

Deeper Walk 7. 19/2/23.

Unveiling of the mysteries of God. – Elizabeth Jordaen.

There are things that the Bible call THE MYSTERIES OF GOD. A mystery is something that only God knows and that He has kept secret since the creation of all things; things that cannot be found out or discovered by human reasoning but that can only be known when God reveals or unveils it. I do not presume to know the mysteries of God but bear with me as I try to express the little that I do understand in imperfect words and limited theological knowledge.

One of God's ways to unveil or reveal something of Himself was in creation, and specifically in the creation of Adam (mankind). Other ways of revealing Himself was through special revelation to a person, like Abraham, or Moses, or David, or the Prophets. Since two thousand years ago, He chose to reveal Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. The revelation or unveiling of Jesus Christ has not yet reached its fullness. We are living in the age of the unveiling of Jesus Christ, and if we live long enough, we may see the completion of that revelation that John described in the Book of Revelation.

God can reveal Himself by talking to a person through appearing to humans personally or in dreams and visions (like He talked to Adam, to Cain, to Enoch and Noah, or to Job, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, the priests, and other prophets in the Old and New Testaments). He can talk through angels that appeared to humans personally or in dreams (like He did to Abraham, Moses, some of the Judges, to Zachariah, to Mary the mother of Jesus, and to Joseph). He is now mostly speaking to us through His Son (Heb.1:2). We must take note of everything God said through Jesus because this way He could best speak to us humans, by Jesus becoming a human Himself, and thus knowing how to speak on a human level. God can also talk to us through His written Word the Scriptures called the Bible. The Bible is not just any book. The Bible contains the words of God Himself and of His Son, given to specific people to write down so that we can know Him. The whole Bible, Old and New Testament, is given to us so that we can know God, understand how to know Him, and learn how He walks with people (2Tim.3:16).

To help us understand what God says, He has given us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the great Interpreter of God's Words. In the Old Testament, God had to primarily rely on prophets to convey His Words. In the New Testament, His Son spoke at length, teaching and revealing the nature of God. The Holy Spirit was poured out for one specific reason – He is our Helper (Joh.14:16,26; 15:26; 16:17) that needs to help us understand what God says. He is the Unveiler of God's mysteries. The following passage contains the very mysterious way in which the Holy Spirit reveals God's words:

- "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God (Please read this whole passage: 1 Cor.2:7-16).

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He did one important thing to the disciples, He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. We need it too; it is called the renewal of our minds (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23; Col.3:10).

The Bible was written in different human languages. It was written in the language that the person whom God spoke to, understood at that moment. Nobody knows the original language that was spoken by humans before the tower of Babel - "Now the whole earth had one language and one speech." (Genesis 11:1). God said He will restore to all peoples a pure language - "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord." (Zephaniah 3:9).

The Bible was written in three languages and all three of these languages, like all other languages, came about as a result of God's judgment on the building of the tower of Babel. The Biblical languages are Hebrew (the language spoken by Abraham, Moses and all Israel before the exile to Babylon), Aramaic (the language spoken by Daniel and Ezra, the Jewish exiles who returned from Babylon, the Jews who lived in Israel during the Roman occupation, and Jesus Himself), and Koine Greek (the language originally spoken by Alexander the Great, that developed to be the language spoken by the Greeks, the Roman Empire and the early Byzantine Empire). God used these languages to reveal Himself, but nowhere did He say that we need to speak one of these languages to be able to understand Him. Not one of these languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, is a sacred language in itself. God can speak in any language to reveal Himself. He wants to speak to us in our own language. He demonstrated it very clearly on the Day of Pentecost.

On the Day of Pentecost, at the birth of the Church, the Holy Spirit was poured out, and with Him came the tongues as if of fire. The tongues they received on that day were actual languages, and the disciples were to use that gift, the instant ability to speak in other human languages, to reveal the great works of God, in a language that people of that time could understand. (Act.2:8-11).

Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek are languages with rich meanings, but so are our own languages. My language, Afrikaans, is definitely a rich, descriptive language, especially if the Afrikaans words and expressions are studied to reveal the source of where the words came from. So is English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Nigerian, Arabic, and any other language. Just like the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak about the wonderful works of God in the languages of Acts 2, He must give our Bible translators the ability to translate the wonderful works of God into an understandable language, so that any person around the world can hear in their own language who God is.

Our Bibles are translations out of these original languages of the Bible, and although it is definitely beneficial to do Word Studies in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek to understand the deeper meaning of the word, we do not so much need intellectual understanding of the original language, we need a revelation about the Person of God, and what He means when He speaks to us. And for that we need the Holy Spirit.

The speaking in tongues or praying in tongues were different from the human languages the disciples received, and Paul wrote to say that speaking in an unknown tongue, the language of angels, can edify oneself, because you are speaking to God, and you are speaking mysteries, but no-one can understand that mystery unless it is revealed by someone who has the gift of interpretation - "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." (1 Cor.14:2).

Paul wrote a lot about speaking in tongues but the one aspect that he continually highlighted is that even speaking in tongues cannot reveal to us the deep mysteries of God, it needs

interpretation by the Holy Spirit. Even then Paul explained that not all received the gift of speaking in tongues, and not all received the gift of interpreting tongues. But all of us who are born-again are filled with the Spirit of God, and He can and will reveal to all of us the Person of God and the Person of Jesus Christ. He was sent to us for this reason.

The Holy Spirit was not only sent to reveal to us the Person of God and the Person of Christ, but He was also sent to do a very mysterious thing, and that is, to reproduce (form) the Word of God, the image of the Son of God, in our human hearts. He must recreate us, return to us the image and likeness of God that Adam lost in the Garden of Eden. Not to make us like the Adam of the Garden, but to make us like the Son of God, the last Adam, the First-Born from the dead, a new creation, the One who is the Tree of Life, the Bread of Heaven. This creation in us of a new inner man, is what is meant with “knowing God”, it is becoming one with Him. It was His original purpose for creating humans:

- “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom.8:29).

This is what a Deeper Walk with God is all about. It is discovering the mysteries of God and receiving the mystery in us of the image and likeness of God Himself, in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Father God, I want to know You, I want to know your Son, Jesus Christ, I need your Holy Spirit as my Helper, my Interpreter, the One who unveils the Son, Who unveils the mysteries of God, and Who forms the Son of God in me. Fill me with your Spirit. Help me to listen, to see, to understand, to know. I present to You my body as a spiritual sacrifice. Renew my mind with your Spirit and your Word. I present to you the members of my body, soul, mind, emotions, and my will to be instruments of righteousness. I wait on You. I love You.