

A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

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A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

Many people have had a lot of questions about the Baptism of Fire and I have been earnestly seeking the Lord for more answers. Here, I am presenting to you a series of three revelations that the Lord has given me over the past few months that give us greater insight into the Baptism of Fire. The Baptism of Fire is one of three steps on the pathway to sonship that brings our soul to perfection. These three steps are: Step 2 – the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Step 3 – the Baptism of Fire; and Step 4 – the Baptism of Union. These revelations about the Baptism of Fire clear up a number of misconceptions regarding that baptism and teach us how to better prepare for it, so that when the burning process begins in us, it can accomplish the greatest possible amount of work.

In September of last year, I began the fall semester speaking about the Baptism of Fire and how that was the goal that we were seeking that would take us into a new level of relationship with the Lord. I said that I would have more to say about this later in the semester, but as we got closer to the end of last year and the Baptism of Fire was still not in sight, I became confused about the timing of when that was to begin. In that confusion, I felt unable to say anything more about the Baptism of Fire. However, the Lord had begun to do something new in me beginning

on October 6, the day after Yom Kippur. He began to talk to me about coming into a new kind of relationship with Him. He told me He wanted to become my **life coach** so that He could dialogue with me each day and lead me into a deeper place in Him. I came to understand that that place was level 3 on the path of presence, which is living in His person. For those of you who have not yet been through the Volume 3 book, we learn about the five levels on the path of presence in the spring semester which starts on February 7.

REVELATION 1: The Three Phases of the Baptism of Fire Process – On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, I received from the Lord the first major revelation of a new understanding about the coming Baptism of Fire. What He explained gives us an entirely new understanding of what we are looking for and how we should pursue it. He relayed to me that the Baptism of Fire is a short-term event for the Church, but it is a long-term, three-phase process for the remnant that is pursuing the path to perfection and transfiguration. So we need to understand that the Baptism of Fire is different for the remnant as compared to the larger body of Christ – the experience is different, its duration is different, and its purpose is different. A personal Baptism of Fire is now available for those that are pressing in to engaging God at a deeper level.

The Lord gave me what amounts to a major revision of our understanding of the pathway to sonship. We have been waiting for the corporate Baptism of Fire or some major move of God to come and change us. That is not what we should be doing. The **corporate** Baptism of Fire is primarily for the Church to help people separate themselves from the major sins in their lives and draw them closer to God. The corporate Baptism of Fire will be a short-term event and then it will be gone. That is not what we should be seeking because it will not get us where we need to go. We desperately need the Baptism of Fire but one that will do more than the corporate baptism. We need a much longer **personal** Baptism of Fire. In that light it becomes clear that the timing of the corporate Baptism of Fire is not particularly relevant to our pursuit of the pathway to perfection, transfiguration and oneness with God. Let us be clear. Our goal is oneness with God – we in Him and He in us. That was the vision Jesus gave us throughout His discourse at the Last Supper.¹ Becoming one with God is a process that we initiate through a single-minded pursuit of attaining deeper and deeper levels of intimacy with him. When we do that, He responds and brings us closer to our goal.

For the sons of God in training, the Baptism of Fire is a three-phase process that will take several years. That process is not dependent on when the corporate Baptism of Fire falls. Whenever we individually get to the place where we are ready to receive it, the burning phase of the Baptism of Fire will begin in us. That is good news because it means if the corporate Baptism of Fire is delayed for another year or so, we will not have to wait for that for our Baptism of Fire to begin. In addition, if the corporate Baptism of Fire comes before we are ready to fully receive it, it means we will not have missed it. We can still experience an extended burning process individually when we get to that place in God. The corporate Baptism of Fire, when it comes, is a good thing and it will move everyone in the Church forward into a deeper place with God,

¹ *“Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you ... Abide in Me, and I in you... I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us”* (John 14:19-20; 15:4; 17:20 NKJV)

including us. But if its work is not completed in us by the time the corporate experience ends, we can still individually pursue it to its completion.

The **first phase** of the Baptism of Fire is the **preparatory phase** which teaches us how to live in the glory of God. The **glory** is a level of God's presence that makes it difficult for us to function. When we learn to live in God's sweet presence for the greater part of our day, it begins to affect a slow process of change in us. When we learn to live continually in the glory which is far more intense, that process of change accelerates significantly. We need to learn to dwell in that glory before the Baptism of Fire begins for us to gain the capacity to tolerate that baptism in its fullness. Living in the glory stretches our capacity to live and function in greater and greater levels of glory. Without that training we will not be prepared to receive the necessary intensity of the Baptism of Fire at the level which will complete the process sufficiently to give us full access to Heaven. Instead, we will instinctively resist it because it will be too overwhelming for us. Remember the leading forerunners in the Kingdom stream were given full access to Heaven as a gift. That was just for the few to show us the path. For us, full access is dependent on how much we have died to self and how much we have become like the Lord. Full access means that our access to Heaven is continual, and Heaven is as real to us as the material world. That is when we will be able to be in both places at once as Jesus was. *"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven"* (John 3:13 NKJV). In this passage Jesus is saying, I am here talking with you but I am also in Heaven at the same time.

The preparatory phase ends when the burning begins. The burning is the **second phase** of the Baptism of Fire process. That is when we begin to feel the fire inside of us. This burning will feel like we are on fire on the inside rather than on the outside. Jeremiah described it as a burning in the bones (Jer 20:9). Neville Johnson described it as an internal burning that is continuous. He could not stop it or control it in any way. In Mike Parsons experience, he felt that intense burning for 19 days, but only at night. What the fire is burning is the enemy's strongholds within us. These are things like our defense mechanisms, as explained below. These are the things that keep us from being the people God created us to be. The second phase, the phase of accelerated cleansing through fire, ends when we gain full access to Heaven.

When the second phase ends, the third phase begins. The **third phase** is working with the Lord and other heavenly beings assigned to us to accomplish the work of cleansing our generational line. It is the unrepented sins and unforgiven hurts of our ancestors that are recorded in our DNA which create propensities in us to sin and to experience the same kinds of hurts and traumas that our ancestors did. This is especially true for those generational sins and hurts that were given new life and power by someone in our generational line 3-4 generations back as declared repeatedly in the Pentateuch. We read, God *"does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation"* (Ex 34:7; Nu 14:8; Deut 5:9 NIV).

Every unrepented sin and unforgiven hurt since the fall of man must be redeemed and that is why God allows these ancestral sins and hurts to create problems in people's descendants lives so they will be repeated down the generations until the repentance and forgiveness work is fully accomplished. When it is fully done by someone, it will not only free them from the influence of

those sins and hurts but also their descendants. However, this work cannot be completed until we are equipped to do it in the third phase of the Baptism of Fire on the other side of the burning.

When that work is fully done, we will receive the Step 4 Baptism of Union. Jesus received that when He was baptized by John in the Jordan River and the Holy Spirit descended on Him and **remained**. Father then declared from Heaven, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* (Matt 3:17 NKJV). We read in John’s gospel that shortly after that baptism, Jesus declared His freedom from the pressure and temptations of the sins and hurts He inherited from Mary’s generational line by declaring at the wedding supper at Cana, *“Woman, what have I to do with thee?”* (John 2:4 KJV). Jesus was not being disrespectful, but rather stating the fulfillment of His shift in lineage – from a son of Mary to a perfected son of God, free from the temptations and struggles of mortal man. Jesus was *“tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin”* (Heb 4:15 NIV).

In our ascensions with John Graham, we are putting together the heavenly team we will need to help us do that work in Heaven. That work will bring us to perfection and qualify us to receive the Baptism of Union. The good news is that we can begin to participate in the Baptism of Fire process now and are not dependent on waiting until the corporate phenomena happens. We initiate the first and the third phases of the Baptism of Fire process. We do that by pressing in to live in a deeper level of intimacy with the Lord.

The five steps on the pathway to sonship from salvation to transfiguration tell us what must happen on our journey back into the heart of God. **The five levels of intimacy on the path of presence are the motor which make it happen.** The five levels are: living in His presence, living in His glory, living in His person, living in His life and living in His transcendence. When we learn to live in the Lord’s presence for the greater part of our day, at some point, we will spontaneously taste of experiencing living in His glory. Then we pursue turning those occasional level 2 experiences into continual ones. When we learn to live in His glory for the greater parts of our day, we will at some point spontaneously taste of living in His person. Then we pursue turning those occasional level 3 experiences into continual ones, and so on. Learning to live in the Lord’s person is the motor that drives the three phases of the Baptism of Fire process. Learning to live in the Lord’s life is the motor that drives the three phases of the Baptism of Union process. We should also note how intimately the Baptism of Fire process and the Baptism of Union process are related to each other. Phase three of the Baptism of Fire process **is** the preparatory phase one of the Baptism of Union process.

The Lord told me about a year ago that living in His glory does three important things for us.

- 1) It is our canopy of protection from the enemy’s attacks;
- 2) It is the path to hearing increasingly clearly from the Lord and receiving more and more revelation, e.g., it is what makes it possible for Jesus (or Holy Spirit) to become our life coach; and
- 3) It is the path to the transformation of our soul.

I had been working on learning to stay continually in God glory beginning in 2020 with mixed results. In 2022, I pursued God’s glory with greater intent and for six or eight months I struggled to stay in God’s glory throughout my day. When I was able to stay in God’s glory, every aspect

of my day went better. But I found I could not sustain it continually. On some days, something would happen that would upset me, get me off track, confuse me or I would fall victim to some enemy trap. I kept pursuing, but ultimately realized my best effort could not make it happen. Only God could make it happen. Then in the fall of 2022, God turned up the glory. It was not because of anything new that I did, except perhaps to fully yield and recognize my powerlessness to get there in my own strength. Now as soon as I engage the Lord every morning, that level of glory is there, and it stays with me so long as I consciously stay connected with the Lord. That level of glory makes it possible to maintain a constant awareness of His presence. It is simply too strong to miss. That is a very helpful aid in enabling us to stay constantly connected to and in dialogue with the Lord.

I can unequivocally state that living in the greater glory makes a big difference in every aspect of one's life. Presently the Lord is asking me to begin my day soaking in the greater glory for at least one hour.² That is what He means by the term nesting. Nesting is just soaking in the greater glory and loving Him, talking to Him or just basking in the glory, doing nothing or doing something with Him. He tells me that it is strengthening the bonds between us and is changing me into His image. It is also preparing me to receive the burning phase of the Baptism of Fire. As I understand it, if I continue to do this, eventually, the burning will begin. The burning is a time of accelerated change when we will initially not be able to do much of anything but just receive.

As of this writing, week by week the level of the glory I am walking in is getting stronger and its duration through my day is getting longer. However, I still have further to go. I have not arrived. I cannot yet stay continually nested in God glory. I am still subject to ups and downs. Some days still do not end well. But each day, I start out in a very good place in the Lord nested in His glory and when I can maintain the through my entire day everything goes better. As the intensity of the glory increases, that gets easier to do.

REVELATION 2: The Burning Has Begun – At the beginning of this year, the Lord used a Baptism of Fire experience He gave to Hayley Braun to unpack two other major revelations surrounding this baptism. Hayley Braun is a prophet, teacher and senior overseer for Bill Johnson's Bethel School of Ministry in Redding, California. On January 6, the Lord led me to watch her interview on the Sid Roth show and on the following day, He began to explain this second major revelation.³ First, Hayley's experience.

Haley explains that despite being in ministry for nearly ten years and serving in the Bethel school, she was tormented by the fear of man. Before she spoke, when she spoke and after she spoke, she was gripped with this fear. Moreover, it seemed to be getting worse rather than better despite all her prayers. As a result, her body became fatigued and burned out and she became subject all kinds of illnesses including shingles and mononucleosis which further drained her energy and her spirits. One day when she was attending a large Bethel meeting, the speaker called her up to the stage and said, "Are you willing to say things that would offend people if

² How that is done and what that looks like is explained in our Volume 3 Mysteries book, *The Mysteries of Creation and the Destiny of Mankind*

³ See the archived extended version of Hayley's experience on Sid Roth's November 6, 2022, It's Supernatural show @ sidroth.org.

God is saying them?” She knew in her heart that she would want to but would not be able to. Then the speaker said, “There is a rumble inside of you that has to be released and the fear of man has to die.” Haley fell out in the spirit and while she was on the floor the Lord said to her, “Haley, I am going to need your shield, your shield of the fear of man.” She asked the Lord that if she gave him her shield would He shield her. He responded, “Haley, I will be your shield.”

The change did not happen at that moment, but she knew that something had changed. She had received a seed and if she watered that seed, she believed something could happen. For three months she prayed, “Lord, I give you my shield. I exchange my shield for your shield.” Then one day in the midst of a large meeting, a picture flashed before her eyes and she saw herself aggressively begin to lay hands on the students, grabbing them by their faces and praying for them. Up to that point, that was something that her fear of man would not have allowed her to do. But she felt almost compelled to do it. The moment she grabbed the first student and started praying for him, the power of God hit her body. She said that it felt like a thousand bolts of electricity started flowing through her body and that same power shot through her hands and started touching people in power and they began to fall out. She lost all sense of where she was and after about three hours, she came to and found that she had sweat through her clothing because of the fire that was burning in her. She had to be carried out of the room and driven home and for the following six weeks that fire was burning within her. She says that it would ebb and flow during that period, but even when she could not feel the burning she could always feel the vibration of the Holy Spirit in her blood. The wonderful thing was that her fear of man was completely gone.

Viewing that video left me confused. What was that? Was that the Baptism of Fire that we have been waiting for? Was the Lord already beginning to release the fire to restore some people’s souls? My confusion was that I had still believed that the timing of the Baptism of Fire for the remnant would be the same as the timing of the corporate Baptism of Fire. I had believed that the fire would come for everyone at the same time. So the next morning, I went to the Lord with these questions. Here is what He said.

There will be many expressions of the fire. People will hear of the fire before they experience the fire. The fire is coming. And it is coming first here and there, to this person and that person. I want My Church to know the fire is coming and that some people are experiencing it already. I want My Church to know what the burning is like and what it does so that some will chase after it. Hayley experienced a mild form of it. What it showed was the connection between the fire and the healing of a major enemy stronghold in her life that had tormented her for years. You will hear of more early experiences, and they will become progressively stronger and more life transforming. I want people to see the connection between the fire and being freed from enemy strongholds in their lives so that when the fire comes, people will seek after it with the intent to yield to My transforming work in them. The fire is coming. Contend for it. Press into me with a yielded heart that is longing and crying out for the fire. Be like the widow before the unjust judge who night and day demanded that he address her case until he could deny her no longer.

There is a great advantage to pressing in and receiving the Baptism of Fire prior to the corporate phenomenon. It is now available for the hungry, for those that cannot wait for the corporate phenomenon, for those that desire oneness and are willing to do the hard work to come to perfection. To qualify to be part of the remnant, you cannot be sitting back and waiting for the corporate Baptism of Fire to overtake and overwhelm you. You must go after it. You must seek the fire. You must long to be immersed in it and to burn in My cleansing fires. You must long to throw off all the inherited patterns that are separating you from Me and keeping you from daily living in My person. The remnant are those that do not wait for Me to move, those whose hearts long for more of Me and are not content to wait.

Jesus' parables tell us the kind of hunger and commitment He is looking for. That is what opens the door to our full access to the Kingdom of Heaven.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it (Matt 13:44-45 NKJV).

Jesus went on to say:

I am looking for those whose longing for more of Me cannot be quenched until they stand in My presence. I am looking for those who will embrace the fire and commit to work with Me in the fire to maximize what it can accomplish. The fire is not to be tolerated but embraced and mobilized to burn out negative patterns. The fire represents an opportunity to lay beliefs, patterns and enemy strongholds on the altar of sacrifice so they can be extinguished. The fire can do some of this work without a person's conscious involvement. But to come to perfection a much deeper work is necessary and requires your active participation in the cleansing process.

The Human Condition – To understand why the burning is essential, we must understand the human condition. We are born into this world knowing nothing. As our body is growing and as our brain is developing, our physical senses begin to come online. From scratch we have to learn to use our developing physical senses to begin to engage the world before we even learn to crawl and walk. These are difficult lessons and throughout early childhood babies and toddlers cry a lot because they are frequently frustrated with their inability to do things to satisfy their physical and emotional needs – the needs to feel secure, loved and valued for who they are. Children learn early in life that their parents are not always reliable sources of comfort and that they have to learn to depend on themselves to cope with life's difficulties. Before they learned that there is a God that they can turn to for help, they find themselves in situations where they have to come up with solutions to deal with the pain and upset of their emotional problems. So they set in place patterns and behaviors to protect themselves from emotional pain. These solutions are the enemy's suggestions and they teach children from an early age to depend on "self."

As children progress beyond the toddler stage their problems get worse. Inevitably, embarrassing, shameful, painful, fearful or traumatic things happens to them from time to time.

Young children are very egocentric in the way they view and interpret their world. When something bad happens to them, they tend to believe that it is because of them, something they did or said. When children interpret hurtful or traumatic events through their egocentric screens, they come up with explanatory beliefs such as that bad thing happened because I am bad, dirty, shameful, stupid, worthless or defective. Again these are the enemy's suggestions. These lies we believe about ourselves as children become implanted in our subconscious minds and stay with us as suppressed sources of emotional pain. As adults, when someone says or does something that subconsciously feels something like a traumatic childhood memory, all the pain locked in that memory comes forward **without the memory**. Once again we are feeling all the pain that five-year old felt in one or more traumatic memories. Because only the pain came forward without the memory, it feels like the person standing in front of us, whose word or action triggered us, is the cause of all the negative emotions we are suddenly immersed in. This is a key source of many relationship problems, especially with our loved ones that we are closest to.

To prevent having to feel the pain locked in unsolved memories, children try to figure out a way to protect themselves from ever having to suffer from that pain or humiliation again. This approach serves their immediate survival needs well, but over time becomes an increasing problem. Over time their defense mechanisms tend to work less well and the pain leaks through. As adults, our childhood coping strategies have become our subconscious reactions and so when we are triggered, we tend to apply them in more exaggerated forms, resulting in self-defeating behaviors.

Our problem is that subconsciously we believe we must cling to our defense mechanisms to feel secure. When we are triggered, our left brain shuts down and we run tapes, we do what is prescribed for us in our established defense mechanisms. To lay those protective patterns down is a great challenge because it makes us feel defenseless and out of control. This was the struggle Haley faced. Haley Braun was given the choice, the choice to stay with the shield she had created to protect herself from emotional pain (and which obvious was not working) or to give that shield to God and exchange it for His shield. That is the choice we have to make in every area of our lives, exchanging our shield for His shield. That is one of the major core problems that we face. We have held on to our coping mechanisms because they make us feel secure. That is a lie that just keeps us in bondage.

As children we did not have a choice. We had to find ways to protect ourselves as best we could. As adults however, we do have a choice and God would like us to learn to depend on Him rather than ourselves in every situation. As I was recently dealing with a problem area of my own life, I brought it to Jesus and this is what He said.

Remember that your shield, your defense mechanism for dealing with this problem or any problem is always the enemy's solution. It never leads to freedom but rather draws you downward into deeper and deeper levels of bondage to him, to fear, to whatever. Your shield will always fail you. It is actually not a shield. It is a chain that binds you and keeps you under the enemy's power. So what you need to see is that far from protecting you, your shield is destroying you. I need you to be willing to relinquish your shield in this area and give it to Me in exchange for My shield.

*You have seen that My shield works and places you under the canopy of My glory. In that place, the enemy cannot touch you. So be encouraged. I have heard the cry of your heart and I have heard your commitment to let your shield down and exchange it for My shield. So now you must no longer embrace your shield, but you should cast it away from you because it is a poison for your soul. When you see your defense mechanisms in any given area for what they are, you will see that they are not protecting you but rather are binding you and holding you prisoner to the enemy. **The goal is to stand naked before me bereft of all the defense mechanisms which you have clothed yourself with.** This is the path to dying to self. This is the Baptism of Fire process. Welcome to your future.*

The good news is that for some in the remnant, the Baptism of Fire has already begun. A number of us have already begun the preparation phase and some have already experienced the fire. The fire is now available for those who are pursuing a deeper relationship with the Lord. The burning is available to those who have made themselves ready. How do we do that? How do we make ourselves ready?

REVELATION 3: The Oil Must Come First – The Lord used a second experience Haley Braun had to unfold this third revelation to me. She reported:

*I had a throne room encounter with the Lord in the middle of the San Francisco airport. I saw these golden bowls filled with oil, and they were tipping and pouring out. And the Lord said to me, “Haley, many are crying out for fire, but I want to send the oil.” And I said, “Lord, why oil? We want the fire.” And the Lord said, “Because I want to sustain the fire. There's a third great awakening coming, and I want to pour out My oil on the bride. **I want to prepare the bride for a sustainable fire.** I'm not looking for a moment of My glory to shine, but I want a move of My glory across the globe.”⁴*

Hayley said that the oil is the Holy Spirit. I believe it is more accurate to say that the oil is the glory. What the Lord is saying here is actually quite profound. The glory of God is what has always ignited the revivals of the past. Up till now, the problem has been that the glory comes upon some people and anoints them and they begin to move in signs and wonders. However, the glory does not find a sustainable place in their hearts because of all the enemy's strongholds in their souls. Those areas of woundedness and self-seeking give the enemy openings which ultimately contaminate the leadership's motives and quench the glory.

For the coming move of God to be sustained, the glory has to find an abiding place in a body of people. The glory is what makes us like God and keeps us aligned with His plans and purposes. The glory accomplishes in people over a long time what the fire achieves more quickly. Hayley's brief encounter with the fire changed her thinking in important ways. She said, “In my ministry, I had always been praying for God to fill the room, when what He really wanted to do was to fill me.”⁵ **To sustain the coming move of God, we must become a habitation for the oil so that the oil is renewed in us daily and cannot be perverted by the enemy's ungodly strains.**

⁴ From the transcript of Hayley Braun's interview on Sid Roth's November 6, 2022, It's Supernatural show.

⁵ From the extended version which includes Hayley's teaching on Sid Roth's November 6, 2022, It's Supernatural show, sidroth.org.

The Composition of the Oil – The Lord told me that He is looking for a certain blend of oil that contains five different ingredients. If we will set our intent to pursue these five strains of His oil, He will aid us in our endeavor because our will be aligned with His will for us. Here are the five ingredients:

1. **A New Wineskin** – For the glory to be contained in our hearts, we have to acquire a new wineskin. We must acquire a new Kingdom Age framework of understanding, a new paradigm that explains the new things that God is doing and where He wants to take us. We cannot contain God's glory if none of this makes sense to us. We have to have a clear understanding of the pathway to sonship so that we can pursue it with faith and an undivided heart and confidence that it will work and bring us to perfection, transfiguration and oneness with God.
2. **Intimacy** – We cannot move forward without continually pursuing encounters with God. It is not enough to know about God and to believe in His laws and principles. We must set aside time daily to engage Him in dialogue. We must work towards staying continually nested in Him and bathed in His glory. Intimacy is built through frequent expressions of love and thanksgiving. That is true for our spouses and loved ones and that is true for God. We must continually proclaim not only our love for God, but also our appreciation and thanks for all that He does for us. Frequent expressions of appreciation to our loved ones and to God strengthen the love bonds between us. When we do that, it closes the circuit and keeps the flow of the glory going. If we neglect the feedback loop, the flow will cease. When we feel God's love and presence at whatever level, we must return our love to Him.
3. **Unquenchable Hunger** – The Lord gives us the desires of our heart, so we must be very careful what those desires are. Going after the things the world has to offer will always disappoint us. We must get beyond *“the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”* (1 John 2:16 NKJV). Jesus counsels us to *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”* (Matt 6:33 NKJV). We have to get our priorities in order. We have to become God chasers. However, hungering and thirsting after the things of God is not something we can create or gin up through emotionalism. It is a byproduct of our intimate relationship with Him. It is the fruit of having been touched by His glory. Experiencing His glory ruins us for anything else.
4. **Yielding our Control in Humility and Obedience** – God is looking for yielded vessels. He is not seeking to control us. He wants us to willingly offer ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice. God is not looking for great leaders or perfect people. Greatness and perfection are not in us. They are in God. God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called so that in our weakness His power may be displayed. The problem the Lord has had during the Church Age is that those He anointed with power gifts have tended to believe that they received God's anointing among all their peers because of something special that was in them. Many then became prideful and begin to use their gifts to elevate themselves in the eyes of men. God says, *“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else”* (Isa 42:8 NLT). God is unwilling to share his glory with us, not because He wants to keep it to Himself, but for our own good. Any attempt to use God's glory to elevate oneself magnifies

“self” and separates us from God. The only way we can share in God’s glory is by becoming one with Him. Jesus told me:

The oil is what keeps people connected with Me, soaking in My glory. That is what prevents “self” from rising up and using the new powers they are walking in to build up and glorify self. That is what has brought down every revival in the past. That is why the oil must come first and that is why the preparatory phase of the Baptism of Fire process is essential. In the preparatory phase, you are learning obedience. You are learning to yield your will, your desires, your plans and substitute for them what I am telling you to do. That is why I have to become your life coach. I am the one you must turn to each morning as you are planning out your day. You are to consult Me regarding not only what you do but how you do it. Everything must be done in love. The fire has always gone out in previous revivals because ultimately people began to use the power of the anointing to glorify the self or satisfy their self-seeking desires in some way. So the oil must come first. The oil is the preparation. The oil is what will ensure that the fire does not go out.

The goal of the pathway to sonship is oneness with God. To become one with God, we have to give the control of every aspect of our lives to Him. That requires us to be so close, so intimate with God that we trust in Him completely. We understand that whatever He is asking us to do is always absolutely the best thing we can do for ourselves. What we must learn to do is to shift our dependency from self to God. This is actually very difficult to do even when we are earnestly trying. Our fears and defense mechanisms keep us locked into depending on self. We give our control to the Lord in a particular area of our life, but we often hold back 20 to 30% of that control without realizing it because our patterns for dealing with certain problems have become so habituated that we do not even recognize how we are maintaining a measure of control. So it is a step-by-step learning process on our part that we can only pursue by daily staying in dialogue with God. We win small victories and that gives us faith to pursue greater victories.

5. **Glory Strength** – The second through the fourth of these five ingredients – intimacy, hunger, and yielding control – are attributes that Christians have sought since the time of the early Church. The problem is because of mankind’s fallen condition, few people have been able achieve those standards. The Lord told me, *“If you set your intent to pursue these five things, you are aligning your will with Mine and My glory will transform you into My image.”* If the glory is what transforms us and will prepare us to receive the much greater transforming power of the fire, how do we learn to cultivate the glory? How do we learn to abide continually in it? How do we nest in it?

What we are learning is that nesting in God’s glory has a similar effect as the bonding process between mothers and their infants. Infants are born into this world without knowing the emotions of love, joy and peace. They learn to experience those emotional states by exchanging joy smiles with their mothers and by feeling their mother’s love when they are cuddled. As Dr. James Wilder explains a mother’s brain and emotional connection to her child are so powerful for an infant that the mother’s brain is downloaded into his or her

brain.⁶ The more mature brain implants itself on the forming brain. When an infant gazes at their mother face, the mother's true emotions are carried on her face. What the child sees is carried by his eyes to his brain and is registered there. The child then feels that same emotion and it is registered on his face. The mother sees that and sends it back to the child again. In this way, the child's brain becomes synchronized to the mother's brain. In early childhood, we see the world through the lens through which our parents see the world. Because our parents are in a fallen condition, we inherit both the good and the bad from them, the joys and the fears.

What has been discovered is that one of the most important things the child must accomplish in the first year of life is to build joy strength with their mother by exchanging joy smiles. With each eye-to-brain-to-face cycle, mother and child are synchronizing their emotions and sending them back and forth. With each cycle, the joy the infant and mother feel is amplified. That continues until the child's capacity to experience joy is fill up and he cannot hold any more and looks away to break eye contact. When the child is ready for more, he looks back and begins to climb **joy mountain** all over again. In this way the child's capacity to experience joy and build joy strength is increased. The amount of **joy strength** that has been built in us in childhood and thereafter determines how much trauma we can experience and, in the moment, still remain the person God created us to be.⁷

Holy Spirit taught me what she called the love bomb game to show us that something similar is taking place in us as we pursue the path of presence. In this encounter, Holy Spirit began to bounce a basketball size ball to me and asked me to bounce it back. However, this ball would pass through my hands and enter my chest and explode like a bomb, a glory bomb. That would overwhelm me for a minute or two and then when I had regained my composure, with Holy Spirit's encouragement, I would bounce the ball back. Then she would again return it with the same effect. The more you work out with Holy Spirit or Jesus bouncing this glory ball of love back and forth, the greater the capacity you develop to live in God's glory continuously. This is a picture of how we progress from one level to the next on the path of presence. We do that by working out with Holy Spirit and/or Jesus on **glory mountain**.

⁶ Dr. James Wilder is the one who has explained to us the pathbreaking discoveries of neuroscientist Dr. Allan Shore. Dr. Shore has been called the Einstein of the brain for his path breaking work first published in 1994 and subsequently. Allan N. Schore, *Affect Regulation and the Origin of the Self: The Neurobiology of Emotional Development*, Lawrence Erlbaum, 1994; Allan N. Schore, *Affect Dysregulation and Disorders of the Self*, Norton, 2003; Allan N. Schore, *Affect Regulation and the Repair of the Self*, Norton, 2003. Many of the foundational principles of Wilder's approach can be found in James Friesen, James Wilder, et al., *The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You*, Shepherds House, 1999, revised and updated 2007; and James Wilder, *Joy Bonds*, (DVD series) available from www.carepkg.org.

⁷ Building joy strength by exchanging joy smiles with one's parents in the first few years of life is most important for the child to develop a stable personality and be able to cope effectively with emotional pain. Right brain to right brain communication is faster than left brain to left brain communication, which means that we cannot monitor or be aware of what is taking place. Rather, it feels like you are making me happy or you are making me sad, or angry or whatever. These brain science principles are spelled out in more detail in Chapter 11 of our Volume 3 Mysteries book, Scott Flanagan, *The Mysteries of Creation and the Destiny of Mankind*, Kingdom Academy Publications, 2021.

We begin our Christian walk with no capacity to feel God's presence. As we press in for a deeper relationship with God, at some point He will bounce the love ball to us, and we will experience His presence. If we embrace that and pursue it, our expressions of love for God and our running after Him completes the cycle and enables us to receive more from Him and grow our capacity to feel and abide in God's glory. Scripture teaches us this principle in the Song of Solomon. The lover comes to his beloved while she is asleep in bed and calls to her. He thrusts "*his hand through the latch-opening*" trying to get into the door of her heart (Song 5:4 NIV). She is half-asleep and hesitates but then is overwhelmed with passion for him and goes to the door to open it for him, but he is gone. Her love is so strong that she cannot be content with doing anything but running after him and trying to find him and bring him to her (Song 5:1-8).

What moves us forward from one level to the next on the path of presence and positions us to receive the next baptism on the pathway to sonship is the time we commit to engaging Father, Son and/or Holy Spirit and working out with Them through the love bomb game on glory mountain. That game which Holy Spirit taught me is just a metaphor to illustrate what is actually taking place when we engage God. The amount of **glory strength** that is built in us, i.e. our capacity to abide in deeper levels of glory for more of our day, is what moves us forward on the path of presence and sets the parameters of our progress on the pathway to sonship. The greater our glory strength, the closer we come to realizing our destiny in God as transfigured sons of light. Just as eye contact between mother and baby downloads the mother's brain in her child, connecting with the glory as it pulses back and forth between God and us is what makes us increasingly like Him. In the glory, the more mature brain, God's, is downloading into us His emotions, qualities and truths and that makes us increasingly more aligned with and shaped by His mind, will and emotions. Engaging one's mother, builds joy strength in her infant. Engaging God intimately builds something very different in us. It builds glory strength. Joy strength helps people cope with the difficulties of life in a fallen world. Glory strength enables us to draw closer to God and stand in His transforming fire.

It is not enough to experience the presence of God occasionally or even weekly at anointed church services. We must learn to live in the glory. We must learn to host the glory. Another scriptural picture of this process is seen in the book of Esther. She was required to soak in oils and perfumes for twelve months to get all of the impurities out of her before she could be presented to her king and go into him (Ester 2:12). We are preparing ourselves for union with our King. This is a process which we accomplish in stages. We teach how to pursue this in our Volume 3 Mysteries book which we will be teaching this spring in our Semester 2 training. The purpose of the glory is not to incapacitate us and drop us to the floor. It is to stretch us so that we can learn to contain and walk in greater and greater levels of glory and still function at a high level. The purpose is to grow our glory strength.

Dating the Coming Move of God – I have long believed that the years from 2022 to 2025 would be key years for birthing the end time move of God, first in the Church and then in the world. There are a number of prophetic signs pointing to those years, but one of the clearest was given by Jesus to D.G.S. Dinakaran in 2008 shortly before he died. During that heavenly encounter, Dinakaran asked Jesus, "When will you return." In response, Jesus said "*In 2022 but*

not later than 2025.” Neville Johnson believed this was a true prophetic word from the mouth of Jesus and that it was dating Jesus’ literal return. I have always believed that those dates were referring to when Jesus would be seen on the earth through the birthing of the manifest sons of God who would be walking in the authority and power of Jesus. I had believed that the **corporate** Baptism of Fire would begin in 2022 and cleanse the Church. That did not happen. I continue expect that it is still likely that the Baptism of Union will begin to take place in some people in the year 2025 and set off a worldwide great awakening. Of course, that event could also be further delayed. Whenever these events turn out to occur, what remains true is that the birthing process for the first wave of the manifest sons of God, the remnant, begins with the Baptism of Fire and culminates with the Baptism of Union. Those that received the Baptism of Union will then walk in the power and authority of Jesus and that will set off the first wave of the harvest of souls.

I was wrong about the timing of the **corporate** Baptism of Fire because I believed that the timing for both the Church and the remnant was one event which would take place in 2022. However, if we are talking about a **personal** three-phase Baptism of Fire process for the remnant, which will take taking place over 2-3 years, then I believe there is ample evidence that the preparatory phase of that personal Baptism of Fire began in the fall of 2022. It certainly did for me, and I expect for many others. I believe it will continue to build in us until the burning phase begins first in some individuals, here and there. The reports of their experiences will then prepare the Church to receive the corporate Baptism of Fire at some point. We will not know until the end of 2025 whether these dates are accurate or not. If we do not hear reports of some people walking in the authority and power of Jesus by the end of 2025 or shortly thereafter, then it will be clear that I have misinterpreted the meaning of Jesus’s words to Dinakaran.

Recently, Jesus told me that He likes to surprise us. He makes a point of not making his interventions in the affairs of man take place exactly when they are expected. One reason is because those who worship the pagan gods believe they can control what those gods do and when they do them through their rituals. The Lord wants us to know He is not controllable. So we are not to place too much credence on any dating of His moves. Nevertheless I believe that I have described the process accurately and am in the right ballpark in regard to when these things are likely to occur. In terms of what is coming, it is better to be wise virgins who are urgently preparing for the coming move of God rather than foolish virgins who believe there is no rush. As the Lord said to Hayley, *“Make sure you are not asleep in an awakening.”*⁸ If you are, you will completely miss it.

The Coming Glory – I have long expected that the coming move of God for the body of Christ as a whole will not begin with the corporate Baptism of Fire. The corporate Baptism of Fire is going to be very intimidating for a lot of people and many will flee from it. So I have been expecting that coming move of God will start with something that woos people to Him and fills churches before the fire comes. I expect the glory and power of God to come first with signs, wonders and healings. Displays of God’s supernatural power will bring people into those churches where God’s power is manifesting. That may be accompanied or followed by the wine of the Lord’s presence that will capture people’s hearts and turn them into God chasers. The Lord gave Hayley Braun an even more compelling reason why the corporate Baptism of Fire will

⁸ From the extended version of *It’s Supernatural*, November 6, 2022, op. cit.

not come first. As the Lord explained to her, the oil of God's glory must come first and find a home in a remnant to ensure that the coming fire does not go out. This final great awakening must grow and ultimately engulfed the entire world to pave the way for the restoration of all things and Jesus's return.⁹

I also expect that some aspects of the glory will differ from anything we have seen before. For example, we might see waves of glory fall and see healings taking place spontaneously during worship rather than as the result of anyone laying hands on someone. **A side benefit of the coming glory** for those pursuing the pathway to sonship is that **it will make progress on the path of presence from one level of glory to the next much easier and faster to attain.** I emphasize that so that people will not despair that the path of presence, as I have experienced it, requires more years, more time each day and more discipline and intense pursuit than they have to give. The coming greater glory will make everything easier.

I expect that when the burning comes, it will come first to individuals in the remnant. Its purpose is to free us from all the bondages the enemy has sown in us. The remnant will experience the freedom that comes from going through the fire. Their testimonies will teach others to seek the fire and to run to the fire when it comes later as a corporate phenomenon rather than flee from it. So before the corporate baptism of fire comes, there needs to be a teaching in the Church which makes clear to the body of Christ the benefits of submitting to God's burning process.

Conclusion – The Lord is looking for a remnant that will pursue God with the intent of seeking the transforming effects of the fire. We are not to be sitting around waiting for the corporate baptism of fire to come and change us. Rather we are to pursue it. We do that by pursuing level 3 on the path of presence, pressing in to live in God's person. That will position us to receive the burning phase of the Baptism of Fire. Different people will receive the burning at different times when they are ready. Even if you do not receive the fire before the corporate baptism of fire falls, if you use this time to prepare yourself to receive it, it will take you much further and last in you much longer when it comes.

I believe the baptism of fire for the remnant is a three-phase process. The first phase is the preparatory phase which teaches us how to live in his person so that when the burning comes we can get the most out of it. The second phase is the burning process during which we will be working with the Lord to put all of our defense mechanisms, the ways we have tried to protect ourselves, on the altar of sacrifice until we stand naked before him as we were in our first estate, where only He alone is our covering. Following the burning phase, the third phase is the completion phase. The burning phase will bring us to a new place in God which will equip us with new tools with which to complete the transformation process by dealing with our generational inheritance and cleansing our generational line. When that work is completed, it takes us to the Baptism of Union. That is when we will see the first wave of the harvest of souls and witness worldwide the return of the massive outdoor gatherings like Reinhard Bonnke attracted in Africa, some of which are said to have assembled over 1.6 million people for one week of meetings.

⁹ As we read in Acts 3:21, Jesus "*whom heaven must receive* (or "who must remain in heaven" – NIV) *until the times of restoration of all things*" (NKJV).