

Habitation Conference Session #8

Bishop Tony Miller

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To Pastor William: Your success is my honor, and we are in covenant. There's never been a time I've called you that you've said no. But I said what am I supposed to do at the end? We have a rule at The Gate Church that every service has to end on the day it began. Today, I want to unpack what I believe is a prophetic charge. Everything that's happened in the last 72 hours is for this moment. **Prophecy is not for celebration, it's for preparation.** While we you do have authority, can't do just anything you can only do what Heaven gives you permission to do. I can only

I heard the Holy Spirit saying, I shifted habitation from being a place of blessing to a place of building. Lots of people are desirous of being blessers in the Body of Christ, we've got very few people who want to be builders because you can bless and leave, you've got to stay to build. That's why there are some people who don't want long term relationships, because if I stay, I've gotta help you build something. When David got ready to Build Kingdom He called on the sons of Issachar, because they understood the times and they knew what to do. (1 Chronicles 12:32) What most people miss about the sons of Issachar was that they too had an assignment - they were the astronomers of Israel. They actually understood the movement of stars and planets. So here's the point, the Old Testament is all a picture. The sons of Issachar could read the Heavens and knew what to do in the earth. We've got far too many people leading the Body of Christ reading the paper not knowing what to do. The issue is not can you read the New York Times, but can you discern the Heavens. Because if you can discern the heavens and know what time it is and you'll know what season, and you'll be ahead. Because if you wait until you fully comprehend a thing, you'll be too late. Some things you have to be willing respond to while you're yet understanding.

The book of Joshua is the hinge book, the transitional book. It's the book where everything shifts. The Holy Spirit said to me that these 72 hours were shifting moments, not only for everyone here, but I believe they were shifting moments in the Body of Christ.

Joshua 3:1-7 (NKJV)

*3 Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. 2 So it was, **after three days**, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. 4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." 5 And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify (consecrate) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." 6 Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people. 7 And the Lord said to Joshua, "**This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel**, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.*

How many know that in the natural/corporate world, everybody fights for what's next.

Research and Development Departments in major corporations are some of the most heavily funded in all the corporate world. The company that put out this phone - Apple. How many of

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you know they released it knowing it had bugs in it. They didn't wait til it was perfected to put it out because they want to be on the front end of the market. That's why they keep sending you updates because they recognized the flaws before they released it, but they didn't hold it waiting on its perfection. Because their desire is to be on the front end of what happens, because the whole world cries what's next. Somebody shout, "What's next?"

In the economy of God the issue in Heaven is not just so much what's next, but the issue is who's next? We're in a transitional season of disruption because God is making re-introductions. Reintroducing us to Him. How many of you know that there are some parts of God you haven't discovered. The Angels cry Holy Holy Holy because they see a new angle to Him that they've never seen before because there's so much to Him that it's beyond finding out. **God is about to introduce Himself to the earth in ways we've never seen Him. He's about to show up in your life and in the church.**

Joshua actually begins in the book of Exodus. If there is a book called Exodus, then He must be the God of the exit. **He's the God of exits, that means you're never trapped.** He will make a way. Just when you think you're locked in something you can't get out of, He will make a way of escape, because he is a God of exits. But what happens is He brings us to places we've never been before. We like to dress up an old thing and call it new. Isaiah 43:18 **A new thing is not an old thing re-done.** In the economy of God there's nothing new. God doesn't get up and say, "*Wow I wasn't expecting that, that's new!*" God lives in eternity so in the economy of God everything is finished. It's not new to Him. But we live in time and space and experience new things continually. Somebody's been pregnant for a long time and your due season has arrived. Your time of delivery has now come available.

New things are really nothing more than prepared things whose time has come.

That's why the Bible speaks about a due season, an appointed time. A prepared thing. The Bible says God is continually preparing me for what He's prepared for. I never arrive at a destination I can't occupy. That means **God doesn't want you to visit your promise, He wants you to possess it, dwell in it, and live in it. So He has to prepare me for what he's prepared for me.** We read this verse in the bible, *Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for us.* (1Cor .2:9) We quote that at funerals, and it's not a funeral verse. Verse #10 but they are revealed unto us by His Spirit. For who knows the mind of God save the Spirit of God. For the Spirit of God searches the deep things of God. The greatest search engine in the world is not Google. Because Google can only search known facts but **the Holy Ghost can search unknown facts that have not been revealed, but have been appointed to a due season.** They are prepared and already got your name on them, waiting on your arrival.

What God is asking for is not just what's next but who's next. When God begins this Scripture Joshua has brought them out. He's introducing them to territory they've never walked on. It was called the land of Canaan, but it was also called the land of Promise. How is it Canaan become promise. How many of you remember who Canaan was? He was Ham's son. and Noah's grandson. Ham had uncovered Noah and when Noah sobered up, he spoke a curse on him. Canaan left that place living under the curse of His grandfather. And God said to the people of God, **your place of promise will always be the places under a curse.** Because I was gonna leave them under a curse, I'll always bring them into redemption. So when you've been sent to a city that you believe is an ungodly place. That's because God says, what the world calls a cursed place, I call a promised land. And if you can't take back the land of Canaan, you can't live in the land flowing with milk and honey! That's why I'm assigning you

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not to another church down the street. **I'm assigning you to a place of bondage and captivity, and if you can take THAT territory, then you can live in the land of your promise.**

Then Joshua comes along and in Chapter 3:1 He calls together the **sons** of Israel. One translation says he calls together the children of Israel. It's an interesting term because the word sons and children both in the Hebrew is the word **be -nei - it's root means to build.**

Get this picture, Joshua and Caleb are the only two people that have now survived from Egypt, through the wilderness, to the border of the promised land. All of their peers died in the wilderness. But two people kept the prophetic promise alive. Because God never is a man that he should lie. (Numbers 23:19) So, **even if He has to outlive a generation (God can live longer than you can)...** Even if He has to outlive a generation in order to fulfill the promise, **He won't let loose of the promise.**

So he kept Joshua and Caleb alive so that they could become the remnant that would be the instructors for a generation coming. That's why what Bishop Garlington and Pastor Sam are saying is so important, because somewhere along the line, we have felt like fathers have no longer been necessary. But there's somebody that's been carrying this promise through this wilderness season and they're ready to go into the thing that has been promised to them by God. I'm one of those men. I started in the restoration movement with Patrick's grandmother, Violet Kately and other people to bring expressive worship to America. Bishop Garlington, his brother John, other people were there in the late 70's, early '80's where God broke out with worship, dancing expression, people learning the prophetic. Then all of a sudden we went into a wilderness season. I'm here to announce to you that God has not let the promise go. He is about to bring us into the land and we're not gonna visit it we're going to live in it. Because He's coming after people who don't want to just bless folks. He's coming after people who will build.

Sons are the builders of family lines. That's why when the enemy wants to cut something off from the earth he goes after men. That's why when Egypt wanted to keep a deliverer from coming, they didn't kill all the babies. They killed the boy babies. Because if we can cut off the sons... that's why the devil doesn't for churches that are full of women worshippers. I love women, I thank God for the women at The Gate Church. But I want to tell you something if he wants to cut something off from the earth, he will cut the sons off. That's why he'll pervert men worship leaders. He'll pervert men prophets. He'll pervert men preachers. **Because if he can cut off the sons, he can cut off the building.** Jesus appeared. Herod didn't try to kill all the babies, he wanted to kill those who could become builders of a new family line. **I came to talk to people who will say, Bishop, I will be a part of the builders of a new family line.** I'm next! I'm willing to be one of those who is willing to break out of the poverty of previous days. I'm not talking about the poverty of money, I'm talking about the poverty of spirit. I'm willing to let lose of entertainment worship. I'm tired of living by manufactured anointings. I'm ready to be a part of building a new family history and a new family line.

We keep talking in detrimental terms to millennials, that's everybody up to 35. May I suggest to you that yes, this group has issues. I'm a boomer. May I suggest to you, we have issues. Woodstock. Vietnam. Racial tensions. I grew up in DC. Racial tensions when street blocks were burning. We act as if somehow this is the most terrible time in history. The truth of the matter is we've been here before and we keep forfeiting the builders. The average age in US is 37, in India 26 the 2nd largest country in the world, in Africa 14. **If I got everybody in the building 40 and under, if you don't matter, then we don't have any hope for the future.** I'm not asking will you come and give us a blessing. I'm asking will you come and help us build Will you come and say, I'm here to establish something that no one has seen in my generation.

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I'm here to give myself away like nobody else in an entire generation wants to give themselves away.

I'm willing to live a different life because I'm willing to be the builders of a new family line. So maybe it's not that the millennials won't, maybe we've not invited them. Maybe fathers have quit being coverings and started to become lids. It's a horrible thing in a home when a mother competes with her daughter. It's a deadly thing when a daddy is intimidated by his sons. What happens when my sons become old enough to become fathers? When my children were 10 they need something from me that was different than when they were 16. And now that they're in their 30's they need something different from me than when they were 10. **What keeps church immature is when we keep having people who are of the stature of fathers, but they keep having to be treated like 10 year olds.** Bishop Garlington is a father. But in my life, he's not just a father, he's a patriarch. There are sons. There are fathers, and there are patriarchs. We have to learn. God always identified at least 3 generations: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We tend to see so narrow, we believe that God is only has been moving in our generation. But if we're seeing further or going further than the last generation it's only because we're standing on the shoulders of some mighty men and women who went before us. Somebody came out of Egypt. I wasn't there when they came out of the wilderness, but somebody was there, and somebody is still carrying the report of that. But what they're waiting for is not a generation who's content to have manna everyday, and have a cloud over them and a pillar of fire. **I'm not interested in wilderness living. Wilderness living is when you have to have a miracle everyday to satisfy you.** When you've gotta have a show everyday to show up, and when we've got to entertain you to get you to come to church. **When you live out of the wilderness and into your promised land, you don't serve because you're trying to get a position.**

Slaves and sons both serve but they serve for a different reason. A slave serves because he's trying to get recognized and promoted. A son serves because he owns something and he wants it to produce!

He said I'm calling together the builders of a new family line. Who's next? Three things I'll show you and then I'll get out of your way:

1. The first thing he said was **he called them in the Achaia grove, which means the woods.** He had to call them out of the woods. You have to have clarity before you can have conquest. I heard Bishop say, *"If you don't know what you're looking for looks like, you won't know it if you see it."* Perception is a major issue. **Your natural eyes give you sight; your spiritual eyes give you vision.** There are a lot of people that have sight and no vision. (Hellen Keller) Listen to me closely, **you see through your eyes, but you don't see with your eyes.** Your eyes don't tell you what you're looking at. God didn't create eyes so you could understand what you're looking at. He created your eyes to catch light rays through retina to your optic nerve in the back. Your optic nerve converts those light rays into signals are sent to your brain. So while you see through your eyes, you don't see with your eyes. You see with your brain. **That's why once you're born again, an un-renewed mind becomes your biggest hindrance to the things God has called you to.** Because you can be looking at the things you've been praying for and not even recognize them. Because your eyes are seeing something but your heart/spirit man is not able to perceive what you're looking. Isaiah 43 Behold I do anew thing -it will spring forth/SPROUT. it's been resonating in the ground germinating, it just wasn't the season for it to come up. But when the season comes for it to go germinate, it will spring up, will you not perceive/be aware of it? **You can be amidst the thing you been praying for and not recognize it because it**

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doesn't show up the way you thought it should. Luke 19 Jesus comes to a city. Jesus only cries twice in the New Testament. He wept over Lazarus, and He wept over a City. He wept over Lazarus because He loves people. He wept over Jerusalem because He loves cities. **When was the last time you wept over your city?** In an age of franchise church. What do you do with franchise church when you have a zip code God? You see, **we've never learned that God is local.** He doesn't deal with Orlando the way he deals with Oklahoma City. He doesn't deal with Oklahoma City the way He deals with Los Angeles. And LA is not Pittsburgh, but **we keep trying to franchise God.** We think we can take what God is doing somewhere and do it anywhere. We want to take something we saw someone do on a video and stick it into our contexts just like that and never let any adaptation take place and wonder why it doesn't create what we saw on the video. It's because He's not a franchise God; He's a zip code God. So Jesus comes to Jerusalem He's weeping over Jerusalem I had gathered you, I had plans for you, but you have been left embanked about. (Luke 13:34) **In other words, He says you're always going to live in limitation.** Here's why, **because you did not recognize the day of your visitation.** The word visitation is Greek- episkopos the word for bishop. **Jesus said to them your Bishop came by and you didn't recognize Me.** If you grew up in traditional church you understand that the bishop had the jurisdictional authority to adjudicate new territory. That's why Jesus is called the Bishop of your soul, because only Jesus can adjudicate new territory to you. How many of you know you can be in church a long time. **Maturity does not come with age, you can be terminally immature.** So what happens is, God doesn't automatically put you in the 5th grade just because you're driving a car. He said, I came by to adjudicate to you new territory, but you didn't recognize I was in your midst. Therefore you've been left in your limitation. Until you recognize I won't do it this year the way I did it last last year, and I may not do it next year the way I did it this year, then you'll always miss what I have for you in the moment, and you'll stay embanked about. You'll feel restriction. What do you do when God shows up and He doesn't do what you expect him to look like. You've been praying and fasting for 40 days and He comes, but because He doesn't come in the way that you saw Him. He's saying to you **get clear about what it is you're really after.** Because if you're just looking for another good meeting, and another good feeling, and another good blessing... you're gonna miss what I'm doing in this hour. Because I'm not just coming to bless people. I'm looking for an Apostolic, Prophetic Company that has the capacity to build something that the gates of Hell will not be able to prevail against. I'm looking for Christians that the Word of God affects them more than the Television screen or the FB Page.

- 2. Remember when Jesus came out of the grave?** Do you remember the ladies came that morning to find him? Mary goes in and comes out and she walks to the guy standing in the garden and she says to him, Where have you taken Jesus? **She's just fussing at who she perceives to be the gardener.** Where'd you put Jesus? Where'd Jesus go? Where'd that old sound go? **She does not recognize Him until he says, "Mary."** While form may always change, that voice never changes. **So if you build according to form, you'll miss him That's why you have to build according to the voice.** And when she heard him say Mary, she clung to Him. She said Jesus I'm never going to let you go, and Jesus said Mary, let me go. Cause as long as you keep holding on to Me in this form, I can never ascend to my Father, provide for you what I have for you. You've got to be willing to give you a relationship like you've never known, a form like you've never known, a structure that you've never known. Because if you can't let go of that, I can't take you to what I've ordained.
- 3. Let me tell you what the essence of a religious spirit is.** There's a lot of good people with one who are going to Heaven when they die. They're not all Jezebels and Absaloms. **The essence of a religious spirit is somebody who is love with where God used to be.** That's where God used to be. That's why every leader has to understand that every time

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you want to tell people to what you saw in your closet, He could change. Moses saw the burning bush but by the time he got back, the bush was no longer burning, the whole mountain was on fire. **That's why you can never fall in love with your form. You have to fall in love with his voice.** *Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.* Prov 29:18 ESV

We keep trying to having people to have priorities. The Bible teaches, **you can't have priorities until you have a vision. Your priorities don't give you vision, your vision gives you priorities.** If you're not clear about what you want, you don't know what to say no to. The reason so many people in ministry today are being seduced is because **they've never figured out what to say yes to or what to say no to.** So now anyone who dangles an opportunity at them, they think they have a call. **And they come out the womb of formation before they were ever meant to be birthed.** And they come out as people that have to be then kept alive in an incubator until God can grow them up and make them into the people they were meant to be. If they had been taught what to say yes to, they could have looked at all the seducing spirits that offered them money, fame, a platform, recognition for an hour...Oh, I'll let you open up for William...for an hour. No, no baby, that's not what I've been called to. I'm clear about what I want. I'm clear about that I'm supposed to be a builder. I'm not supposed to run off because somebody offered me a \$30 more a week than I'm getting here. I know what I'm clear about and I know what to say no to. I love you, but I can't go there. **It's too expensive. I can't miss this moment.** See **when we no prophetic vision, we crave acceptance, attention, security, companionship, and we end up being manipulated and abused.** God help us, we've had enough manufactured anointings. Here's what he said, **If you want to be clear about something be clear about what you're after.** He said, when you see this Ark move, you go after it. Cause listen to me, Joshua was telling those people, **you're really even after the land; you're after what HE wants for you.** It got really quiet in here. **There's a lot of people who are motivated to keep following as long as they've got some sign that they're gonna get what they wanted.** Cause really. I mean, I'm after a house that I didn't have to build and vineyards I didn't have to plant. Ok Joshua, I'll show up, I'll worship for 5 hours, so long as you promise me that at the end of the day... I'll get what I want. **But still get clear about what you're really after because, what you're really after is that box.** I've walked in and preached at 78 nations of the world. I've stood on stages with 100-120k people a night in soccer stadiums. I've watched blind eyes open, I've watched pupils come in eyes that never had a pupil. I've watched cripples literally extend out their limbs and all of a sudden crack like trees falling in a storm as God caused them to stand up. I've watched a baby dead 4 days in South America rise at the Word of the Lord. I've walked among presidents. My masters degree is in organizational leadership and I've spent time working for Prime Ministers and Presidents of nations and speaking to cabinet members. I've been among a lot of incredible people in the Body of Christ. But let me tell you something, I've never been impressed with any of them as much as I am when I'm in the presence of the Box (the Lord). **Because if anything is more impressive to you than that box, you're after the wrong thing.** I'm not after another armor bearer, I want that box - I want that presence. So here's what I want you to do make sure you stick 2000 cubit from Him. In other words, **don't crowd God. Because if you crowd God you're presuming your know where He's going.** You keep enough distance from Him so that when He turns you have enough distance to make the turn. Listen to me. Let me tell you what focus is. **Focus is not what about what you stare at. Focus is about what you refuse to be distracted by.** A lot of people who've got glazed over thinking they're focused. It's not what you stare at, it's what you refuse to be distracted by that causes you to walk in the things of the Spirit. **Clarity before conquest - know what you're after.**

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I took a church in Oklahoma City several years ago that had been decimated. The leader went through a major divorce. I preached there for many years. 34 acres of property 180k sq ft. God sent me. I'd planted 8 churches. I had spiritual sons, they were doing well. I was overseeing a network. God, said I want you to take that house, it's your assignment. Because here's what I said, I said **God, I want to grow. I want to keep growing,** I want to be a continual learner. The LORD said, Ok, here's your project. I didn't know I meant to grow that much. The first Sunday, I moved 36 people from my offices to the City. We were on the east coast and I moved 36 people there. And with my 36 the first Sunday we had 172 in a building that seats 3200 and nothing was roped off, people sat everywhere. We not only had a seat for you, we had a pew for you. We could have shot a shot down the center and hit nobody. They couldn't afford to put all the lights in so there were dark sections in the Sanctuary. There was one couple in the back they were making out while I was preaching. I left them alone because that was the only sign life in the building. We owed 3.5 Million dollars. We were 175k behind in monthly bills. The electric company called us, they were ready to turn the lights out. **He said, I just want to know if I can find a builder. Can I find a builder?** And we started, and you know what? God had blessed me, our ministry, we'd seen a lot of revenue come out of our ministry. I went and pastored a church that couldn't pay me. I paid the staff out of my own pocket. But **we got clear about what we wanted.** And what we wanted was not just a big building and a nice piece of property. We were intending to be a house of His presence. We wanted the presence of God. And when we got clear on what we wanted, God began to give us conquest of the property. And tomorrow thousands of people will gather there. Thousands have been born again. **But none of that happens until you get clear on what you want, and when you eliminate options, when leaving and quitting is no longer an option.** You set your face like a flint and you say. *"This is my vision and I'm coming out of my woods and I am going to be the who's next!"*

2. You've gotta have consecration before validation. He said, I'm gonna do wonders among you tomorrow, but today...consecrate yourself. Sanctify yourself. We talk about sanctification being set apart from something. The word sanctification not only means to be set apart, it means to be set UNTO something. You know the verse we use at offering time, Luke 6:38, "Give and it shall be given unto you..." That's not really an offering verse. That's a Kingdom principle. In other words, **You cannot get anything from something you don't first give yourself to.** I want people to come worship with me. Then how much are you giving yourself to worship when nobody is there watching you worship? And how much are you giving yourself to rehearsing your transitional keys, when nobody's there listening to you go through the transitional keys. Because if you want something to be given back to you, God will give it to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, but He's not going to give that to you until you first give yourself to it. Here's what he's telling Joshua, **If there's no altar there will be no miracles tomorrow.** If you leave Orlando this week without an altar in your life, you will have missed 72 hours of what God intended to do in this house. Because **God is wanting to do incredible things, but He will not promote us, He won't validate us, or let us move into new territory until we first have an altar of consecration.** You know why? Because God's wanting us to take some responsibility.

You went through the Old Testament and taught the Tabernacle (I don't know any worship leader that didn't) If you went through the Tabernacle you know that **every burnt offering had to be put up piece by piece until it was totally consumed. There's an altar that we keep wanting to crawl off of.** We want to crawl up on the altar on on Sunday morning because we're going to be before the people. Then we crawl off on Sunday night because we get to do our stuff. God said I want there to be an altar where there can be a burnt consumption of who you are. And **when I get done consuming you there's nothing left of you. The only evidence is**

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the fire that still presides. I don't know whom I'm talking to, but somebody is ready for an altar in your life because listen, **You're never altered until you're altared.**

The Cross was His throne. Because you can't have that kind of authority if you don't have that kind of altar. I think Pastor Sam can help me with this. Most of the rest of the world knows this, America doesn't. In the rest of the world there's much more sensitivity to the spirit world. Here's what every person will tell you, particularly in places where there's a lot of spiritism. **The greater the sacrifice, the greater the authority.** That's why people who dabble in witchcraft offer just oranges or grapes or maybe a bird. But when you get people operating in heavier levels they begin to goats, or then they get babies, or even adults. Because they understand that if I'm gonna have more authority, I've got to have a greater sacrifice. Because in the spirit world, the greater the sacrifice, the greater the authority. You want to know why we don't have much authority? Because we don't have the sacrifice. But I want to tell you something Heaven said I'll match that. **Because when every demon spirit offered everything it knew, Heaven says I'll offer still a greater sacrifice. And God said I'll take own Son and put him all the altar called the Cross. When comes gets off that Cross, there will never be an authority greater than Him because come from the greatest altar of all time!** That's why when Jesus tells you to, "Take up you cross" He's not trying to cramp your style. **He's trying to give you the authority to live in what He's called you to possess!** Because when you have a consecration he can bring a validation.

The last thing he said to them was, vs 11. **Take that box and go step in the Jordan.** If Israel had not had Joshua who could be courageous enough to break forms the would lose this miracle. Because when Isreal came out of Egypt, God opened the Red Sea then they stepped in. Whey they got ready to go into Jordan, they're not immature they stepped in the water. Those priests carrying the Ark got wet. Why are you all standing in that water? I don't know, but I got a word we're going to get that territory right there. But here's what I know, **If I'm not courageous enough to do the ridiculous, I will not inherit the things I've been promised.** I'm looking for somebody in the room today who says, I watched him make a way for me to get out. I'm ready to get wet, I'm ready to do what He tells me to do. I'm gonna step in and once I step in somehow he's going to give the next word of instruction.

I came today today to Habitation to ask a prophetic question...Who's next?!