



MARCH 2017

TRUMPET SOUNDS

REBECCA O'CONNOR

ZAHAR PUBLISHING

EDITOR: DENNIS O'CONNOR

Inside this issue:

<i>Bless Your Enemies</i>	2
<i>Time To Bloom</i>	2
<i>Identity Crisis</i>	2
<i>Conclusions</i>	3
<i>A Knack For Judging</i>	3
<i>Understanding the I AM That i am</i>	4
<i>Preaching To The Choir</i>	5
<i>Love: Secret Weapon</i>	5

Early in January the Zahar ministry met with a sister ministry in prayer for the New Year. Many things were prayed for this nation, Israel and our families as a point of contact to all God's family. In my spirit I saw a child's kaleidoscope. We probably all remember having looked through a kaleidoscope as children. It is a constantly changing design or sequence of objects or elements as pieces of colored particles shift into ever changing placement making a new picture of brilliant colors and patterns. The responses are generally "OOW-AAH" for each new change or metamorphosis of colors and shapes. It resembles fireworks in a tube.

The understanding that the Holy Spirit gave was that no matter the picture and pattern of things we face at the moment, intercession and prayer



Kaleidoscope

could flip quickly into a beautiful new outcome. I felt the change would come more quickly than in the past, yet also that the changes would be too fast for the enemy to try to counter. In other words, it was as if God was giving us the ability to change things up with such speed the enemy would truly be eating our dust. Therefore, I have an updated meaning of **Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:**

It is so gratifying to get conformation of what the Holy Spirit reveals, since we know that, **"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."** (Rev

2:11,17,29; 3:6,13,22)

The conformation came the other day when a friend put me onto a prophecy of Bill Lackie's. He also saw a kaleidoscope. Even though his words are different it is basic in meaning. Here is what the Lord revealed to him as the kaleidoscope turned: **"I want you to know that I will turn your circumstances. What looks impossible to you is not impossible with Me. Watch Me. I'm going to make a way where there seems to be no way. In your future I will open doors that cannot be shut. Look to see and focus and watch as My hand begins to move in your life. This is the year of the turnaround. I will make all things work together for good."**

This is a year of opportunity...TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Keeping God At Bay

Have you ever wondered why people wait until a major catastrophe comes before they ask for God's help. "I don't want to bother God over the small stuff," I have been told.

Personally, I think they do not want to risk asking for God's help, since that might put God on their case, so to

speak. Many do not want to draw God's attention. They would much rather fly under the radar remaining status quo. The fear is that if God starts noticing them more will be required.

God is not "The God Of The Month Club" where the first fulfilled prayer is answered for free and the other's answers

come with an automatic monthly charge to your account!

Unfortunately, these people do not realize that they were originally put on this earth for a purpose that is bigger than themselves. The best their life can be is mediocre if it is that good. Do we want the epitaph of "uninspired" to be our goal?

Little do these people know that God is anything but boring and chore driven. He is exciting in each new day. He asks us to do things that make us stretch, but the stretch turns into revealing amazing attributes we had no idea were in us. We find that not only is God amazing but we are pretty amazed with ourselves!

BLESS YOUR ENEMIES

It is Scriptural to bless our enemies, which means it is God ordained that we do. How many times have you felt you should do something good for someone that treated you unfairly or hurtfully, then to have feelings get in the way and change it back into the negative once again? Had you ever considered that it was not your own thought but a good seed from God that He expected you to plant?

Luke 6:27-29 *But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto*

him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

The next thought usually is, “Yes, but...” So Holy Spirit brings this to remembrance: **Rom 12:14** *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.* Then this: **Prov 24:17** *Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:* And this: **Rom 12:20-21** *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but*

overcome evil with good.

You can fight God all you want on this subject, but He is always right, and we are always wrong or we would not be fighting it. Sometimes we just do not mind being wrong even when we know we are. Cain knew he was in the wrong but did not care to be right, and in a moment of wrong ruined his entire life and bloodline.

We must remember that God works all things to our good benefit. Jesus gave salvation to all who had abused Him and paid the debt with His blood.

There is a counter balance to this that goes something like: **Matt 7:6** *Give not that which*

is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

There are those you try to help and the more you do the more they expect and take for granted. It does not take long to tell the difference. Yet, it is better to err on the side of good than not.

It is the sacrifice of paying good for evil that has the potential for changing a heart. Jesus paid with His life and all we are asked to do is a kindness, which could be our greatest witness.

TIME TO BLOOM

I cannot go anywhere without someone having mentioned all the blooms in early February...not noted for a blooming month. It is so lovely to see this odd spring in such a tumultuous time in this nation littered of protests and unrest that have disheartened as well as exhausting us with media hype.

I had asked the Lord if the blossoms were an indication for an unusually hot summer. He gave

me an answer that fit everything happening. God always gives more than we asked or expected and did it in His Word. To give the background let me say that Moses had been elected president and Aaron was vice president with Miriam as the Speaker of the House, as she always had much to say! The nation was at odds with the choices and protests were as is today most exhausting. God in His wisdom

settled the matter once and for all: **Num 17:5** *And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.*

So all the rods of every candidate were placed in the tabernacle and the existing administration of Moses not only blos-

somed in a dead stick but leafed and produced almonds!! This was God's pick no matter whether Moses seemed to be a qualified speaker or experienced as a Jew since he grew up in the Pharaoh's own palace.

The Holy Spirit dropped this Scripture into my heart to let me know that everything was right on schedule according to plan. This was the answer I got, and I hope it helps you as well.

IDENTITY CRISIS

We did not originate from an accidental particle under enough pressure to explode into a perfectly functioning planet with people having mental abilities and creatures with instincts. We are in divine order orchestrated by a magnificent God. Likewise, we are not here by a momentary physical action, but purposely made in secret with a spirit of God's own DNA and spiritual gifts with a mission in mind. We

are predestined, meaning that we were planned before our conception: **Ps 139:16** *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.* We have an identity in a book of census kept by God Himself. Jere 29:11, tells us that He has a plan for us for peace

and for good to give us an expected outcome. Satan interrupted our identity just as Eve's. He dangled choice in front of us and told us we were gods of our lives to choose which way we would go. Like Eve, we took the fruit only consulting God when backed into a corner by our choices; otherwise we forge ahead business as usual. Satan gives us a fake ID forming us in his image. We become who we

think we are yet not as we were destined and written in God's Book.

We have been given a divine destiny by our Creator. If we do not challenge the fake ID, we cannot comprehend our identity, purpose and destiny. Tear up membership to “god of the month club” and find your true identity.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusion is not a place to which you might head. It is not a direction to take or on a map to find. Conclusion is a deduction, interpretation, reasoning opinion and presumption from assumption. It is the blind trying to drive a vehicle. How does a blind person drive? The answer is, of course, he does not.

Saul of Tarsus was driving blindly by his own conclusions and proceeded to ram

right into the new church and continued until finally he ran into Jesus who stopped him. Saul had not seen Jesus in the road nor did he follow Jesus in life. Saul needed the designated driver, since without clear sight of the road, he drove to his own conclusions.

There is no continent, country, state or town of Conclusions, therefore, you can never really get to your destination. Oh, there are plenty of conclusions of others to follow with still no

help of finding where you are or need to be, for they are a mix of confusion.



The lost are driven by their own conclusions, while Christianity is driven by the Holy Spirit to the right destination. The road to conclusions is very broad for there are many to be

reached, while the road driven by the Spirit is a single road leading its way through life to LIFE and its abundance.

If you are driving to your own conclusions, it is a never ending road that leads only until the road stops at death.

Even in science, all conclusions are provisional, subject to new evidence...the very antithesis of faith.

A KNACK FOR JUDGING



Having a knack for something is being good or skilled at it. I loved this Charles Schulze cartoon because it reminds me of the Scripture: ***Matt 7:3-5 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.***

I have run into more Christians who have a knack for judging

others while excepting grace from God. I have enough to do judging myself that there is no time left for others. Actually that last sentence is the my paraphrase of the Scripture. I did not say, however, that I was accomplished at it, but have gotten better at it through the years.

I am going to let you in on a well guarded secret from my past. It was around 30 some years ago when I had been feeling as if I had really grown in righteousness. I had been in bed reading my Bible when, before I closed the Book, I asked the Lord for a Word. I felt I could get a good Word being the righteousness I felt I

was. I opened to Matt 23:13-29. It starts out in verse 13, "Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees..." and ends the same way in verse 29!! I was devastated. I was "Cartoon Lucy" and did not know it until that moment. In that moment I became real in who I was and what needed to change.

Jesus had loving, sacrificing patience for the sinner and rebuke for the self righteous Scribes and Pharisees. Those temple leaders were morally superior to no one and worse than sinners, for sinners knew their faults and needed Jesus, while the self-righteous had a knack for overlooking their

faults and had no need of a Savior.

The thing we most need saving is from ourselves. Until we can get ourselves converted to faith in love, we cannot save anyone else. The Scripture does not say that judgement never fails but that love never fails. Unfortunately, the world DOES know that we are Christians by our judgement! We have been identified more by our judgement than by our love. In that case, the church needs the same Word God gave to me in Matt 23:13-29, yet there is hope of healing, THANK GOD!

UNDERSTANDING THE I AM...that i am

(I was in the process of getting this issue designed for March, when I came upon an April 2015 issue and read the first article. It amazes me that I wrote this until remembering that I only type what the Holy Spirit gives me using my experiences and personality. So when I say this inspired me to repeat this article for its worth, I am only bragging on how the Holy Spirit can use simple people like me and you. So here is the repeat of an article I wrote back in April 2015 with a different title.)

I had a hard time forgiving until God forgave me. I was a harsh judge of others until God extended His mercy to me. I shook my head over the senseless mistakes of others until God allowed His Grace to cover mine. I did not even see my own wretchedness until God gave me His love.

I said all that to say that we are all only as good as the God we serve. If we believe that God is demanding, then we demand of others.

If He is a hard task master, then we are driven to drive others.

You can safely assume that you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God has a problem with all the same people you do.

This is a harsh reality check. I came to the realization that God was not on my side simply because of what I felt. Often I stood opposite to Him. I had to be on His side to have an agreement with the God who made the universe. We all need to take a closer look at where we are standing with others.

I am not any more or less a wretched creature than you, my friend. We have all taken for granted that our own "rightness" is also God's. It is now up to us to try to understand where God stands on each situation. We can think of what the worst person has done to us or our family from our

viewpoint. God's viewpoint is looking down from the cross saying these immortal words, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." What do we do with that? What is the argument that is greater than what Jesus said to those persecuting Him? They did it for ignorance, hatred, jealousy and some just plain meanness. It should not only leave us speechless but knock us to our senses and shake loose our old patterns. "That's just the way I am," does not wash any longer. We need to better understand the I AM that I am. Time to get out the Windex and wipe the glass clear of the darkness through which we have been looking. God is, after all, not made in our image but we in His. We read in the Old Testament how mankind carved idols that could neither see nor hear, yet we form a god through our own understanding that is a far cry from Jesus and

expect him to be in agreement to our feelings and thoughts giving readiness to act on our behalf.

The more we study Jesus is the more we should study self to make the necessary adjustments, yet usually we study a situation and adjust God to our thinking. When God called Himself the I AM THAT I AM, He was letting us know that He is resolutely adjusted to the eternal template in which we are called to conform and pattern. **Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

We do not need to adjust God but adjust our thinking to Jesus Words and actions. Our breathing should be in tune to the breath of God.

So, who is the I AM...that i am



BE A FOUNTAIN NOT A DRAIN

The title is a sign I saw recently that pretty well says it all.

Christian perspective credits the fountain as the spout from which flows living water: The drain is a channel for liquid waste. Another meaning of drain is to deprive of strength and vitality.

We have encountered both types of people who are either the fountain of encouragement

or the drain of our strength in their negativity. We have probably been both types at one time or another. One thing good to keep in mind is the feeling **you** have when someone is going on and on in their draining conversation, while you barely listen and pray for an escape route...that you do not become the drain! When you see that someone has just spotted you in

Walmart, and they duck into the next aisle rather awkwardly, instead of thinking them rude and decide to be hurt, it is time to consider the conversation of your life. Are we a spout of life or a drain of waste?

Rom 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tid-

ings of good things!

There is another good saying that if you are not lighting any candles, do not complain about being in the dark.



PREACHING TO THE CHOIR

“**Preaching to the choir**” is an idiom meaning that the people you are trying to convince already believe in what you are saying. Often times it is the one preaching that needs to pay the closest attention to the sermon (*and don't I know it all too well*). This is not directed at only the pastors but the congregation also. Parents are the worst perpetrators of this. One parent actually believed that, “Do as I say not as I do,” was a Scripture in the Bible!



Pastors are next in line simply because they have more

opportunity being in front of a weekly audience taking notes. Notes are then compared to what they see in their pastor's actions. Pastors all too often preach encouraging; faith building words to the congregation motivating their faith to spread their wings and fly, yet when one of their birdies has a direction of flight to benefit the church, their wings are soon clipped with an excuse of why they cannot. The congregation feels that they are being micro-managed in these encouraging sermons and that the pastor has a designated direction in which he is

pointing. Children likewise compare their notes from lectures to lifestyles of the parents and rebel at the hypocrisies.

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying and make the necessary applications to live it in front of others, which is the greater witness. If you are thinking that because you are not a Billy Graham or a Mother Teresa this does not apply to you. No, we may not have their personalities, but we are responsible to be the best witnesses of Truth we can be, and before we take the message

on the road to Damascus make sure we understand the message thoroughly or we will run blindly right into Jesus instead of for Him...and yes, I am taking my own advice, since I have no doubt it is mostly for me.

I'm all ears!!!!



LOVE: SECRET WEAPON

Have you become disheartened by all the news of haters vandalizing our cities under the guise of protesting as well as all the hate speech. Put the squeeze to a liberal and they bleed pandemonium! It is like a comedy of errors gone completely kamikaze. They are killing the nation yet going down in the flaming wreckage as well.

They rally the ignorant with cultic, redundant mantras having no validity but the strength of hypnotic suggestion by repetition.

I know that we are a silent majority, and that seems to be one of the problems. We have mass yet allow the miniscule to rule just because they are louder and bare their teeth. The picture I get is much like this:



Their bark is greater than their size.

I dreaded the award shows (did not watch them) that I knew would spout political propaganda spanking rebuke at the rest of us “simple minded folk”. Then I remember that we are to love those who hate us and a poem came to mind: “How do I love thee, let me count the ways.” Ah...I got nothin! So I shortened the line to “How do I love thee?” I ask that same thing stressing each word to find the answer:

HOW do I love thee?

How **DO** I love thee?

How do **I** love thee?

How do I **LOVE** thee?

How do I love **THEE**?

But that did not work either, so I shortened it again to HOW DO I LOVE? Good question. Do I love because it is deserving? NO. Do I love because I am a nice person? Ah, ah, NO. Is my love conditional? Obviously it is or I would not want to flush all progressive liberals down the toilet! In this attitude I see my love is flawed. Therefore, before I can make a difference I have to heal my flawed love.

I have to ask myself if being right is more important than loving others no matter who they are or what they believe. The answer comes down to

this: *John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

If we want to make a difference it will not be in trying to get someone to believe what we believe or see the way we see but by our love—no matter what they believe or how they express what they believe.

Love is not silent but powerful, and the only thing the Word of God credits as fail proof.

The downside to the politically famous making hypocritical nastiness is that it is not only televised world wide but also in front of sane people who have enough wisdom to see that the emperor is wearing no clothes!

