

These Perilous Times
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“New Initiatives”
{When the Holy Spirit Leads}

How time does fly while doing “our favorite things.” Another year has come and gone, and amazingly, we are still here on planet earth! Sound familiar?

What are some of the things which occupied the majority of that precious commodity, known as time, in 2010?

Many of us spent eight hours of our day sleeping, which is necessary to promote good health.

Those of us who are gainfully employed, spent upwards to eight hours a day at our respective jobs, which are needed to buy food and pay necessary bills.

There is family time, which is important for us as social beings, to help build lasting relationships. There is recreational time which is needed to re-create our physical bodies, keeping them toned and functioning well.

We’ve spent time planning, to maintain some sort of routine and continuity in our lives. We’ve also spent time at leisure, relaxing, {just getting away from the daily routine, taking necessary

breaks and vacations} to eliminate and filter the effects of stress and stressors in our lives.

How much time did we squander on non essentials, i.e., sitting in front of televisions and computer screens, game boys, DS players, DVD players, et cetera, that had no cognitive, spiritual, social, and/or recreational benefits to aid us in our Spiritual Growth?

How much time was spent with Jesus, learning more about Him?

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, chapters three and four, he spoke, {and speaks} of conditions that will be present in Cod's church in the last days.¹

We know that Paul was addressing the church of his day, but his message, {as is all Scripture} is applicable until Christ returns, and is "...profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."²

But, what seems to be the reason for such a departure from the Scriptures?

"And because "iniquity" shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12

¹ II Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-5

² II Timothy 3:16

Paul expounded on what Jesus had told His disciples concerning the signs that would foreshadow His “second coming,” and the end of the world.

To put it in plainer language: prior to our Lord’s return, many “**Christians**” will be self-centered, cold-hearted, malicious, seekers of pleasure and instant gratification, rather than doing the things which God has ordained for His servants to do.

When Christians display these types of behaviors, is it any wonder we still reside here on earth?

However friends, there is good news, God has always had an antidote for what side-lines His people.

Pray for the Guidance of God’s Spirit!

‘As we pray, God pours out His spirit through us.

Prayer enables the illimitable God to help those in need.”³

As we pray for God’s Spirit to fill us, and guide us, there will be no room for self-centeredness; we will be led to seek new initiatives for God’s service.

“Through the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, He took up His abode in them as an **indwelling presence**. He filled the innermost

³ Mark Finley. Revive Us Again, p.15.

recesses of their being, and became the very life of their lives. Thus the amazing transformation, before unaccomplished, was achieved by the indwelling of Christ when the Holy Spirit descended..."⁴

"I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy, and none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence."⁵

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26

"...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13

"When Jesus was gathering the dozen men about Him through whom He would found the Christian church, He did not seek them in venerable schools of the rabbis, or in the exclusive circle of the Sanhedrin. He did not send

⁴ Ellen White, The desire of Ages, p. 388.

⁵ Ellen White. Early Writings, p. 71.

to Greece, the center of philosophy and culture, for His disciples. Nor did He go to Rome, the house of legislative genius and military prowess, to find His apostles. No, He trod the shinning shores of Galilee, and selected humble men whose hearts were big enough to admit the Lord of glory; men who would finally be willing to be nothing that Christ might be everything; men through whom the Holy Spirit could work, unhampered by human sophistry, selfishness, or superiority.”⁶

Got the Spirit?

⁶ Leroy E. Froom. The Coming of the Comforter, p. 83.