

GOD loves involving and Preparing His children (My Feast sermon, 2022)



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All scriptures are unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *Preparing for the kingdom, God involves his children, pain and suffering, discipling others, Gathering, scattering.*

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Summary: *We all know how God used and involved the “Bible greats” like Noah, Abraham and Sarah and the prophets and apostles. But what about you and me? How is God involving US in his plans and getting US ready?” This teaching explores how God is involving and preparing you and me for the coming millennial reign of the Messiah.*

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How God is preparing us for the millennial kingdom. I gave this sermon at the Feast in 2022. It’s very similar but not identical.

When my children were young and small, I loved being with them and involving them in whatever we were doing that day. Whether it was packing up the car for a short trip to the swimming pool or learning how to cook an omelet or washing the car. They seemed to love being involved. You get the idea. (**Video has pictures** about what I’m saying on this page and beyond.)

However, they weren’t so eager to help me keep my **weeding** done... so my own Garden of Eden wouldn’t turn into my “**Garden of Weedin!**”

I even asked my son when he was about fifteen maybe, to check out why we were seeing more **wasps** around our deck. He peered under the deck, came out wide-eyed and told me I had to check it out! (See picture early in the video)

This involvement was not just teaching our children – but was preparing them for life. So as they got older, we could rely on them to cook meals, clean the house, paint their rooms or plant flowers. It’s

preparation for life. Of course they do pray together and learn how to do Bible study. Love those grandkids.

As Dad and mom, WE could have done the cooking or the carpentry - faster, better by ourselves, less hassle – but it was fun to watch our children learn. Now it's fun watching my daughters do the same with theirs.

GOD of course can do everything himself too – perfectly, instantly. But he likes involving you and preparing you for the coming millennial kingdom of God which I'll call the World Tomorrow. Of course He leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4) and forgives and washes away our sins and then speaks to us and empowers us by His Holy Spirit. But He likes us involved.

Let me be super clear: by saying God is involving “YOU” – I don't mean just the leading people in the Bible or in your church – like the deacons, deaconesses, song leaders, the choir and speakers. ***I mean YOU***. In this teaching *I'm not just talking about the prophets and apostles, or Abraham and Sarah or Noah and David. I mean you.*

GOD called and selected YOU for his specific purposes and He is involving you in what He does, so you will be prepared for His plans. Our calling is a high calling and God is not going to fail getting us ready. **There's no “oops” with God**. But many or most of us often feel very broken and worthless, as we realize we still fall down, sin and fail. But as I've said numerous times, God promises to finish what he started in us (Phil.1:6, etc.)

Even I, though I have this website and do these sermons, often wonder what use I could possibly be for the kingdom. I prepared this message as much for me as for you, as I sensed we're getting lulled into thinking we're just here to pray, pay and wait.

Father needs us to be prepared for the exciting assignments He has in mind for us. In the World Tomorrow we'll servant leaders with Christ. *Everything happening to you and me is part of God preparing us for service He has in mind for each of us. He will have us be ready.* Today I'll show how.

The Feast hearkens back to Israel dwelling in booths when they left Egypt (**Lev. 23:42-43**), awaiting the Promised Land. Our own temporary bodies were seen by Peter and Paul as “tents” as well – see 2 Peter 1:13-14 and 2 Cor. 5:1,4. Of course we also see the Feast/Sukkot pointing to the millennial reign of Christ on earth.

We'll be tasked with lifting the spirits of millions of demoralized, despairing humanity who have lost many or all their loved ones, and are severely traumatized by everything they've just been through. God needs you to understand what's happening to you is to prepare you for that crucial time.

The Millennium – the 1000-year rule of Christ after he returns – will NOT suddenly be a time of joy, peace, beauty, and righteousness. It will take many years to get there. Many won't even come to keep the feast for the first few years (**Zech 14:16-18**). You may not even be welcomed at first by your city.

So some exciting times are coming. I also think we'll be involved in an indescribable wedding in heaven. We'll see. I'm excited about it, that's for sure. **Read Rev 14:1-4** and see that the 144,000 are before God's throne.

We can easily see how God prepared and involved Noah and all the prophets and the women he worked with, but what about us? That's today's sermon. **God INVOLVED people from the very beginning.**

HOW GOD INVOLVED Adam

In Genesis 2, On Day 6 OF CREATION WEEK, after God made the animals on day six, then Adam was created in Eden, – then God **brought him into** the Garden of Eden. Then God taught him **about the 2 trees**. God then INVOLVED Adam in something else. Eve hadn't been created yet.

Genesis 2:19-20

“Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. **And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.**

20 So **Adam gave names** to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. *But for Adam there was not a helper comparable to him.*

V. 21-22 – Adam was put into a deep sleep, God took a part of his side, closed him back up, then God built a woman and brought her to the man.

v. 23-24 – this is more like it! Flesh of my flesh, she'll be called Ishah, woman.

God is so smart. He assigned the naming of the animals before he built and introduced Eve to Adam. God knew – that Adam was a MAN – and that Adam would get a lot more animals named without Eve there yet.

God just knew, once he presented Eve to Adam --this beautiful **young, naked woman** – he could forget about Adam naming animals! (ha)

YOUR PIECE IN THE PUZZLE or PART of the BODY is essential.

God has an overall plan, and he sees the whole picture, much like a giant jigsaw puzzle. You're very much a part of it. You and I are one piece in that huge, complicated puzzle. But without every piece in place, the picture won't come out perfectly. Every piece is important. You're an important piece – like one piece in a jigsaw.

Same thing with the “body of Christ”. The church is called His body. A body has many parts and is not a perfect body if the parts aren't doing their job or working smoothly together. You're such a part.

The BODY OF Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-19 NLT

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

13 Summary: We all are baptized into ONE body – by one spirit.

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

15 If the FOOT says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a HAND," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.”

That's talking about YOU! What's your name? **Put your own name in there.** You're needed – whether you are an eye or an armpit! Each one is needed as part of the very body of Jesus Christ, SON of GOD. You are needed.

If you wish to study how the Church is the “body of Christ”, study these verses. (1 Corinthians 12:27; Colossians 1:18; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 1:22-23) And remember we are baptized in the Messiah Yeshua (Romans 6:3) – or as most of you say, into Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16 Holman

“But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ.

16 From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love **BY the proper WORKING of EACH individual part.**”

God wants each of us very AWARE that YOU have a part. You may not be aware of HOW God is involving and preparing you, so ask GOD TO SHOW you and open your eyes to what he’s doing in you, so let’s get into some of those ways next.

What was the one BIG mistake Adam made that God does not want us to keep repeating? Remember ADAM was not deceived by Satan, but Eve was, so Adam is called the first human sinner (Romans 5:12, 19).

1 Timothy 2:13-14

“For Adam was formed first, then Eve. **14 And Adam was NOT deceived,** but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

Adam should have told the serpent to get out and should have called out to YHVH for help. But he did not. Are WE learning to call out to God for help when we’re being sorely tempted? Do we call for help? Do we pray as much as we should be?

1. God is working to get us to see we NEED HIM much sooner than we are acknowledging that need now. MUCH more prayer is needed, calling out frequently.

In preparing for the kingdom, we need to practice right now calling out to our Father and our Savior Jesus – frequently. When Satan is tempting you severely and you’re feeling weak-- call out. When you’re on the verge of losing your temper or falling into severe depression, call out! Let’s not repeat Adam’s failure (though we all have, and many times at that).

[Extra: At the Feast I illustrated it with a time when my oldest daughter Rachel, then only 4 or 5 years old, was trying to lift a bucket of water so she could water her new plants, but it was too heavy. It was only once she realized she could get more power and strength if she would just call out to Dad - me – and ask me if I could help her. I tried to explain that is the same way with God.

So WE can say, “Father, I can’t carry this burden or this trial. But I know YOU can, would you help me please? Jesus, I can’t defeat this temptation, but I know you can! Would you please come strongly into my life and help me?”]

So, let’s pray a lot more than we are. Have frequent contact. Have your formal prayers beside the bed – sure. But then add lots of prayers throughout the day.

My friend and **brother Paul G in Florida** – has MS so bad he can’t move anything below his neck. But boy how he prays for so many while he lies there.

Even when we ask for prayers for our own healing, God says - HEY, pray for others so YOU may be healed.” Pray for one another that YOU may be healed” James 5:16.

James 5:16

“Confess your trespasses to one another, **and pray for one another, that YOU may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**”

WE are now the holy temple of God’s presence. He lives in us by His spirit.
THINK of the power and spirit that’s so powerfully available to you and me!
Look at what Jesus said:

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

If we could learn to tap into that indescribable power—just imagine what the family of God could be doing and experiencing.

In fact, as temple of God’s presence, we are now the new covenant “House of Prayer” – what the temple was called (Isaiah 56:6-7). Do we pray so regularly that someone watching us would clearly say we are “God’s house of prayer”?

PRAY FOR OTHERS, perhaps even WAY MORE than you already do. Maybe there’s “nothing you can do” – but remember my **Paul G** story.

First of all, God really, really likes it when we seek him, call out to him, and talk to him – in prayer. (How I love hearing from my grandchildren). Hearing their voice and letting them hear mine. If we could, I’m sure we’d text God.

So pray every day. Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and all HIS righteousness. God won't just slide into first place in our lives. We have to PUT him there.

2. **It's not so much WHAT you're doing, but what your HEART and attitude tell God as you do what you do the LITTLE THINGS you can do. Don't despise little things you do.**

You may not be building an ARK or baptizing people – but God is looking at your heart as you do “little things” for others.

For example: Just helping someone find a seat at the Feast. You saw a problem and stepped up and did something and helped out. THAT is preparing you for a time in the Millennium, especially at the start of it, when people won't know where to turn or what to do. **So just because you're not fighting a Goliath or building an ark** does not mean God isn't preparing you! Do you see?

Luke 16:10

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

So you may not think you're doing anything *important*, but do what you can to help at the Feast and in LIFE – and do it faithfully – and THAT IS preparing you for serving and leading in the kingdom. Don't minimize it.

- Singing with the choir
- Asked to sing your first solo because you sing so beautifully
- **Helping people find seats.** YES, just even that – is preparing you for the millennial reign of Christ.
- **Taking 2 minutes to talk to teens and children**, making them feel they're part of the group. That one act could have longer term impact and consequences than you might have imagined possible.
- **Boxes of items** and “cheer me up” things that someone organized to be sent out to those who were home-bound. Without that lady, a couple dozen folks would have felt left out.
- **One man there, Robert Bates**, practically organized the whole feast for us. Without him, it would have been a very different feast.
- **Set up crew, information table, speakers and seminarists (takes oodles of time), ushers, some sites have security guards (we didn't), take-down crew. THESE PREPARE you for the millennium.**

3. Just DO IT. Don't think too highly of what you're doing. Jesus said don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing *(Matthew 6:3). Don't think about it. Just do it.

Matthew 25:31-46 – (post now) Read this on your own if you are not familiar with this. But the sheep (Brethren) who saw someone naked, hungry and poor -- and Yeshua said it was for HIM whom we were serving. *Those doing the acts weren't even aware they were serving*

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for **I was hungry** and you gave Me food; I was **thirsty** and you gave Me drink; I was a **stranger** and you took Me in; 36 I was **naked** and you clothed Me; I was **sick** and you visited Me; I was in **prison** and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see YOU hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

If you've ever helped especially in areas where believers are desperately *poor*, or ever visited someone in prison – you did it to Christ Himself. Get it?

And when we HURT anyone in the Body of Christ, it is Christ we are hurting.

Remember what Yeshua said to Paul on the road to Damascus. **It was all in Hebrew, Paul says in Acts 26:12-15 – and he asked, “Who ARE you, Lord?” – and “speaking in Hebrew, the Son of God said, “I am Yeshua, whom you are persecuting. WHY?”**

Saul was hurting brethren, and some died. Yeshua took all that personally. Don't hurt people. Period. And yes, I preach to myself too.

4. Speak strongly to God in loving concern for your nation. That means a lot to Him, and again, shows your heart.

Don't be a Jonah who gave the warning message – but not the message of repentance, hope and a bright future!

God sometimes is looking for the “Man in the breach”– *someone* to stand in the gap before him, to give him a reason not to do what he's about to do. He wants us involved! **But He says, He found no one.**

Ezekiel 22:30-31 CJB

“I sought for a man among them who could build a barricade or stand in the break to oppose me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it; BUT I FOUND NO ONE.

31 Therefore I am pouring out my fury on them.”

But who am I, and who are you, to stand in the breach? Notice God does NOT say “I looked for a ruler, a president, a judge, a prophet, an elder, a minister, a priest”. **NO, He says ‘SOMEONE. Is there not anyone? ANYONE?’**

Sometimes I think we get so involved in The Son of God returning with wrath, that *we don't feel like* standing in the breach. Here are some good examples of those who showed up, stood up, and said something to God.

God did see Abraham pray for SODOM in Genesis 18 if there were 10 righteous. Have you thought of it that way before? Would you have done so? Lot is never mentioned in Abraham's requests, though I'm sure he was thinking of him. Remember Abraham had also SAVED the people of Sodom in Gen 14. Would you have? I hope we would have! They will have a more tolerable time in the judgment (**Matthew 11:23-24**).

We all know how Moses stood in the breach for the whole nation of Israel after the gold calf sin (Exodus 32-34). But here's another.

After the rebellion of Korah, go back and read the last half of Numbers 16. The next day, thousands came to likely kill Moses and Aaron and so God commanded Moses and Aaron to move away so He could kill them all with a plague. But what did Moses and Aaron do? ***THEY RAN INTO the mob***, with prayers and incense – and GOD saw their love and stopped the plague.

Numbers 16:41-45

“On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Eternal.”

42 "Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Eternal appeared.

43 Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.

44 And the Eternal spoke to Moses, saying,

45 "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

And they fell on their faces.

And then what?

Numbers 16:46-49

So Moses said to Aaron, "**Take a censer** and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from YHVH. The plague has begun."

47 Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded and ran INTO the MIDST of the assembly; for already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people.

[now here comes their "standing in the breach"]

48 And he stood BETWEEN the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.

49 Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident."

Moses and Aaron put their own lives on the line. Look how POWERFUL it is to pray FOR your enemies, just as Jesus taught later – "Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Matthew 5:44). God stopped His plague.

How do YOU and I feel about our nation? I hope you're heart sick. Now read carefully where God puts his focus when terrible things start to happen all around us. God focuses on HIS OWN people!

2 Chronicles 7:14

"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from **THEIR wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."**

God wants his children involved. YOU have a place in his plan. When God starts pouring out pandemics, plagues, fire, drought, floods, hurricanes ... WHO's he looking to? He wants our prayers **AND OUR INVOLVEMENT.**

SOME of God's children are in **significant places** in society. IN cases like that, perhaps God has PUT you there, like ESTHER, for SUCH a time as this.

Esther 4:13-14

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 **For if you remain completely silent at this time**, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.

Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?"

Is there a way YOU and I are being prepared for "such a time as this" in our nation today?

So I hope this sermon today opens your heart, Wakes UP your heart, and LET GOD show you in the coming months and years what YOU can do to help these end times.

My point is: God wants ALL OF US involved. Not just the GREATS. We may have NO IDEA how things we do could have an impact down through the centuries! And remember, with Father and Jesus in us, the power we can tap into is limitless.

5. BE doing something to bring people TOGETHER. Do something. That's going to be so important as we get started in the Millennium: bringing people to Christ.

Jesus clearly said if we're not actively gathering – we are scattering.

Luke 11:23

"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters."

BRING believers together as best you can. Some of your ministers may not like that. Some of them even prohibit any interaction with other church groups. But **GATHER**, is what our King says to us. **VISIT** other groups. Let them know you understand God is present in many places.

WHO is the "church of GOD"? Anyone who's led by God's spirit (Romans 8:9, 14) is a child of God. And they are scattered right now in many different church groups.

This is why I love what Pastor David does – that he welcomes anyone who wants to worship here with us, and doesn't forbid anyone attending somewhere else if they wish.

Paul decried the “party spirits”; people who felt they were “of Paul, or Apollos, or Peter, etc. Or that you're of this group or that group. That's not of GOD! Read 1 Cor. 1:10-13.

So brothers and sisters, we must come together with other believers in Christ as Savior and God as our father. Help STOP the division.

Story of a “church” wedding (in video); the bride and groom were from two different Church of God groups. So it was interesting.

A lady asked me: “which church do you belong to”. My reply: “Church of God”. She said, “I know, I know, but which one?”

I replied, “There's only one church of God; there's just one body, only one church”. She then in frustration asked who our leader was. I replied “Jesus Christ”. And so on it went.

We are NOT OF this group or that group (1 Cor. 1:10-13) but of Christ. You were baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3), not into a corporate group. Christ, not the church pastor or leaders, died for you. You belong to HIM. And his body is scattered right now.

Bring everything you can to bring your family together. SO many seem to have children who will have nothing to do with their parents. Pray for them and do your best to help fulfill Malachi 4:5-6.

OPEN YOUR EYES and welcome people you don't recognize. Help them feel someone noticed. That will be a hallmark during the Millennium – leaders like you who are noticing, and doing something, welcoming people into God's family and rulership.

Become one who is inviting others to join in a lunch or activity together, especially at the Feast and especially if this is their first Feast they're going to. Do you ever feel like no one ever invites you? Call and invite, anyway. Believe it or not - don't forget the ministers.

I just have a tough time seeing how God is going to let Christ marry a BRIDE made up mostly of people who won't worship together, won't TALK with each other – and mostly don't like each other. YOU do YOUR

part to change that. TALK to all believers in Christ, and let differences in doctrine be something Christ fixes later.

6. DISCIPLE OTHERS. SPREAD GOD'S WORD, EVEN though you're not a minister. Be a WITNESS to Christ.

Many of us think the command of Yeshua/Jesus to disciple all nations, was just for the apostles (**Matthew 28:19-20**). But in practice, it was obeyed by everyday brethren in the early church. Remember Andrew invited Peter. Matthew invited his friends to a dinner to meet Christ. We can do the same.

For too long members of the Church of God basically were there to “Pray and pay” –and not much else. SO we got used to having nothing really to do except come to church and send in our tithes and let the ministers and televangelists cry aloud and spare not and give warning to the world. But witnessing? Discipling? We were told that wasn't our job. Wrong!

But look at the early church.

Read about **Stephen's martyrdom in Acts 7**. This was followed by great persecution against the believers.

It was DANGEROUS to say anything or to mention the name “Jesus” or “Yeshua the messiah”. It would have been safer for them to all leave but not mention “Jesus” (Yeshua) ever again. That time is certainly coming again! We could be thrown in prison or even killed because we believe in Jesus Christ.

How hard would persecution have to be for a **BELIEVER to have to leave town, leave your home, and move far away?** It's going to happen again, as we know, in fact **WORSE** than at any other time.

So what did the early church do? **Stephen had already been killed.**

Acts 8:1, 3-5

“Now Saul was consenting to his death.

At that **time a great persecution arose against the church** which was at Jerusalem; and **they were all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles.**

3 As for **Saul, he made havoc of the church**, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

4 **Therefore those who were SCATTERED went everywhere preaching the word.**”

These were regular church members preaching the word. The apostles did not leave Jerusalem, so this was not about them. stayed

You might think you could never “preach”. WE were told “not to cram God’s word down anyone’s throat”. *They didn’t just resign themselves that they couldn’t do anything unless God called those other people first (John 6:44). No, they, these members, the body parts of the body of Christ, preached the word, leaving the rest to God. It wasn’t ordained ministers doing it.*

Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord”.

But what were many of us told years ago? “Leave the preaching of the gospel to the ministers, to TV televangelists, to pastors. You might mess things up”

So we prayed and paid and waited for God to add members without our involvement.

Several years ago in Eastern Canada, I was assigned to pastor an area that had never seen any growth in 7 years. But after I explained Acts 8 and our calling to disciple others, it doubled in the next 3 years, and then doubled again. People started talking about what Yeshua/Jesus can do in one’s life. Sisters convicted their sisters of the truth of God’s word. Men coming alone started inviting their wife and family to come – and they did.

So please don’t think you have no PART in this end time work of God going on. BE OPEN about Christ. I found myself on a flight back from New Orleans to Portland, OR sitting beside a man I used to send my business to, and he was delighted. The seating arrangements had not been planned. He said, “Now I can ask you why you don’t come to our Saturday business meetings or Christmas parties”.

So for several hours on the long flight back, using his Bible, we discussed the seventh day sabbath mostly and God used that time to convict and call him into this understanding. It can happen for you too. Since then, Mike and his wife Sandy have been used by God to bring in over 80 more people into a strong sabbath-keeping relationship with their Messiah.

7. **BELIEVE that ALL things God is permitting in your life, including great pain and “bad times” you’ve been through, will work out for the good and help PREPARE you to be GREAT royal priest in the kingdom. PAIN AND SUFFERING is part of perfection.**

You’re surely familiar with Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28

“And we know that **ALL things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

WE have to believe that everything can be used by God. So we thank Him IN ALL things and FOR all things, all the time, committing all aspects of our lives for HIM to work out (**Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 5:20**).

WHY does God allow you to go thru so many hard times and pain and death and suffering? So that people now, and in the World Tomorrow, will know you understand. This also gives us time and opportunity to practice sharing Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, **that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**”

You may agonize over weaknesses - even sins – you struggle with and wonder why it’s so hard to overcome this or that. **A heavy person** understands the challenges of losing weight, where very skinny people who’ve never had an oz of fat on them, can’t. Your **alcoholism, your sexual weaknesses and sins, your depression, your family disconnections** – God will USE even those things to present people in the world tomorrow with spirit children of God who can understand them.

Besides being able to share empathy with others, Father is also using pain and suffering to PERFECT/Complete us. I have 2-part sermons on it. Look up “Perfection” in the Search bar. This is also what he did to and for Christ, to complete him as a high priest who TRULY understands HUMAN pain, suffering, fatigue, hunger, rejection.

Hebrews 2:10

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through SUFFERINGS.**”

WE are also being perfected by the things we have suffered.

1 Peter 5:10

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **AFTER you have suffered a while, perfect**, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”

Going through pain and suffering is completing and perfecting you – just as it did the CAPTAIN of our salvation.

Pain is so we can EMPATHIZE and understand others – but PAIN IS ALSO HELPING complete us, to perfect us in Christ, as it tends to drive us to prayer! I have to add this passage too about Paul's thorn in the flesh. We used this passage probably in five of the sermons at the Feast.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of CHRIST may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take PLEASURE in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake.

For when I am weak, then I am strong."

SO your painful times are times God is also preparing you for the time to come, for the World Tomorrow. If you've lost a child as we have, PLUS 2 miscarriages, plus the death of a sister and our parents... and our own HEALTH ISSUES—you can help others! If you've had painful and discouraging health issues, God can use that too. Nothing's wasted.

When confessed and repented of to God, God can even use our awful SINS to his glory. Amazing, huh?

David and Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. What happened? SURE, David had to suffer the death of that son, internal family divisions, a civil war, and more. But what else? **The very line of the Messiah Jesus Christ came from this horrible series of sins (Matthew 1:6).** Who would have ever predicted that while all that mess was happening?

So if you've really messed up in sin, repent – get God's help – and ask him to include even your mess ups in "All things work together for good..." – and he will! You have NOT disqualified yourself from being used in God's kingdom. **I find it interesting to read the faith chapter, Hebrews 11, and see that God leaves OUT any negative information, any sins**, of those listed in this Hall of Faith. Abraham's lies about Sarah, her laughter at the notion of her being able to have a son in her old age, David's sin of murdering Uriah, Samson's many failures, etc. etc., -- are all LEFT OUT.

But these things happened. God will use even those times to work out his plan. He's just amazing. Realize I'm not minimizing any sin, OK?

WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE

When it's all said and done, **Rev 14:1-4 speaks of 114,000 of God's children** standing before the throne of God, which we know is on the Sea of Glass (**Rev. 4:6; 15:2**) Again, he wants us involved. I'm sure we'll be bowing down, as the twenty-four elders and others are, and then we might hear our loving **Father say, "Children... would you sing for me?"**

Yes, Abba, we will. And together we sing in perfect pitch and harmony and sound the song only we can learn! Those of you who have always wished you could sing, will be able to. **Revelation 15:1-5 says something similar**. I can't wait for that day. Those who have the victory over the Beast power – will SING on the sea of Glass (v. 2-3) before the very throne of God IN HEAVEN.

The lame in this life will leap like released calves that have been penned up for too long. The deaf will hear beautiful sounds they've never heard before. The mute will speak of God's love! Bring it, dear Yeshua, bring it.

And who are those invited to be involved with Jesus Christ when he returns? Rev 17:14 says it's those who are the called, chosen and faithful.

Revelation 17:14

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings;
and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

We'll shine like the sun in full strength, looking much like the glory of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NAS Updated

"But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit**".

This could happen in the lifetimes still of some of us here! Let it be real.

I believe God our Father will totally enjoy watching the expressions on all our faces, with a lot of fatherly joy. He's getting you involved. He wants you and me included. Let's get more involved and let him work in us – as we pray for others, as we speak the word to all we can, and as we prepare to help set up the Millennial rule of Yeshua the Messiah.

Praise be to father and our Savior Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:48-49

“As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of **dust, we SHALL also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**”

Imagine what could be happening If you and I – God's people, called by HIS name – church of God – if we would all be praying for him to work in each of us, and surrender to his will, and each of us do his/her part as God shows us - - and let all things be to his glory.

Yes, we are being prepared, involved and included by God, to be effective servants of God, children of the highest, for all eternity!

- He wants us learning NOW what was the cause of Adam's failure: NOT calling out to God for help and understanding.
- We may not be building an ark or killing a giant, but God is watching to see if our hearts and attitudes are right, as we're faithful to Him even in little things in our lives we might consider trivial or petty.
- **Do your assignments from God without thinking of yourself and how good you are.** We should be surprised (like the sheep of Matt 25) to find out things that Jesus saw as being done to him.
- Stand in the Breach for our country, sinful as it is. Love our nation and pray for it. Start by you and me repenting of our own sins first. Be a Moses and Aaron, an Abraham, an Esther.
- **Be bringing God's people and even others together.**
- **Disciple and introduce as many as you can to God and Jesus Christ.** If we're not gathering, we're scattering.
- **Realize even our painful times** are perfecting and completing us.

Come Lord Jesus, come.