

His Purpose, our calling ...

“Going, gather the hunters and fishers ...”

“ ... Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.” [John 11:49c-52, ESV, emphasis added]

“And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” [Matthew 4:19]

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. [John 12:24-26]

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. [Ephesians 2:10]

Autumn 2008, the Holy Spirit reminded me of a spiritual conversation we had had previously, now continuing ... Thank You Lord GOD!

Our call is to trust Him, Who has called us to Himself, the Living God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Trusting, we are to continue to go forth, going as He directs us, for this is the gathering prophesied in Deuteronomy 29:29 - 30:6 (emphasis added):

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

And the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen (Hebrew: the men of your redemption), the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.'

[Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. [Ezek.10:18]]

Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. [Ezekiel 11:14-20, emphasis added]

[And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city. [Ezek.11:23]]

"Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD." [Ezekiel 39:28-29]

... I, the Lord God have kept them safe! " ... 'Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.'" [Ezek.11:16]

*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;*

*and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

...

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people ... “ [Isaiah 11:1-5, 10-11a]

"Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers. "

"Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations."

*O LORD, my strength and my stronghold,
my refuge in the day of trouble,
to you shall the nations come
from the ends of the earth and say:
"Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies,
worthless things in which there is no profit.
Can man make for himself gods?
Such are not gods!"*

"Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD." [Jeremiah 16:14-21]

*"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. ... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice." [Ezekiel 34:11-13a, 15-16] ... **and***

*⁸The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered." [Isaiah 56:8] ... **Truth** ... "It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today." [Deuteronomy 29:14-15]*

Thus gathered, together the hunters and the fishers go to those awaiting the Good Shepherd's calling "I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry." [Psalm 40:1].

Waiting, they'll hear the Lord speak: *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* [John 10:27-30] **whereupon they will be forever changed!**

*"He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD. [Ps.40:2-3]*

Their new song?

*"... "I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.*

*"Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."*

[With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day]:

*"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.*

*"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."*

[Isaiah 12]

Therefore, in My name ... go, going, gather together to together go to gather together to gather ... all for My glory!

Sent, *"... sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."* [John 17:3c, 4 ESV] **for** *'Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."* [John 20:21-23]

As He was sent, we are sent ... *so others may live in the fullness of being Jesus' disciples, just as Jesus prayed in this passage of John 17:*

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. ..." (Vs.6-9a)

Going, we pray we also glorify our Father GOD as Jesus did and does and that we so manifest Jesus to those being drawn to Christ so that called: they hear, they receive, they believe, they know, and they keep Your word.

We pray that many will profess discipleship: *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts."*[Jeremiah 15:16]

We pray that *these many* also turn to the gathering, going to the harvest fields in Christ ... lovingly carrying the gospel message and manifesting the good Samaritan to their others praying as Jesus prayed in John 17:11,25-26: *"...Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."* ... : *"O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

Going, gather together to together go to gather together to gather ... all for Your glory!

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (Matthew 12:30);

For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. (Hosea 8:7);

All scripture quoted from English Standard Version (ESV) unless noted otherwise.
