

Thoughts From The Prayer Room May 2008 IHOP, KC

Embracing Afflictions

“Before I was afflicted I went astray...” (Ps 119.67a)

God uses the difficulties and suffering in our life to bring us to a door of opportunity. He entices us out of the place of distress to bring us into a place of prosperity and a place of no constraint (Job 36.16). He allures us, through discomfort. He entices us out of our distractions into the wilderness (a place of pure devotion) in order to give us our vineyards. In the “valley of trouble” is where the very “door of hope” opens up to us. (Hos 2.14-15). Truly at our darkest hour, is when everything is about to change—for the good—if we do not grow weary and give up.

A Time for Extreme Prayer and Fasting

There are some times when God calls us to give ourselves in a more radical way to prayer and fasting. When it's a kairos time on His calendar—like when Daniel noticed that the 70 years of Israel's exile were up and God wanted to initiate His purposes—namely to rebuild the tabernacle (Dan 9.2). I believe we're in a similar time. It's as if the church in the west is at a great continental divide in 2008. We can go through the door by embracing a season of extreme devotion—to reach a new place of unrestrained blessing or we can coast along and actually loose ground, *wandering* in mediocrity. Our nation is also on the divide. As America joins the initiative to divide the land of Israel for peace—our land may experience big changes—things that are unthinkable to us, that we have no grid for. God warned the Assyrian city of Nineveh that they would be overthrown in 40 days. The king and his people responded with extreme measures: Discomfort of appearance and no food or water for man or beast. God responded and brought a blessing instead—which has remained to this day! We also must respond with something out of the ordinary in the remaining months of 2008, even as the US and Israel stand ready to turn over the West Bank while Iran and Syria join together against Israel and God's plans for the holy land. It's a time to break our alabaster jars wide open!

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