relation to what is going on changes.**
3. **The language that you use to describe what is going on radically changes.** It is going to be the language of a worshiper. It is going to be the language of rejoicing and thanksgiving. It is going to be the language of someone who is tracking properly with God and you are going to have a whole different language. Which means we are going to pray on a whole different level and you become a whole different person.

## WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Jesus asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' He was not fishing for a compliment. He wanted to see who really understood how He is known in Heaven. He got back four distorted images. Some said, 'You are John the Baptist' which was a little disturbing because he had just been murdered a few months ago. Some say, "You are Elijah, or Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' And then He asks them, 'Who do you say that I am?' And suddenly Simon Peter has this flash of revelation and he jumps up and he shouts, 'OMG. You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!' And Jesus grins at him and says, 'Yes, and you are now Peter, no longer Simon. You are Peter, and upon that revelation I will build My church and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom.'

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When your identity begins to form, your walk with God changes.

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So what happens is, Simon, suddenly Peter, blurts out, 'This is Your identity! This is how You are known in Heaven!' And Jesus goes, 'Yes, and this is how YOU are known in Heaven.' So important to the Lord that you know who you are. That you know what His intentions towards you are. That you know what your development path is.

## JOURNEY WITH OUTCOME

Guys, we are learning to run. Let me tell you what is happening here right now. This is the beginning of days for us. There are people in this room who have been moving toward something and it has felt insubstantial. What has happened this weekend is that things have come into focus and suddenly you are realizing, 'God has already dropped things into my life, and now this is my defining moment when I can pick up all the things that God has already spoken over me, and I can go into a private conclave with the Holy Spirit and start actually looking at those things, studying those things, asking the Lord questions, developing my relationship, so that my life opens up in front of me differently. And a pathway opens up between my present and my future, and I realize that all my life right now is outcome based. I have outcomes all over my life, which means that if I walk down this path, I know what is going to happen.'

That storm on the lake. What is the last thing Jesus said before He got in the boat? 'Let's go to the other side!' They had an outcome and then He gets in the boat and promptly falls asleep. I do not think He is asleep. I think He has His eyes closed and He is praying, 'Dad, make the waves really big! Let's see what these boys are made of.' The thing is, when you have an outcome, you take that journey differently. The journey is not just about getting there. It is about what you become on the way.

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Jesus gives them an outcome which means there is something else going on as well, and He wanted to teach them about the power of the Kingdom over creation. These guys are experienced fisherman, but they had never been in a God engineered storm before. The whole purpose of this is to teach them authority, and to teach them how to rest. What is happening is, they are developing in their personality, their identity, what God sees in Heaven. It has to affect who you are, it has to affect your thinking, your emotions, and how you view yourself, how you talk about yourself. Your identity affects the very fabric of who you are as a human being.

Here they are in this God engineered storm and the boat is rocking in the wind and the waves. They are all looking daggers at Jesus. How can He sleep at a time like this? And they are getting hungry. You wake Him up! I am not waking Him up! You wake Him up! I am not waking Him up! John, you are His best friend, you wake Him up. I am not waking Him up. Peter, you are stupid, you wake Him up. I am not waking Him up. (Laughter) And they wake Him up and the first thing they do is accuse Him of not caring. But He had already given them the word – *we are going to go to the other side.*

You have to understand that when you have an outcome, it means you get to more than survive the process, you are suppose to *prosper* in the process. David ran towards Goliath because he knew that he had a life beyond where Goliath was standing. It did not matter the bigness of the problem in front of him, he was going to run right through it because he had an outcome beyond the circumstance that was present right there.

Do you understand what is going on with you? You are learning how to live prophetically. What if you are not ordinary? What if there is nothing ordinary about you? What if all your circumstances are designed to make you extraordinary? What if all your circumstances are designed to upgrade your significance as a person? What if every situation is designed to add substance to who you are? What if...? You better study those words because they tell you who you really are in the eyes of God. And then you take on board that identity.

So for me, I have multiple identities. I know that I am a warrior, I know that I have a Caleb spirit, I love Majesty, I love the fight, I love warfare, because you get to see a side of God on the battlefield that you do not see at any other time. I do not want rescuing. I want to see Majesty. Warriors do not look for rescue, they look for Majesty. If the enemy is present, then God has to be present in a bigger form. It does not matter if you are a lamb surrounded by wolves as long as your best friend is a Lion!

You are learning how to live in the shadow of the Almighty which is Psalm 91. Your inheritance words were given you so God could take you to a certain place in the realm of the Spirit that is uniquely yours.

But you have to make it yours, and the only the way you can do that, Beloved, is by saying, *This is who I am*. It is by creating an identity statement that says that I am in absolute agreement with how God sees me and I am partnering with the Holy Spirit to enable these things to become true.

I am a catalyst. I love to create environments. I love to empower. I love to get things off the ground. I love to get things moving. I love momentum. I like going into places and starting something. Sometimes I am going into a certain weekend and I am going there as a catalyst. You have to know the identity you have for that particular event or that particular group of people.

We were at a church a couple of weeks ago, and I went there as a catalyst. I knew the whole weekend was about me doing something catalytic that could catapult that church from this level to a whole different level. That is my assignment. When you know your identity for something, you know your assignment for it.

Some places I go, my assignment - I go as a prophet so I have to do something prophetic that stirs, that creates a different atmosphere, a different environment. I have to get this body of people thinking present/future. You cannot only live with God in the present; you have to live with God in the present moving towards your future. He wants you to be present future and He intends us to be future/present. Here you are taking your prophetic word and walking into your future, and here is Him taking your prophetic word and walking toward your present, and when you connect, all Heaven is going to break loose. (You are walking from the present into the future holding your prophetic word and God is in the future holding your prophetic word walking towards you in the present, and at some point, you meet, and you become your prophetic word.)

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When God gives you a time period, if He says ten years, He does not mean He is going to take ten years. What He means is it is going to be ten years if you drag your feet about it. He sits outside of time. He has a different view of it. He thinks like a thousand years is one day. So twenty years is about roughly 29 minutes or something. You are thinking ten years and He might be thinking a quarter of an hour.

Somewhere the relationship you have with Him actually enables you to redeem time. You have some prophetic words and some inheritance words that will enable you to take short cuts in time. That is why you need to be studying those things because you are present/future.

Sometimes I go into a place and I am a teacher. I step into that identity and whenever I am teaching it is always going to be relational. It is always going to be about the beauty of Jesus. It is always going to be about favor and fullness and you coming into a greater expression of who He is. You know that when you step into the identity, you know your assignment comes into really sharp, high definition. You understand what I am saying, right? Do you understand Beloved? Do you understand the importance here of what we are doing?

## THE REINVENTION OF AGLOW THRU KNOWING WHO WE ARE

We are reinventing Aglow. That is what we are doing. We are reinventing ourselves as a major ministry in the earth. We are going to the next level with our international identity, our worldwide identity. God is reinventing us. He is re-firing us. He is giving us a whole, different identity. We are growing up in the things of God. We are becoming a whole different force, a whole different army, a whole different people group. And that means that we have to shake up every single Lighthouse that exists.

What this weekend is about is, we are not only robbing you of any excuses, but we are also saying to you, you cannot go back and do business as usual. You are going back to explore your identity. We are going to have Lighthouse meetings where we are going to be sitting around and talking about each other's identity and what does that mean for us as a group in this particular area. How is our identity corporately going to change because we are all on this different journey? We are all learning who we are.

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Aglow is going to the next level with our international identity, our worldwide identity.

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Jesus wanted His disciples to know who He is, because when they know who He is, they get to learn how to walk with Him in that context. So when we come into our Lighthouses we need times where we sit down and we explore our identity as individuals, and we look at our prophetic words and we interact with each other. Why? Because anybody in that group needs to know who you are so they can relate to you according to that. Our relationships are going to change dramatically.

You as a group, therefore, cannot be the same if all of you individually are becoming different. The group dynamic is going to change. What you do in your meetings is going to change. How you interact with the world around you as a group is going to change. How you interface with the world is going to change. It is all going to change. Everything is changing. It is changing by degrees. Process is speeding up. We are being reinvented.

We are growing something here that is going to shake the world again. Only this time I think, no disrespect to those who got us going, but this move of God is going to outdo every move of God we have ever had as an organization. The next move of God is going to be so powerful, so incredible, so anointed.

We need to pay attention to our corporate prophetic words as an organization because we are a world beating, supernatural power and we are stepping up. We cannot have this dichotomy between this corporate identity, and individuals who are not making it. We need to restore that balance of power. Every one of us needs to take a step up into our identity. That is what is happening here. This is a catalytic weekend where we are all being faced up with how wonderful and how glorious we are going to be and the new partnerships that we can create now with the Lord. The new confessions we have about ourselves. We have ditched all of our excuses. The old man is dead, rest in peace.

We are a new man walking in newness of life and we are learning to live as first love people who have an identity in Jesus so profound that it is going to take us a lifetime to unpack. Everything is changing. Everything is changing.

## LET'S PRAY:

Do you know what is happening here? The Lord is looking at you with a big smile and saying, 'I finally have you in the place where I really want you.' And the Holy Spirit is running around like a 7' 2" black basketball player saying this is going to be fun. So super excited! Finally we are off and running. Finally I have all these people to introduce to their real identity.

So much revelation is pouring out of Heaven right now over this people group here and all of those who are listening on live stream; you are so not getting away with this. And people listening a year, two years down the line, listening to or watching this, you are about to be messed up by the Holy Spirit. You are about to be reinvented! You are being reinvented. You are being repositioned. You are being redefined.

So in the name of Jesus, I bind Clark Kent. I release Superman. Listen, you can't fumble and bumble your way through. You are a superhero ready to be revealed. If you are in Christ and one of His names is Wonderful, what does that make you? It makes you pretty special. It is time! It is time Beloved.

Let's stand up and assume the position.

The first thing that I want to say to you is that in the name of Jesus you are not tired! (Applause) You are not weary! You are not beaten down! That is a lie from the pit and I curse it in the name of Jesus, and I strip it away from you in Jesus Name. I declare to you, *as He is, so are you in this world. As He is, so are you in this world.* He does not grow weary. He is not faint. He is strong. He is passionate. So in the Name of Jesus, as you receive your new identity, you receive the strength and the passion and the power and the dignity that comes with it in the Name of Jesus. And I tell you, that you are not a nobody, you are a somebody in the Kingdom and as you learn who you are, and as you learn how Heaven sees you, your whole physiology is going to change. Your body shape is going to change. Your thinking is going to change. Your language is going to change. Your eyesight is going to get sharper and clearer.

Listen, I think that we are in days where if we embrace our real identity, then it will attach itself to us physically and who knows what might be possible because our identity affects everything that we are. So, Caleb had an identity, a man of a different spirit, and his testimony was, "I am eighty five years old, I feel as strong as I was when I first started out." Your identity affects your physicality. You need to expect to become physically stronger. Mentally more alert. You can even expect that your eyesight might get better. Your sense of smell might get better.

This is how you are known in Heaven; you can take it for a spin in every single direction. Hands up and repeat after me:

Father, thank You for my inheritance words. Thank You for my prophecies. Thank You for my promises. All of them are true. I receive them all in Jesus Name and I receive the resources that come attached to them and I will partner with You to become that person that You see when You look at me for Jesus sake. Amen.