

AT THE LAST TRUMPET

In this chapter, we will go through the letter of Paul to the Corinthians chapter 15. The communication seen in this letter is a communication to brethren of like mind with Paul. Meaning that they had passed through His ministry and therefore understood the language He was speaking. Most of those letters of Paul are spiritual by nature and were directed to brethren, not to men of this world who operate by their human wisdom. Men of this world include carnally minded professing Christians who follow traditional concepts and doctrines of men.

Paul uses this chapter to remind them of the hope of their calling in Christ, which is the resurrection from the dead. Paul in His Letter to the Corinthians was simply trying to convince them not to waiver in their faith towards the gospel they first heard from Him. The Corinthians had begun to doubt because the devil had entered and sowed a seed of confusion and doubt among them, the same way He has done in the Churches today. Paul Had to go on to assure them on all He had taught them in the past; He assured them that if they stand fast and continue in the faith which they first heard of Him, they would reap immortality which is the eternal life of God in the resurrection from dead.

Paul further explained that in as much death came into existence by one man (Adam) so also thus a resurrection of the dead come through one man (Christ). All men have tasted of spiritual death in Adam (Man of the flesh) and all men awoken out of the state of death in Christ (Man of the spirit). As we have established in previous chapters, that death with which all men died in Adam is a spiritual death and not a physical death. In the state of death, Adam was demoted to the dust realm, which is synonymous with the grave.

1Corinthians 15:21-27 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. 27

For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

REVISITING THE MEANING OF DEATH

It is important that every Child of God understands the meaning of death, otherwise there is no way we can know what to expect in the resurrection from the dead. Just meditate carefully on the words of Paul; from his writing He is saying that all including Himself had been classified as dead in Adam. This means that even though they had a life in the flesh along with all its activities, they were all in reality dead spiritually. To be death is emptiness, vainness, unprofitable, without purpose, in the dark, lost etc. It is that life that man lives outside the knowledge of the living God. Adam like we have pointed out in other chapters did not have to die physically after he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but spiritually he was dead from that moment.

The consequences of death inherited in Adam is the spiritual environment called the world, a realm of anguish and horrors, simply as a result of man's being cut off from the living God. So let us understand that true death is not a reference to dying physically.

If death is a spiritual phenomenon that man has inherited in Adam, so also is the resurrection from the dead a spiritual phenomenon. The intention is that Christ (God's image and glory) awakens, reigns and rules within each and every one of us till death is no more. He comes within as and He is ever coming, so let us not think that the resurrection is an event fixed for a particular day in the future. This phenomenon is revealed in everyone at His own appointed time and in His own order. The Lord's coming is like an invasion of light into this dark world, He comes continuously and he is ever illuminating the world with the light of life. His kingdom is ever expanding as He rides forth conquering and to conquer. It does not matter if the world is not aware of this movement; it is to be expected because He comes like a thief in the night while men are deep asleep in the darkness of the night.

WHAT IS FLESH AND BLOOD

Now Paul further explains that to inherit that life of God that eludes the dead there must be a sort of transformation in every one of us. We all in our humanity lived the Adam life that is a life after carnality (flesh and blood). We should understand that this classification (flesh and blood) is tied to our thought faculty and not whether we possess physical bodies or not. It is the thought pattern of Adam, which caused Him to live according to the *dictates* of the carnal senses. The phrase “flesh and blood”, which the bible refers to, has more to do with the natural carnal state of mind, which operates in relation to this material world. Even spirits can be classified flesh and blood as long as they operate from a carnally empowered mind, these are thus unregenerate spirits.

Read carefully what Paul says about they that are after the flesh.

Romans 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

It is clear that, that which defines those after the flesh or after the spirit, is their thought faculty. The man of the flesh is carnally minded, meaning he can only perceive things after the perception of His carnal senses; He can only view the creature and none of that in the unseen eternal realm where God dwells. To live a life after flesh and blood means death, because the carnal mind does not know God and cannot therefore, be subjected to Him. It cannot be subjected to the laws of God because the laws are spiritual and not adapted for the man of the flesh. As long as man lives as flesh and blood, He cannot inherit the life of God found within the confines of God’s kingdom where life reigns.

On the other hand, the man of the spirit lives according to the spiritual senses and dwells in God’s kingdom. He cannot sin being born of God

and therefore one with God. He that sins is of the devil, while He who does not sin is born of the spirit of God and he delights in the Lord by nature.

1John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Seeing this, the objective is to be in the beloved (begotten of God); the goal is to live that life after the spirit so that we can inherit the life of God.

FROM TERRESTIAL TO CELESTIAL

In **1 Corinthians 15:47-50**, Paul says categorically, that Flesh and blood can not inherit God's kingdom.

I Corinthians 15:47-50 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 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. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Most people will think this means that as long as you have a physical flesh body you cannot enter into God's kingdom. Some say that as long as man possesses a flesh body, He cannot be perfected, and only His spirit can be perfected; in other words we must physically die first to enter into the perfection and life found within the confines of God's kingdom. All of these negative beliefs are nothing but the lies of men, which keep men locked up in ignorance and death.

In our ignorance, we have all worn the image of the man of the dust or the dead man of the grave beneath, but then, we shall also wear the image of the man from Heaven. We all have put on the Adam-like image of the dust, but now is time to put on the image of the man from heaven (Christ). This means that we have all lived that lower natural life after our carnal senses (flesh and blood) according to the vanities of this age.

In Christ however, this trend is reversed so that a heavenly man (man of the spirit) emerges. The resurrection is the process whereby we awaken out of a life of the earthly-minded man into a new life of the heavenly-minded man from heaven. This is the only way we can partake of the unlimited blessings of God's kingdom.

The power of the resurrection is that power that is able to awaken us and convert our flesh and blood states into that which is spiritual and incorruptible. It is a marvelous working on the inside, which awakens the spiritual senses so that we live once more by the mind of God. This power raises us up from the weak, corruptible, carnal and terrestrial identity into a glorious celestial and powerful incorruptible identity. That new celestial identity is the Son of God and the glory of God; awakening in this glory causes man to soar high above the power of death found within the confines of the natural man of the dust.

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. - - - 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

The celestial man of God is from above while the terrestrial man of the earth is from beneath; living a life from beneath means living in sin and in death. Living in the image of the man above is eternal life and favor.

John 8:23-24 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

The man of God is above all; living outside Him means living outside the favor of God. The only way to reverse the death tread is to believe the testimony of the son of God from above and to enter into that image [John 3:16-17, John 3:30-36].

SPIRITUAL REBIRTH

Somebody might ask, "How can I then be changed into that image of the heavenly?" No doubt every one wants to inherit this new reality of unlimited blessings in God. The key to this new creation identity is in the resurrection from the dead. As this resurrection occurs there is a transformation and conversion from the earthly human image to a spiritual, heavenly image. The transformation process is the spiritual rebirth popularly called the born again process. Unless we emerge in new life after the spirit we can not see God's kingdom.

John 3:3-7 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

You see it, flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit, we must be born again of the spirit, meaning the spirit man has to emerge out of us. Jesus in the days of His ministry in the flesh walked in the power and reality of the kingdom even though He had a flesh body but His real being was spirit. He was the word and the spirit manifested in the flesh, He was led by the spirit, He was energized by the spirit, His thoughts and motivations were all of the spirit. To be born again talks about regeneration or a transformation from our earthly carnal nature to a nature that is Heavenly or spiritual after the knowledge God. We know from the scriptures only those who walk in the spirit can please God, only those who have been completely transformed can of a truth enter into God's favor found within the walls of His kingdom.

I TELL YOU A MYSTERY

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 **51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

I tell you a mystery we shall not all sleep, but we shall ALL be changed in a moment in the twinkling of the eye, at the last trumpet. The verses that touch on the subject, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" is well read, but certainly not clearly understood by majority of professing Christians. It is to be expected that few understand this piece of scripture because like Paul says, it is a mystery. A mystery is a subject which is beyond the scope of normal human understanding and being shrouded in secrecy it keeps men in the dark, guessing at it. Paul was speaking on the mystery of our awakening and transformation into that desired incorruptible nature of the Christ; it is the resurrection from the state of mortality into the state of immortality; from death into life. There is no way a man operating from His carnal reasoning can understand and therefore comprehend this subject, for this reason it is a mystery. However, without understanding this mystery, how can you partake of this all-important resurrection unto life? Notice that in **1 Corinthians 15:58**, Paul says that the brethren should be steadfast in laboring unto God bearing in mind this hope unto life. To have this hope, we must at least understand what this hope is all about.

Paul says the transformation occurs during the sounding of the last trumpet. Religion taught us that a Physical Angel will descend from the physical Sky and blow a loud physical trumpet which the believers will hear then the dead Christians in their graves will get up, while those alive will be changed and fly up to meet the Lord in the skies for 1000 years. The systems of religion also use the verses in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** to confirm their sayings; they call it the rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

That traditional rapture type of doctrine is wrong; it is generated from the minds of men working in the light of their carnal understanding. The light of our natural understanding is darkness, for this reason Jesus says, if the light in you be darkness, how great is that darkness [**Matthew 6:23**]. Interpretations like this come from men within the confines of outer darkness guessing as to what this mystery is. These are doctrines that block and deceive the Children of God, so that they do not know the hope of their calling in Christ Jesus. Thank God, however for His mercy and understanding, the hour has come where we are getting to know the truth. The spirit of God is being poured out on all flesh so that they can now begin to comprehend the mysteries of God that are hidden from men in their mortal descent.

If you study **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and compare it closely with **1 Corinthians 15:50-55**, you will discover Paul is saying the same thing. The two pieces of scripture deal with an awaking, a rising up or an ascension into a higher realm of existence in God's kingdom where Christ

reigns supreme as king. In these two pieces of scripture the awaited events unto glory occur as a trumpet is blown.

THE TRUMPET

What is the sound of the trumpet; for sure it is not the physical trumpets that we see in this world. In the same way that the Lamb of God is not a physical natural lamb that we put on plates to eat nor is the bread of life physical bread for our natural stomachs, in likewise manner the trumpet of God is not something that is physical. All these things are things that can be comprehended spiritually.

The sound of the trumpet was used in the Old Testament to gather the Children of Israel for convocations to symbolic feasts like the days of Atonement, the Sabbath; it was also used to gather them to war. During their wanderings in the wilderness, trumpet sounds were also used to herald their movements between camps as they headed to the Promised Land.

Levites 25:8-10 8'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

Levites 23:23-25 23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25 You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

Numbers 10:1-10 10:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the assembly and for directing the movement of the camps. 3 - - - - - 9 When you go to

war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. 10 Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

All those feasts and gatherings done in the days of the Old Testament were shadows and symbols of the eternal gathering of men into God's rest and glory. In this new dispensation, they are pointers to we who are the true spiritual Israel after the spirit; these are those circumcised in the spirit [Roman 2:29]. In this new dispensation in Christ, the trumpet that God uses to awaken and gather His people is the voice of truth of His spirit. The voice of the spirit of Christ sounds through the Body of Christ; the Lord might use His ministers who are united in one with His spirit to blow the trumpet. Some who have spiritual ears will also hear this trumpet sound because the spirit of Christ that dwells in us sounds this trumpet to our hearing. The voice of truth is that inner voice of the spirit that announces the mind of God that we have established is truth.

John 16:13-15 However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will announce to you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will announce *it* to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and will announce *it* to you.

Notice below in **Revelation 1:9-11**, that when John heard the voice of Jesus in the spirit, the voice sounded like a trumpet. What John saw and heard was a revelation of the spiritual body of Christ; God used that appearance to cause us to understand the attributes of the spiritual body of Christ. I just wanted you to note the voice that sounded like a trumpet; it does not mean that we have Jesus hanging out there with a trumpet voice. We understand from this manifestation of Christ that His voice is actually likened to a trumpet. This voice is that same trumpet that Jesus sounded throughout the days of His ministry in the flesh and it is that same voice being sounded today by the spirit.

Revelation 1:9-11 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,"

We should always remember that God uses the elementary earthly things of this world to describe His thoughts; He uses the trumpet to describe His truth being announced by the spirit of truth.

AT THE TRUMPET SOUND

Paul had explained in His letters that AT THE LAST TRUMPET THE DEAD ARE RAISED UP INCORRUPTABLE; MORTALITY WILL PUT ON IMMORTALITY; DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY; WE ARE CAUGHT TO MEET THE LORD IN THE CLOUD AND SO SHALL WE EVER BE. All these occur as the trumpet sounds, what God is saying.

What Paul is saying is that as we hear the voice of the spirit the much needed transformation occurs. Like we will discover, the transformation is a purely spiritual concept that occurs in the inner consciousness of man not in the flesh body as many have hoped; the flesh body which we wear in this world is only a temporary corruptible material container which does not play a center role in the transformation process even though it might be a beneficiary. The corruptible puts on incorruption and the mortal puts on immortality as man hears the truth of His true nature and origin in the living presence. In Adam we all put on corruptibility and immortality; conformation to corruptibility and immortality is the fruit of the knowledge derived from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The main focus now is to regain our true incorruptible and immortal states as it was in the beginning before we received the lie.

As the old carnal eye of understanding dies and the spiritual eye of understanding is opened (**twinkling of an eye**) to hear and perceive the truth from the mind of God, we awaken from the dead and enter into a new life in Christ Jesus. The eye of understanding must open to comprehend and hear the voice of the spirit and as we hear it and behold the truth, we are transported in our consciousness into a realm of light and life. It is the voice of truth as given by the spirit that leads us unto God's presence.

For this reason, Jesus says mind how you hear [Mark 4:23]; or He who has an ear let Him listen to the spirit as it Sounds the trumpet [Revelation 3:6, 6, 13, 22]. This is the key to the salvation we seek, not traditional religion or acts of morality. Listening to the voice of the spirit continuously transports us into a new consciousness in Christ. This is the famous gathering unto the Lord on God's spiritual mountain called Zion as the trumpet blows.

Isaiah 27:13 13 So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

From the preceding scripture, we see the famous trumpet blowing and gathering people into God's kingdom, which is a spiritual realm of higher elevation on a spiritual mountain called Zion. This spiritual mountain is the dwelling place of the eternal king Christ Jesus and all the hosts of Heaven who have their being in Him. Those who were perishing in Assyria and living as outcasts in Egypt are men living lives after the flesh and perishing in their sins and trespasses. At the sound of the great trumpet, these ones perishing who can perceive the sound of the trumpet, are revived and transported to Mount Zion, the place of God's glory typified by the clouds of glory. This spiritual movement from the realm of death to God's kingdom is the catching up to meet the Lord in the air (the spirit); it can also be spiritually termed the ascension, the resurrection, translation or awakening as we hear the voice of that great trumpet of God.

The Lord is saying that as we hear the trumpet of truth sound we are conformed back into that image of the son. The old voices from the dust are all the lies we have heard in our old carnal understanding and fellowship with this world; those voices die off as the trumpet sounds. These old seductive voices, which have their root in the serpent who is the lair and deceiver from the beginning, are cut off as the trumpet of the Lord sounds. As the trumpet sounds, we discover ourselves in Paradise, perfectly fitted into the Son. A new world hidden in God opens up, it is a world founded in Christ and the Father, a world where death is no more. Once more, we discover ourselves clothed with the clouds of His glory, never to feel the nakedness and shame we once felt in our Adam-like experience. The voice of the Lord leads us back to our rightful inheritance

in God where all dominion, power and riches are ours as we reign in life in Christ Jesus.

To inherit this glory, the eye (understanding) has to become single (**Single eye**) to hear only the voice of truth as it sounds 60x60x24x7 seconds a week; only those who are spiritually awakened and aware to perceive the Lord as He speaks, can ever benefit from this open yet secretive work of salvation being revealed on the earth today.

