**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RESIDE**

**GENESIS 8:6-12 (9)**

On March 29, 2017 Sis. Carter and I were cutting down a thick bush in front of our house, limb by limb. I looked down and saw white bird’s egg lying on the ground, but there was no nest in the bush. The bush was thick enough that the birds didn’t need a nest. After a while though, a couple doves came flying around. What were they doing? They were searching for their baby. They were searching for their place of rest, but they found none. They even stayed around the next few days, sitting, and watching.

They couldn’t understand what was going on, but they were not going to give up easily!

**I. THE WINGED ONES**

**A. RAVEN (Gen. 8:7)**

It was the 1st bird that Noah sent out.

It lives in altitudes up to 14,700 feet. These features would help the bird to see if the world was still covered by water.

The Bible says that the raven went to and fro.

That raven roved here and there and found dead things to feed upon.

I read in Job 1:7 were it says, “*And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*”

The devil likes nothing more than dead things: *services*, dead *worship*, dead spiritual *souls*, dead *sacrifices*—where our heart is not in it.

Oh God, help us come alive!

It is not time to die; there is an Ark of Safety!

You don’t have to go down like others!

Unfortunately we have too many ravens.

**1. That raven was content to feed upon the dead things of the world.**

We have too many that are feeding on the dead things of the world.

**2. A raven feeds itself on the destruction of others.**

There are those who think they have done their part when they find out who has been sinning.

They like to feed upon the *downfall* of somebody else.

They don’t have anything good to say about anyone else. They are always negative.

And you wonder why you always have a bellyache?

**3. The legs of a raven always conform to its surroundings.**

Ocean ravens—white legs.

Sandy regions— gray legs.

Black soil—black legs.

What a powerful picture of the carnal person!

They live according to the flesh and conform to the lifestyles of the world.

That why Paul said, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* 2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”—(Rom. 12:1-2).

**4. They are also known to not be good care-takers of their young.**

When your heart and mind is in the world; you are caring more about yourself than your family!

**B. THE DOVE**

Noah was wondering of the waters of judgement was past. If new life was growing.

The dove was sent out to bring news of the external world.

**1. After the 1st time; she came back because she didn’t want to get her feet dirty and muddy. She found no resting place.**

She wasn’t going to rest her feet upon some *dead*, *bloody*, *bloated* animal.

The Holy Ghost is the same way. If your twice dead and have been plucked up by the roots. He is going to leave you alone!

Yes, He is looking for a place to land, but He won’t just land on anything and anybody!

If you haven’t felt Him in a while maybe you need to check your heart monitor. Maybe all there is, is a *straight line*.

There are times when the Holy Ghost comes down in a service.

What is He looking for?

A place to reside!

I don’t want the Holy Ghost to leave!

I don’t want the Holy Ghost to bypass me!

The 1st time the dove was sent back; he came back with *no news* and nothing in his mouth.

I wonder what the Holy Ghost is saying about this church service?

What kind of news does He have to bring back to the Father?

I don’t want Him to say, “*Nothing has changed! They are dead as they have always been.*”

“*They are not ready for Me to light down upon them and indwell them yet!*”

And so the dove flew back to Noah.

**2. 7 days later Noah sent her out again.**

Notice the Bible says she did not return until evening.

No doubt Noah’s patience was *tried*.

All day and he had heard nothing from his dove.

Surely she could not be flying this long.

Maybe she drowned.

Maybe she got lost.

Oh, but finally as the sun began to set he sees a little activity in the air; out in the distance. And excitement begins to build.

And the closer that bird came; he notices something in her mouth.

It was an olive branch!

What happened? He found life!

It is said by Theophrastus (Hist. Plant. 4, 7) and Pliny (H. N. 13, 50) that the olive strikes leaves even under water.

Isaiah 43:2, “*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*”

Though you are in a storm; it shall not overflow you!

The olive tree is a difficult tree to kill.

Even if it is cut down; it will send up fresh shoots around it.

You can live; if you have the Holy Ghost inside of you!

The dove brings back the olive leave saying—“*I believe I see a little bit of life.*”

I believe that the olive oil is going to flow in just a little while!

I would to God that the Holy Ghost would bring back word to heaven tonight and say, “*They have been through a storm, but they are holding on!*”

One day, Laura Brooks, a 52-year-old mother of 2, suddenly stopped receiving disability checks. Then, her loan payments and rent checks *bounced*. She went to the bank to find out what was the matter, and the representative told her that her accounts had been closed because she was dead.

They would only reopen her accounts if she could prove she was alive. No doubt, she found ways to prove her case!

**3. And the third time she did not return at all, because she found her abiding place in the earth.**

When she didn’t return; she was saying, “*I have found food. I have found shelter.*”

I wish, that when you walked out of here tonight that the Holy Ghost wouldn’t stay in this sanctuary.

That He wouldn’t fly back up into heaven, but that He would ride with you all the way home.

That you would feel him on the way to work tomorrow.

Luke Shuecraft is pastoring a little church in Arkansas and called me the other day (3/15-16/2017). He wanted to tell me that he was teaching from my notes on the Holy Ghost. I asked him how it went. He said it went ok, but he was hoping for more. I told him to look out for the *after-effects* like an earthquake. He called me back the next day and told me a guy in his church was listening to holiness preaching online, and began to worship the Lord in his vehicle and he got filled with the baptism right there on the side of the road!

If we are going to have revival; we are going to have to be like the dove.

If we are going to be able to find a little life; a little green leaf of *life* and *hope* then we are going to have to be like the dove.

**A. SHE IS A HOLY CREATURE**

The dove was one of the clean birds that could be sacrificed.

It wasn’t a *lack* of eye or wing that the dove didn’t find a place of rest.

If she would have been the raven she would have found plenty of rest for the sole of her feet.

But she had a different nature that said, “*Keep flying, there is nothing here for you!*”

The Ark of Safety is your home!

**B. SHE IS A HUMBLE CREATURE**

She doesn’t fly as high as the raven.

The dove lives in the low lands and the valleys.

The olive tree itself grows under 3,000 feet altitude.

A woman, who was striving to find rest for her soul, was sitting in her summer house, when in *through an open door* flew a bird. It was alarmed, and flew up toward the roof, and tried to get out at this window and at that. It flew from side to side until it panted with fright and weariness. The woman said, “*Poor bird, why do you not come down lower, then you would see this open door, and you could fly out easily?*” But the bird kept wounding itself against the closed windows and at every crevice.

At last its wings grew tired, and it flew lower and lower until it was on a level with the open door, when quickly it escaped, and soon its song was heard in the trees of the churchyard near by.

A new light dawned upon the mind of the woman: “*I, like that poor bird, through my pride and self-sufficiency, have been flying too high to see the door which stands wide open.*” Her heart was humbled, and soon she too was singing songs of gladness.

(HOLY; HUMBLE)

**C. HUNGRY (she searched and searched because she was hungry and thirsty)**

Matthew 5:6, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*”

Thirst is an instinct or we would be extinct.

Psalm 42:2, “*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*”

Psalm 63:1, “*A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.>> O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;*”

Psalm 143:6, “*I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.*”

Anna L. Waring wrote the song that says:

“*Now the frail vessel Thou hast made*

*No hand but Thine shall fill,*

*For the waters of this thirsty world have failed*

*And I am thirsty still.*”

D.L. Moody confessed one time, “*I have been hungering and thirsting for power in service. I had come to such a state that I think I would have died if I had not got it.*”

That is a case of spiritual dehydration—the whole person passionately crying out for the living God, “*like a hunted deer; he was thirsty at every pore.*”

A father took his little boy for the first time to see the boats on the River Severn in Maryland. The boy was in awe of its beauty. The Severn is a tidal river and when the tide is out it leaves nothing but huge, slimy mudflats. Later that evening he took him back when the tide was out and the boy proclaimed, “*Where is all the water?*” the dad replied, “*The tide has gone out.*” The boy then said, “*Will it ever come back?*” The father said, “*It always has.*”

When recession is at its worst, revival is on its way!

The Holy Ghost is looking for a place to reside!

Why?

**I. WORKERS (EX. 35:30-35, 25-26)**

Exodus 35:30-35, “*And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;*31 *And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;* 32 *And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,* 33 *And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work.* 34 *And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.* 35 *Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.*”

Exodus 35:25-26, “*And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.* 26 *And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.*”

God is looking for workers in the kingdom!

God didn’t call anyone to come and *sit*, *soak*, and sour, but He called everyone to serve.

God called Bezaleel from Judah—the first tribe to lead in their walk.

God called Aholiab from Dan—a tribe in the last group to follow.

They didn’t build the tabernacle from their own knowledge.

Who are we to think that we can build the church without the *wisdom*, *power*, and the *strength* of the Holy Ghost?

It wasn’t just the men—it was also the ladies!

The rich might have brought *scarlet*, *blue* and *purple*, but for those who couldn’t they could still bring goat’s hair.

The poor women didn’t have any money to spend on goods, but they could spin goat hair.

God has a work for YOU to do!

General Longstreet, speaking of the struggle at Centreville, says: “The Federals had been using balloons in examining our positions, and we watched with envious eyes their beautiful observations, as they floated high up in the air, and well out of the range of our guns. We longed for the balloon that poverty denied us. A genius arose for the occasion and suggested that we send out and gather together all the silk dresses in the Confederacy and make a balloon. It was done, and soon we had a great patchwork ship of many and varied shades.”

Just like every part of your body serves a purpose; every person in this body ought to have a purpose. FIND YOUR PURPOSE!

It is a gift to mow the grass.

It is a gift to pick up children.

It is a gift to work in the altar. (some people can use the same words, but they don’t seem to work like someone else’s).

It is a gift to sing altar call songs. I heard of one our holiness preachers who preached on the Holy Ghost and the singer came up and sung: *The Long Black Train*.

It is a gift to play an instrument.—The Holy Ghost convicted me about praying for their health.

Of Mary who poured the perfume it is said, “*She hath done what she could:*”—(Mk. 14:8).

There was nothing else she could do for Jesus, but give her love before He died!

The Holy Ghost is looking for some workers to reside in!

**II. WITNESS (ACTS 1:8)**

Acts 1:8, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

Jesus said His task was to seek and to save that which was lost.

He left that unfinished task to the church.

Matthew 28:19, “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*”

1. The mission fields cry out, “unfinished”.

2. The remote areas of every city and town cry out, “unfinished”.

3. The wailing of the unsatisfied soul cries out, “unfinished.”

4. The voices of your neighbors cry out, “unfinished.”

5. You have some loved ones who are crying out, “unfinished.”

6. Perhaps your own soul is crying, “unfinished.”

Are you actively participating in carrying out His unfinished task?

If you don’t help, much of it will go undone.

Jesus said, “*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*”

If anyone gets saved you are going to have to bring them in.

If anyone hears the gospel, it will be because you open your mouth.

**There is not 1 conversion experience in the book of Acts that did not require human intervention.**

Peter had to preach on the day of Pentecost.

We find the Servant was empowered.

Scripture was expounded.

The Saviour was exalted.

And Souls were emancipated.

Ian Macpherson said, “*Peter was tactless enough to mention the Cross, and direct enough to blame them all for it! Here was no compromise*.”

What would have happened to Peter if he preached the day before he was baptized with the Holy Ghost? He would have been laughed to scorn!

You can’t do what God wants you to do without the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

That power can *break down* walls that people have built up.

That anointing can *destroy* the yokes that some people are attached to!

Even though Jesus appeared to *Saul/ Paul* on the road to Damascus; Jesus sent him to Ananias to give him the gospel.

Even though the angel appeared to *Cornelius*; the angel did not preach the gospel to him, but he told him to send for Peter.

God could have sent an angel to the *Ethiopian* *eunuch* in the desert, but he transported the Evangelist Philip and took him from a mighty revival!

There is an anointing of the Holy Ghost.

Too many are afraid of their lack of *knowledge*, afraid of *criticism*, afraid of their own *inabilities*.

He can still give *courage*, He can still inspire your utterance, He can still banish *fears*, convict *men* and bring men to a place of decision.

The word for witness is the same word from which we get our English word martyr. This is a surrendered witness.

David Livingstone was the 1st missionary to penetrate the heart of deep Africa. He suffered pneumonia, cholera, tropical ulcers, starvation, and attacks by lions and savages.

One day he received a message that there were some men who wanted to come assist him in the work...but they would need to find a good road to get to his location. He replied, “*If you have men who will come only if there is a good road, I don’t want them. I want men who will come even if there is no road at all.*”

Nobody would talk about dying churches if we had more newborn babes to take care of!

**III. WORSHIP (JOHN 4:23)**

John 4:23, “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*”

**A. IN SINCERITY**

I am dismayed by the popular phrase “worship experience” to describe the church’s corporate worship. Worship has the capacity to transform us, because it focuses our hearts and minds on God. However, the phrase “worship experience” suggests that worship is important because it induces feelings. In this context worship is focused more on the worshiper than on the One worshipped....We need to ask ourselves what a true worship experience is so that if we had one, we could recognize it. –Mark Horst in The Christian Century (Nov. 11, 1987). Christianity Today, Vol. 32, no. 2.

I am afraid many churches wouldn’t.

Ananias and Sapphira worshipped in guile and hypocrisy.

True worship says, “*I am weak, but Thou art strong.*”

“*I am prone to stray, but You can help me stay!*”

**B. IN SPIRIT**

There are many compelling reasons to worship the Lord!

* His holiness draws us to “*worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.*”—(Ps. 99:9).
* Psalm 147:3, 5,6, “*He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.* 5 *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.* 6 *The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.*”
* Psalm 100:4-5, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.* 5 *For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*”
* Psalm 18:19, “*He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.*” (trials hem us in; we feel constrained).
* Because He is our Savior, we would worship Him.
* We would worship him not because we are commanded to, but because we love Him and because He loves us.
* We worship because He gives us Joy.
* We worship because He’s fills us with His Spirit.
* We worship because He draws near to us when we praise Him.
* We worship because it’s our privilege
* We worship because we know that He enjoys it when we worship Him.
* He’s been good to me.
* He’s healed my body.
* He’s healed my mind.
* He’s delivered me from my past.
* He’s guaranteed my future.

Worship in the Spirit breaks the language-barrier between God and man!

When the Divine Presence touches a heart; it begins to overflow with love, and soon it finds its natural language *inadequate* for deep communion with God!

When is the last time you have been lost in the Holy Ghost?

He is looking for a place to reside!

Too many people cry like the poet.

“*In the dark we cry like children,*

*And no answer from on high*

*Breaks the crystal spheres of silence*

*And no white wings downward fly.*”

But there is no reason to bemoan the absence of the Holy Ghost.

He has not flown away; He is still here!

“*And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove.*”—(Jn. 1:32).

There has been nobody who has seen that dove fly back!

We need to sing like Michael Bruce:

“*Come, Holy Spirit, like a dove descending,*

*Rest Thou upon us while we meet to pray:*

*Show us the Saviour, His great love revealing;*

*Lead us to Him, the Life, the Truth, the Way.*”

Charles Wesley sang:

“*Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove,*

*Brood o’er our nature’s night;*

*On our disordered spirits move,*

*And let there now be light.*”

We need Him to Brood over us. From discord to one *accord*!

From night to light!

In 1895, Fridtjof Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer, set off in a ship named *Fram* in an attempt to reach the North Pole. They were gone for many months and when they last arrived at a record 86 degrees North. Naturally Mrs. Nansen became worried about her husband’s safety. But her fears were turned to cheers one day, when the carrier pigeon he had turned loose came home with the message everything is alright.

The Holy Ghost would like to tell someone, “*Everything is all right in heaven; God is still on the throne!*”

Romans 8:16, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*”

That beating in your heart is the dove’s wings fluttering!

**CON:**

II Chronicles 16:9, “*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.*”

Do you want victory or do you want to continue to vacillate?

Wilbur Chapman said, “2 or 3 years ago D.L. Moody invited me to breakfast in Northfield. I got to the house before the breakfast hour and met F.B. Meyer beneath a great tree in front of the house. I said to him: “*What is the matter with me? So many times I seem half empty and so many times utterly powerless—what is the matter?*”

F. B. Meyer put his hand on his shoulder and said, “*Have you ever tried to breathe out 3 times without breathing in once? You must always breathe in before you can breathe out, and your breathing out must always be in proportion to your breathing in.*”

We have to inhale before we can exhale.

We can only breathe out what we breathe in.

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