

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

January 2010 **Part I**

Happy New Year Men of God!

Well, I've been put "under the microscope", gone "under the knife" went through some recovery time and been put "in-transit" wondering "Where do I go from here?" Well, the Holy Spirit's answer clearly has been, "onward and upward."

Under the microscope, God will clearly use some divine insight to help us see the part of our make-up that He didn't put there. Have you allowed yourself to notice those things with the Holy Spirit's help this past year? Remember the direction we are supposed to be heading?

Because if we don't get the sin out, then God puts us on his operating table and that doesn't feel good. Under the knife we go! Some cancers are on the surface, easy to get to. Some you can't see at all or even tell anything is wrong. But left alone, they grow, and can do considerable damage to the living things around them. God knows how intense our surgery needs to be.

Then, during our recovery time do we do what is necessary to be completely healed? Do we apply the sweet salve of the Savior and take the spiritual medicine necessary that allows Him as our great Physician to get ALL the glory from our situation? Through it all, have we learned to trust in Jesus? Are we willing to rest in Him or are we in an all-fire hurry to get back "in the mix" of the hustle and bustle of our Martha-syndrome Christianity? Remember how busy she was running around, yet Jesus wanted true worship like Mary. (Luke 10:38-42). "But what will the neighbors think?" Who cares?! Do what God tells you to do. There are 777 good things that you could be doing, but what if none of these things are what He has instructed you to do? Then you're "missing the mark". *To him who knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin. (James 4:17)* You get to hit the mark, my friend. Are you ready for the challenge?

Being in-transit can mean in-flux or stuck in the middle between two points. If our hope is in eternal glory with Him, in our finite minds we could say, that is an "ending point". However, I can assure you no mind can conceive the glorious things that have been prepared for us beyond that point.....So the starting point really is not your birth as a human, but as a Christian. So we're in between those two points somewhere.....

How far have you allowed God to take you from your starting point? You know every man will only get as much of God as he wants. How much do you want? I don't know about you but I'm gonna jump in the river of God because ankle deep just isn't enough! We're in a transition time my friends. He's repositioning us for a plan. He's readying us for a reason! Where do we go from here? It's time to go to the next level. Who can He send in 2010?

I recently had surgery on a growth below my right ear which just took off growing to about the size of a golf ball and it was putting pressure on my inner ear and throat. Being an athlete (balance is necessary) and a worship leader made me value what the surgeon had to do for me. Thank God the prognosis is clean and clear

and my face suffered no paralysis due to the procedure, a one in 600 chance. I had to trust God that this was all for a reason. Included in all that stress was satan's attempt to oust me as worship leader, one of my callings, and to have men that I looked up to and serve be bamboozled by Beelzebub and sit idly by as shenanigans beyond sinister seemed to get the best of men that I have loved and prayed for. So here it is gentlemen, New Years Eve as I write this, stuck in-transit, but listen to how God works. Two weeks ago I was on my third trip to Galveston Hospital for another seemingly wasted trip for me. However, every time I'm on this excursion I pray God puts someone in my path that is hungry for something different, something more. A young man crossed my path and I began to minister to him. He was waiting on his parole answer, nervous, needing the same surgery that I had just come back from not getting for the third time. Some of you that have been on medical trips know what I'm talking about. He was Catholic (sort of, he said). I got his information to keep in touch regarding a future business proposition and decided to surprise him with a Bible and newsletter. Well, who do I run into on this trip, but the same young man, thrilled with the Bible, touched by the letter and Christmas card from beloved sister Delma (my mom) and received an answer to our prayer from parole that he made it! Praise God! But what the kicker was when he then said, "What must I do to be saved?" God's timing, God's providence, God's blessing! He is worthy to be praised and adored! Yes, at first when I got stuck in-transit, I was thinking of all the things I had to do concerning leading Kairos, a New Years Eve call to prayer and blessing in every dorm on our unit, but God takes care of everything. His plan is so much better than our own. And yes, my brother, you need to be right in the middle of the work of our Lord. It's next level time!

I've found that when we don't think about ourselves, He opens the door for ministry to those around us. So that's where we are going men of God. Onward and Upward! Who is there around you, wherever you are at, that needs you to reach out to them? Stop avoiding them because they're different; stop attacking them because you see sin in their lives. Adapt to each mans needs around you and let the Holy Spirit speak through you. Open your mouth and He will fill it. I don't know about you, but when I get to heaven, I don't want no Burger King paper crown! Excuse my bad grammar! I want the most beautiful, bedecked with jewels and bedazzled by brilliance monster crown so that when the One who gave His all for me comes handing them out,..... I can simply lay it at His feet and join with the angels as they say "Worthy, Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain! To receive glory and honor and power, for You have created ALL things!" Men of God, Rise up!

II Chronicles 7:14 shall be our call to service for this coming year. "If my people (*are you truly His?*) who are called by my name (*He has called you, have you answered?*) will humble themselves (*have you given Him everything?*) and pray (*it's the most important practice you'll ever learn*) and seek my face (*to know Him is to worship Him*) and turn from their wicked ways, (*Don't delay anymore men, there's too many lost and dying, and one day He'll ask us why we didn't offer what we have been so freely given*) then will I hear from heaven (*open up the sky and pour down like rain, Lord*) and will forgive their sin (*revive us, O Lord, revive us...*) and heal their land" (*send revival, Lord, start with me.*)

The mandate has been given.....

Onward and upward! As for me, I'm going to another level! C'mon up! The water's fine.....

## Part II

*Colossians 3:2 'Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth!'*

*3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, which is idolatry*

*3:8 Put them ALL away: Anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.*

*3:9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.*

THE OLD LEVEL HAS JUST BEEN DISCUSSED. IF THERE'S ANYTHING THERE THAT YOU NEED TO GET RID OF, YOU MUST, OR YOU'RE GONNA GET STUCK THERE AND THIS ELEVATOR IS TAKING OFF. THE NEW LEVEL WILL NOW BE DISCUSSED:

*3:9 Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

*3:12,13 Put on as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you. So you must also forgive 14: above these all put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

It all starts in your mind! The devil's playground. It's why he's always attacking us there. Because our mind is weak! I hear over and over men say, "I've made up my mind, I'm never doing that again" and then the next day there they are doing that again. Why?! I believe we can think about changing all day long, but it has to be a heart condition where we allow more of Christ in to really begin to see a change and we have to start relying on the Holy Spirit more. How many of us really connect with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis? He is there for us! Jesus said He was leaving Him with us didn't He? John 3:13 calls him the Spirit of Truth. He comes to guide us in ALL the truth, He said this was for our advantage. When I'm 1-up in a one-on-one basketball situation, I have the advantage and usually I'll throw that in the face of the opponent. Who is our opponent here? Not my Christian brothers! I'm not supposed to use the Holy Spirit to show off what I have and neener-neener-neener – you can't have it! No!!! I use the Holy Spirit's power to bring up my brother to the next level so we can be Kingdom builders, not destroyers. So the next time don't one-up your brother, one-up the devil. Throw it in his face.

*Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* Well, that's a novel concept there, isn't it? Forget about ourselves and stop one-upping every believer around you by being genuinely interested in the lives of those around you. I guess pride and jealousy have to go, huh? Well, this might take some work. In some of you .....a ton. But this can be done! This must be done to move up.

After the resurrection Jesus breathed on the disciples, telling them to receive the Holy Spirit. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you," and with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Why is it so hard to stop cursing, so difficult to stop lying, deceiving, acting out the lusts of the flesh, murmuring, complaining, being divisive, being angry, jealous, and malicious? Didn't the disciples walk with Jesus? Weren't they being good enough? Wait a minute,

Peter did, and here he was cursing and denying he knew Him around certain people. This is exactly why they needed the Holy Spirit's power, not their own, to do miracles and really take a stand and go to the uttermost parts of the world! Yes, Jesus related our receiving of the Spirit to the harvesting of unforgiven sinners. Jesus spoke the word for them to receive the Holy Spirit but He told them to gather and wait a few days. Why? I believe it was self-examination time. They gathered together for 10 days in the "upper" room (the next level) of some rich guy's house. They didn't listen to sermons in the gym or in the education building, they didn't organize a Bible study or fill in the blanks of one. There was no formal agenda. They had each other! That fellowship one with another became the essential ingredient for family, a community of believers. What happens when you spend time with one another. You develop intimacy. You share information about lives, families, and testimonies. They shared heartache, pain, their problems. As they did so, they moved closer and closer to Christ's goal for them: they were "in one accord."

Then it happened! The Shekinah Glory that burned in a bush before Moses, now was tongues of fire resting on each person's head! The glory entered their lives and their spirits and words were under His control. John talked about this in Luke 3:16 *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*" It was all lining up now. It was time to go to the next level.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says *"But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed."* Read this whole chapter my brothers! *"Now this Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM!"* Not bound anymore to the old habits, not tied up as a slave to my weaknesses. The old man is only half dead in some of you because you're still looking through a veil. Take it down in Jesus name! Be FREE! *"And we ALL, with unveiled face reflecting the glory of the Lord are being transformed" - a continuous process- into that same image from one degree of glory to a higher degree (emphasis mine) *For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit!"**

Peter's first message after the Holy Spirit came upon him was what Joel had prophesied. Simply put: THIS IS THAT! And I declare to you today the same.... You want sure-fire change? You want to be FREE like never before? Then wait on the Holy Spirit, but you must seek Him. Get together with a couple of others this coming week and the weeks to come who want to be a sign that it is possible for men to live together, love each other, celebrate and work together. Be a place of resource for those around you to help others grow towards freedom, so that they can love as Jesus loves them. There is no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends! If you're doing these things, keep it up!

The challenge has been given! Are you (going) up for it?

Be Blessed!

*Chief*

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) coming soon [www.chiefs.house.org](http://www.chiefs.house.org)*

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*