

GETTING TO KNOW YOU





## Devotional by Elder KEITH FREEMAN

### SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

***Eph 4:9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?)***

When we talk about Christ descending into the lower earthly regions, what we always perceived to mean hell, it recalled images of people, including me, in some dark place behind bars, prisoners waiting to be set free. Then there is the verse in 1 Peter that many Theologians use to explain that Jesus, after his death, went to hell to preach to those imprisoned.

***1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits***

There must be more to this "heaven and hell" thinking than just geographical places where we spend eternity. Hell itself according to Revelation gets destroyed in the lake of fire. Also, there has to

be an everyday practical use and manifestation of these scriptures. Christ and hell can not exist together, once Christ enters hell, hell is destroyed. So, I look at this internally, I know that the Kingdom of Heaven is within, it is inside of me and you. I also know there are some dark places deep inside me as well. I believe we all have this same thing going on inside. This dark place can be anything from fear, anxiety, anger, and the list goes on and on. These are the things that hold us prisoner; fear is one of the biggest. These things take control of us and rule over our thoughts and emotions until, until Christ comes down into our hell and sets us free; which is the one scripture Jesus sat down in the synagogue and read out loud.

*Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners***

There is something great inside all of us. A version of us that is not afraid, that loves and not hates; one who is not anxious or greedy and prideful. We need Christ to come down and unlock that force of God that is within us. This is a battle, but it's not outside of us, it is inside. We each have a captive that is crying out for salvation and to be set free.

*Isaiah 49:8-9 This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, **and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, 9 to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'**" They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.*

Of course, every lock has a key, and Jesus said himself in *Matthew 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* so I know we have the keys but what are they? First, it is truth, because scripture says the truth shall set us free. Here's a few other keys; love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, and let's not forget one of the greatest keys to unlocking eternal life which is forgiveness.

I believe that we too have been given the same calling and ability; in fact we've been anointed to preach the good news and set the captives free. We can descend into each other's place of hell and use the keys to unlock the captives that are so eagerly wanting to be set free. We do this by forgiving ourselves and others, by loving

ourselves and others, by listening to each other, crying with each other, by bringing peace into situations and being faithful to one another. We will be set free from our darkness and in turn will set others free from theirs. And we know ***John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.***

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## Hello From Helen

Hello family,

May was an exciting month here at New Image Ministries,

We had another wonderful dinner at the end of April. We had meatloaf which everyone raved about. Of course there was birthday cake for all the May birthdays along with other fantastic desserts. We sat around and spend wonderful family time as we always do at our Communion Dinners.

We had a baby dedication on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>. We all witnessed the dedication of “Royalty Dior Betty Hayden” as she was presented to the Lord. She was dressed in a beautiful white dress with little socks with great big lace trim. Pastor Michael and Pastor Phil did such a wonderful job. Her mom Stacy was one of our dancers a few years ago and Pastor Phil said “May she dance in the house of the Lord” The whole ceremony was amazing. May God bless you and watch over you always Royalty!

***BREAKING NEWS!*** There will be a new youth program starting July 2023. The new children’s ministry will be named: “THE CHOSEN GENERATION” Elder Janet Petruzziello, Elder Nicole Freeman & Yvonne Shadrach will be teaching the class and the age group will be for anyone from 5 to 12 years of age. This is very exciting and I can’t wait to see how it all evolves.

*1 Peter 2:9 – But you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

As some of you might have already guessed, the church will be closed for vacation the 1st week of July which will be July 3rd through July 7th. Remember: we are always here on Sunday for church service.

Until next month













































