

"PREPARING THE WAY-- WILL YOU RECEIVE THE CROWN?" (PART 1)

CALLED TO PREPARE THE WAY

We, like many of you, are called to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Lk. 1:76-79). Since each of us is unique in our gifting and calling, "preparing the way" will be different in each of our lives. For example, our particular calling is focused on repairing and restoring the hearts of people so that they can "be prepared" in the days ahead and, in turn, become and help others to become "preparers of the way." There is one thing, however, that we believe is fundamental to everyone with this calling—to experientially know your true identity as a son or daughter of God.

RECEIVING THE CROWN . . . A SPIRITUAL TRUTH

As a result of our faith in Jesus Christ, one way we can express our position is as a son or daughter of this one true King. But if we truly are sons and daughters of the King, then, by definition, we are princes and princesses. If that is the case, then by our faith we have "royalty status" in that kingdom . . . the Kingdom of God. And if that is true, then we, too, wear a crown. However, that very thought can immediately bring up all kinds of issues. To even think in such a manner might seem "prideful or arrogant." Yet Scripture has many references to the crown that we receive as believers, such as a "crown of righteousness" (1 Tim. 4:8), a "crown of life" (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10), and a "crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4). Some may say that this reality only applies when we have passed from this life to the next. Yet Paul spoke of how God the Father has "raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). In terms of our identity, position and authority, this exists NOW. In fact, the writer of Hebrews speaks of our position from the beginning of creation when he shares (from Psalms) that "we were made a little lower than the angels and we were crowned with glory and honor and everything was placed under our feet" (Heb 2:7-8). Of course, our position and our crown are in reference to the Kingdom of God and this King whom we love and serve, not the kingdoms of this world.

RECEIVING THE CROWN . . . A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I (Jerry) recently had a personal "crown experience" that exposed my own heart and helped me to see once again the heart of the Father. One of our counselees had driven up for a session with us, but before we started she was experiencing the manifest presence of the Lord and we invited her to pray for us. While she was praying, she had an image of the Lord placing His left hand on my chest/heart and He had His right hand raised. She said that He was "swearing an oath," like one would do prior to testifying in a court of law. She said He was placing His hand on a "book" and was testifying that what was written in that book (my heart) was true. In other words, what the Father has written on my heart concerning me is true. We continued to pray and we invited the Lord to bring additional revelation. During this time I had a picture of a crown coming down and being placed on my head. It was a picture that I don't recall having in the past—especially for me personally—and I questioned whether it was truly from the Lord or from me. As I shared it, I felt awkward as it would be very difficult for me to allow someone—especially the Lord—to place a crown on me (yet I would not reject it). After I shared this, Denise went to Is. 62:3-4 and read "YOU WILL BE A CROWN OF

SPLENDOR IN THE LORD'S HAND, A ROYAL DIADEM IN THE HAND OF YOUR GOD. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah and your land Beulah." She then read the following from verses 8-12: "THE LORD HAS SWORN BY HIS RIGHT HAND AND BY HIS MIGHTY ARM: 'Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.' " Pass through, pass through the gates! PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.' " They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted (emphasis ours).

THE FATHER'S EXCLAMATION POINT!

We were all really impacted by how the Lord was speaking through all of this, and when our friend was ready to leave, she pulled out a book that she had purchased and felt she was to give it to us. When she looked at the cover again, she was overwhelmed, as the title was, "The Supernatural Ways of Royalty: Discovering Your Rights and Privileges of Being a Son or Daughter of God." On the back of this book (by Kris Vallotton) it states, "Supernatural Ways of Royalty reveals your true identity as a child of the King of Kings—royal heir to the eternal Kingdom of God." It was obvious to me that the Father wants to "change my perspective" in the deeper places of my heart on the ways that I still see myself.

WILL YOU RECEIVE THE CROWN?

It continues to amaze us how there can still be areas of our hearts that haven't fully accepted the truth of how God the Father sees us, and thus how we see and live out our identity in the Kingdom. Yet we are also amazed (and grateful!) that He doesn't require us to be completely healed and restored before He allows His love and power to flow through us to help others. In our next writing we'll share some as to why these places of distorted beliefs exist in our hearts and also some of the ways that we have seen the Father bring greater healing to these areas. We end with this question . . . "WILL YOU RECEIVE THE CROWN HE HAS GIVEN YOU?"

PLEASE PRAY WITH US . . .

Father, as Your child, I choose to receive the crown that You place on me, with all of the rights and privileges that belong to this honor. I embrace the inheritance that I have in You, through my faith in Your Son. You have called me to "love You, love myself and love others," and I know that I cannot fully do this without embracing and walking in my true identity and authority. And Father, please continue to reveal and to heal those places in my heart that oppose this truth. I desire to walk in full agreement with You and total disagreement with the enemy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

From the Father's Heart,

Jerry and Denise Basel