

# Where Do We Go From Here? (Part 5)

Sunday, January 28, 2018  
10:30 AM

## INTRODUCTION

For the past four weeks we have been searching for God's direction for a new year. Our Journey began with two scriptures that encouraged us to look to God and His proven truths to find that direction...

### Joshua 3:1-4 (NIV)

#### Crossing the Jordan

**3** Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. **2** After three days the officers went throughout the camp, **3** giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. **4** Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before...

And...

### Jeremiah 6:16-17 (NIV)

**16** This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.' **17** I appointed watchmen over you and said, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said, 'We will not listen.'

As we stood at the crossroads and looked for the ancient paths in which we can walk with confidence we identified the following proven pathways...

1. God is on the throne and is in control... Trust Him with all you heart and He will direct your paths
2. The devil is still at work... Resist him and he will flee from you
3. Our days are numbered... Some of us may not be here next year... Live with that in mind
4. The Word of God is necessary food and brings nourishment to our souls
5. You must be born again
6. There is encouragement through the Fellowship of Believers
7. Prayer is powerful and brings us into the presence of God
8. The great commission is still God's Mission and should be ours
9. Love is still the greatest commandment
10. Forgiveness is not optional
11. God blesses the tithe
12. Sexual purity is essential

As we bring this series of messages to a close, I want us to consider three more ancient pathways which lead us in the direction God wants us to go. But before we do, let's examine one more passage of scripture that helps us set the stage for what we need to do.

### **Genesis 26:12-25 (NIV)**

**12** Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. **13** The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. **14** He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

**15 So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.**

- Even the enemy knows that we will be blessed when we benefit from the wells or pathways that have been dug for us. So the enemy comes in to fill up those old wells. He doesn't want us to see and be blessed by the direction and provision God has for us

**16** Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

**17** So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.

**18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.**

- We need to see the value of those old wells
- We have to be willing to do the work
- Continual process of cleaning out the old wells and digging new ones so we have the benefit of the water

**19** Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. **20** But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. **21** Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. **22** He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

**23** From there he went up to Beersheba. **24** That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

**25** Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

- Praise & Worship is the overflow of our experience with God

**Psalm 9:1-2, 11 (NIV)**

**1** I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**2** I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

**11** Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.

*The Hebrew word shachah and the Greek word proskuneo account for more than 80% of the appearances of the word “worship” in most English versions of the Bible, so these are the two words with which we want to concern ourselves.*

*A study of the Hebrew word shachah and the Greek word proskuneo reveals that both these words mean “to bow down.” The Hebrew word shachah (Strong’s number 7812) is used of bowing or prostrating oneself, often before a superior or before God. In the King James Version, it is translated by a number of different English words, including: “worship” (99 times), “bow” (31 times), “bow down” (18 times), “obeisance” (9 times), and “reverence” (5 times).*

*The Greek word proskuneo (Strong’s number 4505) comes from the Greek words pros, “to” or “toward,” and kuneo, “to kiss.” It literally means to kiss the hand to (toward) someone in token of reverence, and among the Orientals, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence. Hence, in the New Testament it means kneeling or prostration to do homage or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication.*

*The relationship of the worshipper with God is based on passionate romantic love. It is like the relationship of the bride with the bridegroom, relationship simply for relationship’s sake. The worshipper’s one focus and concern is God, so {it is} for him an expression of passionate romantic love.*

*The more our eyes are opened to the throne, the more we are filled with worship, love and praise to him, and our worship of him becomes the result of living revelation and not simply information about him.*

- Larage, Abdellah. Mount Zion: Discovering the Keys to Praying for Revival

### **John 20:24-28 (NIV)**

**24** Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

**26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

**27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

**28** Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Praise and Worship is so much more than singing a song. It is the expression of our faith in and love of God. It demonstrates the worth, honor and respect we ascribe to the Lord.

It is the overflow of a daily, living, relational experience with God.

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift for all

### **Acts 2:39 (NIV)**

**39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

This is truly one of those wells, that through our own negligence, we have allowed the enemy to stop up. We need to get excited once again about the value of this well. It's time to do some digging. It's been stopped up before...

### **Luke 11:13 (NIV)**

**13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask him!**

Most of the early seekers of Pentecost in our times did so out of desperation for more in their relationship with God. They spent days, weeks, even months praying, searching the Scriptures and seeking presence of God in their lives. They were re-digging old wells.

I wish I could tell you why in some instances the well seems to instantly gush forth and other times it must, with work, be cleaned out before the water can flow.

While on vacation in a neighboring country, a small group of Iranians hired a local tour guide and specifically asked him to take them to a church where they could hear about Jesus. The tour guide was a nominal, cultural Christian, not a believer. But instead of taking the group of Iranians to his traditional, spiritually dry church, he took them to a place of life — a local Pentecostal church.



The tour guide providentially brought the Iranians to just the place they needed, full of the power of God. As the group entered the building, the presence of God came on them so strongly that some began to weep, and the power of God swept across the heart of every person.

In that small, humble room, the local Christians led three of the Iranians to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. Immediately afterwards, they asked if the newly saved Iranians wanted to be filled with the Spirit. "Do you want more of the Spirit of Jesus in you?" The spiritually hungry Middle Eastern tourists responded with an emphatic "Yes!"

As the believers prayed, one woman suddenly exclaimed, "Stop! Stop! There are funny words in my mouth! What do I do with them?"

She and others in her group were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and within 24 hours, they were baptized in water. Like the Early Church in the Book of Acts, men and women hungry for God miraculously came to faith in Jesus.

This is the story of today's Iran and its people shared by AGWM workers building relationships with Iranians in a myriad of settings — a story of miracles and salvations, a challenge to the Church to pray and join in this harvest. →

Maybe it's because of our unbelief, maybe we've grown complacent, maybe it's because we want to control the experience, maybe we've been indoctrinated against it or at least certain manifestations of it (Like speaking in tongues, ecstatic exuberance, being slain in the spirit, shaking etc...), maybe we have witnessed misuse of the gift.

So how do we re-dig this well...

In keeping with our encouragement from Jeremiah to look for the ancient paths, let's go back to Jesus original command to the disciples concerning this gift.

**Luke 24:49 (NIV)**

**49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

**Luke 24:49 (NKJV)**

**49** Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Have faith in Jesus promise... This isn't something we do, but something He gives to us

Tarry... Spend some time... Focus on receiving this gift...

Until... Speaks of your tenaciousness of spirit that doesn't give up until the promise is given

Problems with much of American Christianity...

- We aren't desperate enough
- We don't stay long enough
- We don't come often enough
- We don't dig deep enough

Clothed... God gives us the clothes, what we do with them is up to us. Sometimes, I think we feel the presence and power of God but don't do anything with it.

- **There will be both challenges and opportunities** (and sometimes they are the same thing)
  - Today's victories are tomorrow's battles