

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XVI NUMBER II Three Keys To The Upper Room I

THURSDAY, February 1

Scripture: Luke 22:7-13

The upper room is one of the final preparations for qualifying to move in God's best. A number of significant preparatory issues were confronted there to ready the disciples for receiving God's power. During the Charismatic renewal God brought multitudes into the flow of the Holy Spirit with no preparation. Now, it appears, He is taking us through upper room experiences perhaps for a final administration of end-time power. How do we become true servants and qualify to lead? As we stand on the threshold of a broad new wave of glory, the Lord seems to be taking many of us through new dimensions of the upper room experience. What is the upper room? It's the place where we look into a divine mirror and get a glimpse of how God sees us. The response to what we see in God's mirror determines our level of participation in poured out power.

FRIDAY, February 2

Scripture: John 13:1-7

We are attempting a survey of foundational issues occurring in the upper room with in-depth personal application. As we study the Father's preparational pattern, a number of things come into focus. John thirteen reveals the upper room to be a place where God does things we initially don't understand. It is a place where many questions are generated. "God, why are You doing what You are doing? Why am I where I am? Why do I have to endure this? Why do I not yet see a victory in this area?" The upper room is a place where God is doing a number of things we can not piece together probably because they all fit into a puzzle of preparation for what is just around the corner!

SATURDAY, February 3

Scripture: John 13:8-17

The upper room is a place where you face crucifixion for self-exaltation and success according to worldly standards and definitions. It is a place where you have to come to an understanding of what it means to serve and what it means to obey. If any part of this upper room experience is left out or diminished, you open yourself to deception and detours of the one who desires to destroy the ministry God determines to give you and the divine flow He wants to release through you. The upper room is an extended season of preparation. Now is the time for understanding. God is preparing His people for the greatest outpouring of the Spirit this earth has ever seen. Who can handle what God wants to do? Only those who have been conformed to upper room training!

SUNDAY, February 4

Scripture: John 13:18-30

The upper room is also a place where you personally experience the relational cost of deception. When does Satan enter? **After** Judas takes the bread. Bread is a symbolic picture of how attractive destruction can look. Many of the enemy's plans look just like sustaining bread. They look like great opportunities, but, in fact, are a one way ticket to death and destruction. The upper room is where you are empowered **to see** the way God sees and **to discern** what is from God and what is of another spirit. It is the place where you learn to recognize the true from the false; the real from the superficial; the pure from the impure; the grace from "the grease."

MONDAY, February 5

Scripture: John 13:31-38

The upper room is where hearts are revealed in how we choose to respond to the commandments and priorities of God. Circumstances force choices which reveal our flesh. To really handle the power of God circumspectly, we need to see our flesh revealed. Many times God will start the process with a revelation by thought, or word, but almost always by circumstance. The situation becomes an upper room experience. I believe God wants us to be prepared so we know what to do when these things are revealed, perhaps then we can bypass the grief Peter had for a season. Truly a time of preparation is one of the most glorious things God sends, if our flesh can stand it! If we get what God wants us to have in this season, we will be ready.

TUESDAY, February 6

Scripture: John 14:1-4

The upper room is a place where we discover the location of our mansion and finally come to the realization tradition has sold us a "bill of goods." In this passage, God is not talking about a mansion in heaven but another specific place which is very important to us here. It can be seen easily if we consider this statement in its context. Do you know the location of your mansion? The upper room is where you usually find it. God probably has real mansions for us in heaven but there is a much more profound truth for us in the here and now, if we let the context dictate word definition.

WEDNESDAY, February 7

Scripture: John 14:5-12

The upper room is where you learn the works Jesus has for you, which He did, and catch a glimpse of the greater. What are the greater works? How will we get into a place where we are doing the greater works? The truth of the matter is most of us would be satisfied just to do the works Jesus did, yet because of the season in which we live the Divine call dictates a move into those greater works. We really have no choice. But you cannot move into them without upper room preparation.

THURSDAY, February 8

Scripture: John 14:13-31

The upper room is where you learn to love the Father. It is where you learn to walk in the life of obedience. The upper room is where you learn to face the enemy victoriously. The upper room is where you are prepared for victory because you have allowed God to bring you to a place where, like Jesus, the enemy has nothing in you. Therefore, in the upper room He exposes everything the enemy presently has a hold on. Doesn't the upper room sound like a fun place? It is if you look beyond the present dealings to the victory God has in mind, because without housecleaning there is no guarantee of lasting victory.

FRIDAY, February 9

Scripture: John 15:1-11

The upper room is where you make the decision to submit to the prunings of God. The upper room is a place where you encounter a temptation to do things on your own, by yourself and in your own ability, but it is also where you find the end of that road as God blows on our efforts. The upper room is a place where you learn to abide in the presence of God through fellowship. It is where you deepen your personal relationship with Jesus and learn to discern His voice. The upper room is a glorious place of reversal, dead ends, disappointment and seeming defeat.

SATURDAY, February 10

Scripture: John 15:12-27

Upper room training includes a special crucifixion process qualifying us to become God's friend sharing in the revelation of what He is doing. Few people want the upper room experience because of the pain released there. As God personally cleanses our individual temples, He is preparing us for a resident anointing that will carry us through the completion of His purposes for our contribution to the end-time harvest. That is not going to come without persecution, usually from the very places God intended us to be trained. As God continues working in the Church He progressively reveals hidden motivations of heart. Are you ready to be misjudged by friends? It is an upper room experience.

SUNDAY, February 11

Scripture: John 16:1-15

The upper room is a place to receive a greater measure of Father's heart and the full ministry of the Holy Spirit as He begins to come forth through you to birth His purpose and plan. He brings conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is where He empowers us to live, act and talk with the same authority Jesus did. The world is hardly ready for a militant Church but look at what happened on the day of Pentecost when a Holy Spirit invasion came to battered, dejected, discouraged people. They were instantly transformed.

MONDAY, February 12

Scripture: John 16:16-33

The upper room is a place where you are empowered to walk with God in prayer and to impact the world as you are led by Him. It is where we receive divine authority. It is where we grow up to become like Jesus! We ask and God performs. We decree and God brings it to pass. It is a place where we see the full manifestation of Jesus Who has overcome the world, enjoy His peace and dispense His victory. The upper room is a place where we are empowered to overcome and adversity of our own flesh.

TUESDAY, February 13

Scripture: John 17

The upper room is a place where we are empowered to fulfill the prayer Jesus prayed in our behalf. It is where we learn what it means to have Jesus glorified in us. It is where we learn the true depth of unity and harmony which only the Holy Spirit can produce. It is where we learn to bring forth God's real impact on the world. It is where we learn the truth of Jesus' statement, "By their fruit you will know them." The upper room is a place where we really personally get to know our Father.

WEDNESDAY, February 14

Scripture: Luke 24:44-49

The upper room is encountering Jesus to open our understanding that we might understand the Scriptures as they pertain to our season and Father's individual plan. It is a place of revelation. It is a place of insight. It is a place of maturing. It is a place of growth, commitment and dedication. It is a place where we are prepared for spiritual warfare. It is a place where we are commanded to stay until the power comes.

THURSDAY, February 15

Scripture: Acts 1:9-14; 22:1-4

The upper room is like military bootcamp strictly for volunteers. It is a place where we have to commit to continue in one accord in prayer and intercession. The upper room is a place where we receive new things God wants to do, stepping forth to replace those who have fallen, taking our generation into the next wave. The upper room is a place where we receive power from on high. It is where we are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to stand up speaking and ministering in a power which goes beyond our ability. God is calling us to begin moving with Him through the myriad of upper room experiences which will prepare us to bring in the end-time harvest. Are we ready for upper room intensity? There are three keys which open the door to the upper room and will keep us there until fully prepared. We must look at those three keys and study each in detail so the preparation will have its' perfect work and we will recognize and be ready for His hand upon us.

FRIDAY, February 16

Scripture: Luke 22:7-227

One of the major things God deals with in the upper room is rivalry as seen in verse twenty-four, manifested through the spirit of competition. This spirit usually comes to pit one leader against the other. The Greek word for rivalry is **flon-i-kee-ah**. It means the love of strife or an eagerness to contend. This is not just an ordinary difference of opinion. This is a full blown argument with each individual believing he alone possesses the anointing and approval to be the leader. This problem should be no surprise to those of us who live in the twentieth century. Jesus explained the ways of the world when He said, "The kings and Gentiles exercise lordship over them, but not so among you." Notice the next phrase, "...on the contrary." "On the contrary" is something that has to be drilled into us in the upper room. Every individual taking a place in leadership has to come to the place where he is willing to live according to "...on the contrary."

SATURDAY, February 17

Scripture: Luke 22:225-26; John 13:3-17

The only way to understand what Jesus is getting at in the upper room experience is to follow the progression of events, realizing He continually addresses the same issue. In John thirteen, Jesus first deals with **flon-i-kee-ah** by teaching and then punctuates the message with an unusual example. Just teaching the disciples didn't work, so He has to visually punctuate the truth with a full blown visual experiential aid. He hammers the point by washing the disciples' feet. What does it mean that the greatest among you becomes a servant? Jesus gives a demonstration. They are all shocked. "This is Messiah, the King and Lord of Glory, yet is washing our feet?" Jesus gives them a full blown example of what "on the contrary" means. The bottom line is we need to learn to receive those God sends, recognizing all the while each package varies tremendously. God sends us words, truth and revelation through packages we have to humble ourselves in order to receive. Yet this is God's way of working "on the contrary" into our lives. Are we really equipped to recognize and to receive? Are we willing to humble ourselves by listening to those God sends? Why were the prophets always stoned and

persecuted? Because in each generation there were multitudes of people who did not understand “on the contrary”!

SUNDAY, February 18

Scripture: John 13:31 - 14:2

Jesus continues to deal with the very same things. He gives them a new commandment. The new commandment is they must “...love one another; as I have loved you....” How did Jesus demonstrate love? He loved them by washing their feet. Were they willing to do that to each other? Absolutely not! They would much rather fight about who has the greatest ministry! But Jesus said in the process, “Nobody will ever know that I am Lord and you are My disciples. They will only know if you have love one for another.” Immediately we move into chapter fourteen and what many people have thought is an entirely different statement continues a perfect flow of what Jesus has been teaching. The Greek word for “mansion” is **mon-ay**. It means a staying, dwelling or abiding place. It is only used twice in the New Testament, both times in John chapter fourteen, and its use is very consistent. The only inconsistent translation is in verse two when it is translated “mansions.” What is Jesus **really** getting at? It has a whole lot to do with what the disciples have been fighting about.

MONDAY, February 19

Scripture: II Corinthians 4:15 - 5:10; John 14:2

In our traditional understanding of John 14:2, Jesus prepared a place for us and we believe it is a mansion in heaven, which very likely could be except for the context. I am sure heaven is full of nice places to live. However, what Jesus is speaking of in John 14:2 is entirely different in its context than what we have made it to be by pulling it out. This passage in Corinthians shows God does have a house for us, meaning of course, a spiritual body. There is a coming day in which we are going to see those bodies. Indeed to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. I am sure we are going to live eternally in what will certainly be a mansion compared to what most of us have lived in on earth. But again, that denies the context of John fourteen.

TUESDAY, February 20

Scripture: John 13:38 - 14:25

The word **mon-ay** translated “mansions” comes from the root word **men-o** which means “to place, sojourn, remain, abide or tarry; not to depart, not to leave, but to continue to be present.” Although **mon-ay** is only used twice in this passage, **men-o** is used a number of times. It appears in verse ten (“dwells in me”), verse sixteen (“abide”), verse seventeen (“he dwells with you”), and verse twenty-five (“being planted with you”). So we can readily see from the continued use of the root there is not really anything to indicate Jesus is talking about a physical mansion. Not that those won’t be there! In the context Jesus is dealing with something much more important as it relates to the moral character of His disciples.

WEDNESDAY, February 21

Scripture: John 13:31 - 14:7

Perhaps the first thing we need to recognize is this passage is an answer to a question. Most of the time we pull it out as just a statement. I think it would help tremendously if we would take the time to find out what the question is. Verse thirty-six very clearly says Peter asks, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus doesn’t tell him where. All He tells him is “...you cannot go there now.” That prompts another question. Why not? “I’ll lay down my life for You.” Jesus then begins to reply to both questions. He says, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.” The question in our minds should be, “What did He mean by that?”

THURSDAY, February 22

Scripture: John 14:1-12

As we begin to dissect the remainder of Jesus' answer, we see He is saying, "The reason you don't have to be troubled is the whole purpose of My departure is to prepare a place for you and then to receive you to Myself in that place." Now the kicker is in verse four when He says, "You know where I go, and the way you know." Thomas did not believe that a bit. He said, "Lord, I not only don't know where You are going, but I am certainly in the dark about how to get there." Then another seemingly off-hand answer, but it's only elusive because we have neglected the context. "I am the way, the truth and the life. If you knew Me you would know My Father." Verse twelve really lets us see what Jesus is talking about. Whatever that place is and wherever it is, when we find it, it will produce a flow of the Holy Spirit that will allow us to do the very works Jesus did. We have to find the place He prepared for us, just as Jesus had to find the place the Father prepared for Him.

FRIDAY, February 23

Scripture: John 14:13-23

Whatever that place is, according to verse thirteen, it is a place where we get our prayers answered. "Ask anything in My Name, I'll do it." It is a place where we receive the Holy Spirit. It is a place where the Spirit of Truth will come and take up residence. It is a place where Jesus Himself will visit us. It is a place where the full flowing ministry of Jesus will come out of us. In verse twenty-three we find the second place in Scripture where our word **mon-ay** is used. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our 'mansion' with him." What kind of a place is Jesus talking about?

SATURDAY, February 24

Scripture: John 14:1-29

What is the place Jesus is talking about? It is the very same place all the disciples and apostles were fighting about. It is the place of your calling. It is a place of ministry. They were fighting about who was going to rule and reign and who had the greatest ministry. At times it seems the greatest warfare in the Body of Christ is over each individual finding his place to be used by God, his place of calling and gifting. When we find out what God has called us to do, we find Jesus manifesting in our lives in greater measure than anywhere else. "Where I am there you will be also." It is the place where Jesus will come and visit us, where He and the Father will manifest Themselves to and through us. Only when we get in our proper place can we do the works Jesus did. What Jesus is telling His disciples is, "Quit fighting over a position, I am going to create a place for you." Notice what is said in Ephesians four, verses one through eight. When He was resurrected from the dead, He gave gifts to men. **Places.** He gave the apostolic, prophetic, and full fivefold ministry. In First Corinthians twelve and fourteen, He gave other places. The mansion Jesus was talking about in John fourteen is, in fact, a palace of ministry God sets us in and only there can we bring forth the fullness of His calling.

SUNDAY, February 25

Scripture: I Peter 1:22 - 2:5

As we pursue the sincere milk of the Word, we grow and taste the grace of God coming to Him as a living stone usually rejected of men but chosen of God. The Lord longs to place us as spiritual stones in a spiritual **mon-ay** -- here and now! In appointed places we function and flow as a holy priesthood, offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, doing the works Jesus did and hopefully greater. We can not manifest the glory of God if we are out of position and place. The greatest opposition in the Body of Christ looms for those who seek to find and stay in their ordained places. An evangelist may find great discontent pastoring. God

assigns seasons of pastoring to evangelists, but generally the greatest fruit comes from traveling. We are coming to the season of God's glory manifesting through the Church and that demands every one of us find out what our place is and occupy it.

MONDAY, February 26

Scripture: I Peter 2:6-10; Ephesians 2:19-22

God has a purpose for each one of us which is frustrated and hindered when we are out of position. Jesus said, "I will build My church" and it is His choice who He puts into individual places. We have endured generations of personal kingdom building, position and power seeking. Just as Jesus was a stone of stumbling and rock of offense, so, many times, are the people He chooses to put in leadership positions. The purpose of the Church is to show forth the fullness of God which guarantees variety as we find our place. In Him the whole building being joined together grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him we also are being built together for a habitation of God in the spirit for God to live, dwell and manifest Himself, exactly as Jesus portrayed in John fourteen. "We will come and manifest ourselves to you, **when** you get in your place." Are you in your place? Do you know what your place is? There is a warfare over finding your place. We will never find our place just 'hoping." We have to find out by seeking, praying, determined to stand before the Lord until He shows us precisely where we should be and what our assignments are.

TUESDAY, February 27

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10; Acts 1:8-13,14; Luke 24:44-49

God reached out His long arm and drew us into the kingdom for one purpose, that He might show forth love, grace, and mercy in our lives. By grace we were saved through faith, with a purpose for us to do good works ordained and created in Christ Jesus before we were ever born, that we should walk in them and bring them to pass in the last days. I believe the generation commissioned to bring in the great harvest will see the greatest works any generation has ever known. I believe we are or will father that generation. It is God's purpose and plan for us to manifest His grace and the mighty gifts of the Spirit can only be released when we find our place, when we discern our "mansion." Let's find our place and move into it! Before the disciples could ever find their place they had to get some attitudes, much akin to spots, wrinkles, and blemishes, removed from their lives. The place Jesus chose to do that was the upper room, and in the process, God's long range purpose emerged! For even after the resurrection He came to visit, opening their mind that they might understand the Scriptures. The only thing they had to do was **stay** in the upper room until Jesus finished His work. Are we willing to stay in a present day upper room of God's circumstances until we have our spots, blemishes, and wrinkles removed so we are ready to discern our place and move into it? The disciples were willing and as a result God rewarded them with a divine visitation which shook the world. God once again is preparing to reward a diligent people with a divine visitation that is going to shake the world. Let's stay in the upper room and wait upon our Father.

WEDNESDAY, February 28

Scripture: John 13:1-3,33; 14:2

Mon-ay means to stay, to tarry, to dwell, to take up residence. Why are the disciples troubled? Because all they are, have done, and, in their own minds, will do depends on Jesus. Jesus said He was leaving. Suddenly a fear grips the disciples and manifests itself as they begin to fight over position, who has the greatest ministry, and who will lead when Jesus is gone. Jesus deals with the root of their trouble. He tells them to dwell, abide, remain, stay, lodge. There is a divine confidence which comes with discerning your place and getting in it. This commitment becomes a foundation to move out in God, and makes flowing in the Holy Spirit fun, enjoyable and easy. The Lord is ready to help us find the place!

THURSDAY, February 29

Scripture: John 14:11-31

Jesus tells the disciples the very same assurance He has will be theirs. The very same presence of God will be theirs. Just because He is going away does not mean things are going to deteriorate. It means finally, they are going to be empowered to do greater works than He did. The key is to be willing to let God set them in their place. The key is allowing the Lord to choose who He wants to lead and who He wants to set in what position, being well satisfied with whatever our assignment might be. Jesus said, "You can rejoice that I am going away. I will go away and I will come back to you. I am going to the Father Who is grater than I and, consequently, I will be bringing you some things greater than what you have now. The world will never know that I love the Father and the Father loves Me without obedience. Therefore we have to arise and go." The key to the end-time revival is obedience. It is each individual finding their place and moving into it. Then we will see a move of the Spirit like this earth has never known. God is sovereignly moving some of us - forcing us out of the nest as jobs evaporate. Trusting God and living by faith is a privilege but definitely not for the faint-hearted!

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Al Houghton

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