

## Habitation Conference Session #5

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### **3 Reasons Your Healing is Essential**

**Exploring Worship is in it's 3rd Edition** - You can get this new release today. David Binion and William McDowell have endorsed it. Official launch here at Habitation. I also have a book on the message today. I'm taking on kind of a strong topic this afternoon.

#### **Personal Testimony**

In 1992 I was a worship leader and a pastor. I did both back in those days. I had a season where I had a sore throat. I thought it was allergies because at 35 you don't pay attention to things like that. I went to a worship conference in Michigan. I led a class on praise and spiritual warfare. I'm leaving the group in the shout of praise and I came away with a soreness in my throat that was deeper than anything I'd felt before. I don't have theology on this but that was where it started. After the conference it went away then it came back. Then it went away again, then it stayed. The doctor said it was a contact ulcer. In the Summer of 1992 I had laser surgery that removed the ulcer and also did something else. **Since that time my voice has been painful to use. That injury launched me into a very dark season and into the presence the LORD.**

**I've had pain when I speak now for 26 years.** I'm actually grateful for the pain. It's the pain that's pressed me into the heart of God. Pursuit of God and fire changes you. Sometimes God will motivate you to come after Him. **Never despise the means God uses to make you desperate for Him.** So as I began to come after God **the only thing I knew to do was to devour the Word of God and go deep in the Spirit.** I began to devour them with all my heart. That's where I started to write my books. **When God feeds you in your darkness, you feed others as well.**

He is the LORD my healer. He has promised in the Spirit. I told the LORD, ***"I'm holding you to your Word until you complete your purpose in my life."*** I'm on a journey with the LORD. It's a journey through suffering. When you're suffering there are four places in the Word you go to fast: Job, Psalms, Lamentations 3, and you go to the cross. **I think I would have lost my mind if it were not for the cross of Jesus Christ.** I'm so grateful that Jesus, You gave us an example when You went to the Cross. The wisdom of the Cross of Jesus Christ. I requested this image of a cross because I wanted us to have a focus on the Cross for this message, and we need it in our lives.

**There is no such thing as a revival without the centrality of the cross.** Take us back to the cross, and keep us centered on the cross. **Get the cross back in the center of our worship. Give us more songs about the cross.** There are thousands of songs about the cross yet to be written, Habitation. Give them to us The greatest honor in David's life was not that he wrote many songs, or that he was king of Israel, or

that he was given an eternal throne. **The greatest honor in David's life was being quoted 3 times on the cross.**

1. ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*** Psalm 22:1; Matt. 27:46
2. ***I thirst*** - Psalm 69:21; John 19:28
3. ***Into Your hands I commit my spirit*** - Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46

**When Jesus Christ was in the throes of his agony on the cross and he was looking for vocabulary speak about the angst of his heart, He went to David.** It's as if He said, David wrote it the way I feel it. What kind of cup will have you to drink? Who could write the kind of thing that Jesus would quote? **The thing that we're trying to avoid - suffering - is the thing that brought David to the greatest identification with Christ.** There is no one else who can say he quoted them 3 times.

**There's something about suffering that matures us.** Jesus Christ wants to marry a mature Bride, not an immature spoiled brat who brings Him barbie dolls. Not a Bride that says, *"Don't talk about that cross thing. Let's just enjoy the moment."* He wants to marry a bride that when He says this is the will of the Father for my life; she will say this is the will of the Father for my life too. When He says this is the cup that He gave me. She will say this is the cup He gave me too.

**There's a day coming when I (the Bride) am going to reach my hand in the side of my beloved Savior and caress the scars that brought me His love.** Then He is going to caress her (His Bride's) scars, because she now holds in her body the marks of Christ. If Jesus had to incur scars to defeat Satan. What makes me think I don't have to. **If you have no scar, are you even in the battle? The scars we incur in this struggle become the emblems of our marriage bed and our tokens of identification and intimacy with the LORD Jesus Christ.** Because of my suffering experience, I've looked pretty closely at the topic in Scripture. When you're in pain, you tend to look at the metaphors in Scripture that help you interpret that pain. You go to the refining fire, the clay on the potters wheel, pruning of the branches, etc. It helps us understand the nature of God's working in our lives to mature us and bring us into His inheritance.

I'm going to speak this afternoon about one of the biblical metaphors on suffering, the single passage that's been most helpful to me to process my journey with the LORD.

Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

The race that is set before us. This passage is framed in the imagery of a race.

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vs 2

*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Jesus is portrayed as our olympic champion who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, despising its shame.** He ran his race before us. so we would know how to run our race. His hands were nailed and His feet were nailed as you look at Him. This is how you run your race.

Vs 3

*3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

Hostility is a reference to the cross of Jesus.

Vs. 4

*You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

A reference to the bloodshed of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Vs. 5

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the [c]chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

**The writer is not changing topics.** He's still talking about the cross. He's still talking about chastening. And you have forgotten the exhortation - that speaks to you as sons. Do not despised the chastening of the LORD.

Vs. 6

*For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

Scourges - this same word was used as the scourging of Jesus Christ on the Christ.

**When the writer of Hebrews 12 comes to the topic of chastening of the LORD, he puts chastening and the cross all in one point.** In vs. 5 he says you have forgotten this exhortation. You have forgotten? You're saying you just haven't emphasized it. God says, *"Actually forgotten is what I meant."* This is one of the forgotten exhortations of the Church. **One reason that we've forgotten about this exhortation is because we're just not into it.**

**I don't think there's anyone in the room that wants to get chastened, and there are not a lot who think we need it.** If you were given a choice as kids, *"You can have parents that spank or parents who do not spank."* How many would have chosen the parents that don't spank? Get your hands up! You would choose the ones who don't spank, who don't chastise. Because of that sometimes it's just easier to ignore the whole thing and we forget about it.

**Another reason is because Satan has a sinister design for us to forget this doctrine.** There are nations around the earth today who are outlying the compassionate exercise of discipline. There are nations that can arrest you, throw the book at you, and take your children away if you exercise discipline. I think that the enemy is behind this. **He wants the world to believe that the compassionate exercise of discipline is abusive. If we believe that it's abuse then we may also view God as abusive.** Then we partner with the accuser instead of loving God. Instead of coming through the chastening as a warrior in the end time, you end up becoming a casualty because of this accusation. If he can cause us to forget this doctrine, when the Father chastens we will become accusatory and become casualties.

***He just doesn't want another Job.***

**We haven't known how to reconcile his goodness with his discipline.** If I were to say God is good, how many would give me an Amen? We believe it, we know it. How could a good God have anything to do with something that bad? We just haven't known how to put it together theologically. **I don't see a contradiction here. God is good and He chastens.** I don't believe God puts his goodness on pause, then chastens you, and then hits the reset button on his goodness. I believe that He's good while He chastens. I believe His chastening is the expression of his goodness. It's time for us to dust off Hebrews 12 and acquaint ourselves with this exhortation. When things are becoming more intense than ever, it's time to remember it.

**Personally, I see 5 possible causations when suffering hits our lives.** It could be God, or it could be the Devil. People can do it to you. We can bring it on ourselves. Sometimes it's just by living in a falling world. This planet is broken, accidents happen just by living in a falling world. Sometimes it's just one of those elements. Sometimes there are more than just one of those elements at work. Sometimes Satan and God both have their hand in the ring. Sometimes it's people, and we blow it. In some situations all 5 are involved and it's a spaghetti mess trying to figure out what percentage of what is in there.

**For your trial to be a chastening of the Father, He must be one of the causative agents in your trial.** I don't believe that God is involved in every trial. Jesus indicated in Luke 13:11 one woman had been bound by a spirit of infirmity. So sometimes it's just the devil. Sometimes there are trials in life where the Father has His hands

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involved. Not every trial in life is a chastening. When the Father's involved, there might be an element of chastening.

Vs 5

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

### **Two Unfortunate Responses to Chastening**

1 - To DESPISE it. it's not God, He's not trying to get my attention.

2 - To become DISCOURAGED, weighed down and burdened so that we give up and quit the race

### **The Proper Response**

Rev. 3:19

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, **be zealous and repent.***

Be zealous to know His purpose, walk His way, change to His will and know what He's after. Be quick to repent.

**His rebukes are His verbal corrections. His chastening is his non-verbal correction.** Anyone in the room know the difference between verbal and non-verbal correction? It usually starts with verbal. If the verbal doesn't get the response we were looking for, we take it to the next level - the non-verbal level. Here's something I learned as a kid. If I will pay attention to the verbal, I can sometimes get a pass on the non-verbal. The same thing is true in the Kingdom of God. If we'll listen carefully to His rebuke, Word and opinions, we can sometimes get a pass on the non-verbals...not always.

**Sometimes, non-verbal chastening is essential.** Paul's thorn (2 Cor. 12:7-10) was a non verbal chastening. I don't think that the LORD chastened because He wasn't paying attention to the verbal. **I think God was doing something that a thousand rebukes could have never accomplished.** One sweet little thorn and God is accomplishing things in multiple levers in Paul's life.

Vs. 6

*For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

**The LORD feels like this is a love and affection thing for Him.** He sees where we would go if he doesn't chasten Paul, and sees what will happen if he DOES chasten him. **I love you too much to let you go that way I see where this thing could go.** I realize you probably won't understand or know what to do with Me, but I'm willing to

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hazard that to bring you to a higher and closer place in Me. If He loves you, He chastens you. If He really loves you. If you are the apple of His eye, He gives you the cross.

After this injury happened to me, a well known prophetic brother gave me the Word - **This is the love of the LORD for you.** At the time it was hard to receive. The wound was fresh. If this is how You love someone, love someone else. It didn't feel like love. In the immediacy of the injury it was devastating. It took years for me to come to an understanding on this and today I'm at a different place in the LORD. I'm able now to say, *"Thank you for loving me enough for chastening my life. Thank you for saving me from the way I would have gone myself and from the ordinary. I receive your affection in my life and I love you too."*

Vs. 7

*If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

**Chastening is a mark of sonship.** There's a spectrum of intensity. The fathers in the room understand what I'm talking about. When my kids were young... ( I'm 61 now and I've got 6 grandchildren). When my kids were in diapers it was in the 1900's. We had cloth diapers and you would put a plastic liner and you had a pot that you put dirty diapers in. When you would give you kid a swat with the diaper it would make a sound. But they didn't really feel it that there was inches of material and plastic between the swat. Then there's what i call an event. *Have any father's had an event with one of your children?* I had an event with Jesus Christ in 1992. **Not all chastening is of the same intensity.** He chastens personally and individually according to His wisdom. He knows exactly what we need to bring us into the fullness of his inheritance

Vs. 8

*But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are **illegitimate** and not sons.*

The NKJV has been very nice to us. They've taken one of the strong words and made it more palatable. The word Illegitimate is actually not the word in the text. It's not an adjective it's a noun. You have to go back to the old KJV.

Heb 12:8 KJV

*But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye **bastards**, and not sons.*

**Bastards and not sons.** What's a bastard? Technically a **child born outside of marriage.** Bob Sorge's definition - a bastard has the right mother, but the wrong father. Your father didn't love your mother or you. He didn't love you enough to marry

her and provide a secure home where you could be raised and grow up. We have bastards right now in the church. The mother is the Church. **We have children raised in the church but they've never been born of God.** When the Church gets in bed with the devil, she produces bastards.

**This is what distinguishes bastards - no chastening.** I don't know a father that chastens somebody else's kids. You might do the verbal, but the non-verbal. Most say, I've got my hands full with my own kids. You'll have to go to your own father. **Your Heavenly father doesn't chasten somebody else's kids, He only chastens his own.** Jesus didn't call the Pharisees bastards, He was more polite. He said, *"You are of your father the Devil."* (John 8:44)

Has anybody here seen the Passion of the Christ? I've got that in my mind right now. When you come to Golgotha, you see the bastards on the mountains clothed, tenured prestigious, in control, in charge. **Then you look at that figure in the center Cross, that figure that is writhing in agony.**

***Who on that day had the mark of the Father's favor?***

**When the Father is chastening His children you don't want to be left out.** If you don't receive this you're not His son. Every son that He loves He chastens. It's a mark of sonship. I'm asking You, ***"Don't leave me alone. Treat me as a child. Bring me into the mature adulthood you have for me in the Kingdom of God."***

Vs 9

*Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

**He is the Father of spirits and when He chastens in your life, he's fathering your spirit.** I wonder if I'm the only father in the room today that's ever second guessed himself. There have been times when I've corrected my children that I asked myself, "Was I too harsh or too lenient? Did I do it in the right spirit? Did they feel my love or my anger? My intentions were 100% but not my implementation. As a human father, I gave it my best but I didn't bat a 1000. **Your heavenly father is perfect. He knows you and how to bring you into adult maturity.**

Vs. 10

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness

**God's endgame in chastening is holiness.** He wants us to be zealous and repent. Zealous to hear his voice, zealous to know His Word, zealous in understanding, etc. He

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wants us to have a greater intimacy, a greater understanding, a greater revelation, authority, fruitfulness and zeal. He's bringing you into holiness.

One time I was in Hebrews 12 and I came to verse 10 ***“that we may be partakers of His holiness.”*** I was like It's true! He had actually done it in my life before I could understand it. He's brought me into His bosom, the nearness of His bosom. He's brought me into holiness. **In my natural thinking, I would have thought that chastening would have produced fear in my life.** When He chastens your life He brings you into holiness. **He's dealing with the issues now rather than later.** I would rather deal with it now than on the last day when I'm standing before Him. Thank you Jesus that you love me enough to get me to face the issues now. Bring me into holiness. Put confidence inside my Spirit and I'm feeling more ready than ever to stand before my Beloved in the end, because He's kind enough to chasten me now. **I've discovered that perfect love really does cast out all fear.** (1 John 4:18)

Vs. 11

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

I can attest to the truth of that statement. **The word peaceable means attractive.** When people see how you're being changed by the LORD, by the chastening, they look at the fruit in your life. **They actually like who you're becoming.** You are a better person today because of the chastening.

**Trained - there is a difference between teaching and training.** Sometimes He's trying to teach us, at other times He's training us. If you want to know the difference, join the Army. **When they teach you they use the classroom. When they train you they put you in the field.** It's not the same operation. When the Father is chastening you in your life, He's not just trying to teach you a lesson; He's training something in your Spirit for the race that is set before you. Sometimes you have to go the distance and run the thing with Him. You can't say, *“I took good notes and I passed!”* **You're not going to learn this in class. It can't be taught, it has to be lived.** He wants you speaking from the authority of your library, but from the authority of your LIFE! Through chastening become mature.

Vs 12-13

*12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,  
13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*



**Chastening makes your hand go like this. They drop down.** You think *“I will never use that hand again.”* If you will, just send a note to a sister with the Scripture, **strengthen those hands.** When you have a chastening, your knees just want to collapse. You just want to give up. But if you will strengthen the feeble knees. I’m not breaking any speed records during this chastening, but I’m standing. If you will just strengthen those hands that want to give out, and strengthen those knees that want to collapse. And you want to set a straight course for your feet on the highway to holiness **You will be healed in the race.**

**The last word on chastening is healing. It’s not complete until you’re healed.** He doesn’t want to leave you disabled or dislocated. He wants to bring you into wholeness. **I stand before you as an incomplete story. I’m still not healed.** I’m still in training. So that as I stay in the race. People ask why are you still believing? *This is what I’m in it for.* Aren’t you just about ready to give up? *After 26 years give up now? I’ve been running on this track I’m in it to the very end!* This passage encourages me incredibly.

### **3 Reasons that Your Healing is Essential**

- 1. To Hallow the Father’s Name - If the Father lames you in chastening, and doesn’t heal you; the name of the Father comes into question.** What kind of a father would chasten, but not heal. Healing must follow chastening. Your healing is as essential to your chastening as the Resurrection was to the Cross. **The resurrection wasn’t a nicety it was a necessity.** You must be healed in order for the name of the LORD to be glorified. People in the world call the Cross Cosmic child abuse. They say, *“What kind father would allow their son to go through that?”* **The Cross without the Resurrection IS cosmic child abuse. The Cross with Resurrection is a glorious jewel in a cosmic radiant story** of an everlasting Father who looked at his Son who had everything and said, “How can I give an extravagant love to a Son who already has everything. In the ingenuity of His heart He comes up with the Cross because He is going to give to His Son a radiant Bride without spot or wrinkle!” Then God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name. (Phil 2:9) And the Cross was the Father’s way to give a gift of cosmic explosive dynamics to the Son of his love. Resurrection was absolutely essential. **The cross must be followed by resurrection. He never intended for the cross to be the last part of your story.** He intended for it to end in resurrection. Healing is in the heart of your Father. I don’t know if I’ve gotten this 100% correct. The paradox, the tension between the Cross and Resurrection is the question, *“Which do I emulate?”* In 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Paul explores this tension. **The best I can put it together is this: we’re called to both.** In practical terms in any season in life we are identifying with the Cross in this area and the Resurrection in another area. In any one point in your life with Jesus. you have both areas because it’s cyclical in our walk with God. That’s my personal way to process the suffering.

2. **An entire generation is watching your life, how the Father is chastening.** What kind of Father do you serve? You say He's good, but how is He working in your life? **It's essential that you be healed so that another generation looking at your life can see the goodness of your heavenly Father and how the turning brought you into holiness and healed you.** Bring us mothers and fathers who have come full circle through the chastening into wholeness. I am fighting for my family as I'm going through this suffering. They're watching their father pursue God. Your name has got to be exalted in this. I cannot die until they can see the goodness of the Father's love in my life. **It cannot end like this, it has to end in healing!** It has to it's essential.

1 Corinthians 15:17

*And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!*

**It was saying to us in a word, that the Cross was not enough.** Everything He purchased on the Cross would be in vain and you would still be in your sins. If He had gone through all that on the Cross. If He had been whipped, mocked, scourged, betrayed, put to trial, etc. **If He had cried, "It is finished." and died and gone to hell and not been Resurrected - nothing that He labored for on the cross would be yours. For the work of the Cross to be made available to you, he had to be resurrected.**

**Resurrection is essential.** Resurrection - the picture that connects for me is the picture of the circuit breaker. The circuit was made complete and all the power of the Cross was now made available to the human race because of the Resurrection. **The work was done on Calvary and the connection was made at the resurrection.** The labor - everything Jesus fought for was on the Cross. The Resurrection brought it forth to our lives. The same is true for your life. The suffering on the cross - that's where your soul is being tried, that's where your buying gold, getting authority, finding keys, agonizing and paying the price, going deep in the word, fasting. prayer and pressing into the Holy Spirit. It's in your trial that you're being enriched in wisdom and understanding and depth, and a testimony a witness and a story is being built. **But none of it will change your generation if you're not raised up.** It's made available. It might bless you, but **it's not made available to a generation until your healed.** Then it's accessible and relevant to the body of Christ now. Until your healed, you're fighting for a mountain.

**Ex. Joseph in prison.** His soul travailed for what he fought for in prison. **If he had never been raised, that prison would not be able to teach us today.** We never would have known the story. When he was raised to the palace - resurrection makes the story of his person relevant to the whole body of Christ. Is there a person in this room who has not been blessed by Joseph's person? It became relevant and

applicable to our lives. The same thing is true for us. **It's essential that we be healed to gain and to be enriched, our story must be relevant and feed a generation**

### **The Million Dollar Question**

I have said that the Cross of Christ and the chastening of the LORD are put together by the LORD into one big pot. **Was the Cross of Jesus Christ an example of the Father chastening Jesus?** This is such a strong question that it deserves a careful answer. To answer this question I must say this, **There are 3 Purposes of Chastening:**

1. **Punishment** - I'm gonna teach you to never do that again. Was the Father punishing Jesus for something he did wrong.
2. **Purification** - when our kid does something, I want to see some behavior modification here. I want you to become a productive adult - purify them to become better people> Was God the Father purifying something impure and making them pure by the cross.

Hebrews 2:10

*10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

**Through the sufferings of the Cross Jesus Christ was made perfect.**

3. **Teleois** - In the Cross of Christ - Did the Cross perfect something that was imperfect? Complete or mature Jesus? No, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today or forever (Hebrew 13:8) The Cross did not change Jesus Christ. What does the verse mean?

**There is a secondary meaning of teleois - It means qualification.** Jesus Christ had to qualify through the Cross to become the Captain of our salvation. He was perfect mature. Before the Cross He could not serve as the Captain of your salvation. high Priest of your profession, etc. He had to earn that right by drinking the Father's cup to qualify. **For some ranks of authority, you have to earn your stripes.** You've got to drink the cup, go the distance; you've got to pray the price for that rank and office.

**You go to the University and you go to the Academic Dean and say, "I want the University to give me a PhD. I've done independent study, experience in life, throw your battery of tests at me and you can just give me your PhD."** What planet are you living on? If you want a PhD from this institution, you have to do the work and pay the price. You will come through our program limping and whimpering. If you want a PHD you're going to have to earn it. Mercy, forgiveness, love, healing is for free - **but the most**

**valuable stuff you have to buy.** If you want gold refined in the fire you have to pay a price. The most valuable things you must pay a price

**Was the Cross a chastening? Not in the sense of punishment or purification but in the sense of qualification.** It was a 100% qualifier. In our case, probably the others could be in play as well. ***Could it be that the trial I'm in is a trial that is qualifying me for something in the move of God? You also are being qualified for a higher rank in the Kingdom of God.***

**Your healing is essential to qualify you for a higher rank in the Kingdom of God.** To qualify there must be resurrection. To enter into a greater entrustment you have to lay your life down more than ever for the Body of Christ. **It's the overcomers that get to lose their lives and gain a rank that transfers to the ages to come and have eternal consequences because of the race they ran in this life.**

**If your thought on suffering is limited to Punishment or Purification,  
then Job's experience is over kill.**

**But if God is qualifying Job the book of job explodes with significance and meaning.** God loves Job enough to bring him into a higher rank. **He is the 1st signpost in Scripture that leads to the cross.** His story is the cornerstone of Scripture. The first stone He put in place, the measuring line for truth and the rest of Scripture. A patriarch in the faith. Who doesn't go to Job when they're suffering? He's got a breadth to his life that instructs all of us even now. He endured this life and came through to resurrection.

Your healing is not a nicety, like... wouldn't be nice if this all tied up in a bow of resurrection and healing. **NO! It's not just a nicety; it's a necessity.**

1. To Hallow the Father's name
2. To make available to the Body of Christ everything you've fought to obtain
3. To qualify you for higher rank in the Kingdom

**The wisdom of your life will feed a generation** and now you will lay your life down more than ever because of the journey you walk with Me. I believe that one of the things that God has given me is the authority to encourage the Body to continue to run in the race. Grace to empower you to run.