YEAR OF GLORY TO GOD: "HOW WILL MY TESTIMONY MAKE THE "GLORY LIST OF 2021"?

"KEEP YOUR CANDLE BURNING BRIGHTER AND SPREADING FURTHER"

APRIL 25, 2021

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KEEP YOUR CANDLE BURNING BRIGHTER AND SPREADING FURTHER

As this message was being clarified to me, I saw an image of someone climbing a high mountain located within a heavily populated city.

And my spirit said to me, you see this person, the higher the person climbs,

- the broader the view of the environment the person will see,
- the more the people who see the person climbing the mountain, and
- the more the people who will be inspired by the person climbing the mountain.

As Christians, we must keep climbing higher on the mountain – Looking for every opportunity to positively impact the lives of others using the power we have in Jesus Christ (pray, encourage, inspire/motivate, lift burdens, guidance, etc.)

Our motivation is in the number of people who see us climbing and are inspired to climb...... This is the story of salvation and the great commission.

Bible says:

Matthew 5:14-16, 18-19

"14 "Christians are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

"16 ... let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven."

If we are climbing the mountain, we never know how many people down there are looking and how many are being inspired by our good action/deeds.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, ..., will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore,whoever <u>practices and teaches</u> these commands (in the word of God) will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Brethren, Go Higher In Learning The Word Of God, And

Practice & Teach The Word Of God to Influence as Many People as Possible. We know that Salt influences things around it - "You are the salt of the earth (Mat 5:13))

When we Keep our Candle burning Brighter (climbing up the mountain), Many People are Inspired to serve God. Examples abound in scriptures:

Acts 3:

¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John.... ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ¹ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

#1 Peter and John performed this <u>action/deed</u> on one man BUT there were many people looking up towards the mountain, who saw it.

Act 3 (contd.)

⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with <u>wonder and amazement</u> (inspired) at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and <u>came running to them</u> in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them (Peter used the opportunity to climb even higher): "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus.

#2 Peter climbed even higher on the mountain and spoke to the people.

Acts 3: 4 Many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Peter's candle got brighter and spread further)

#3 As they climbed higher, they did not only inspire ordinary men, they inspired kings, rulers and leaders (We are created/anointed to be great with noble deeds):

Acts 4: 1The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

- ⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.
- ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"
- ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an <u>act of kindness</u> shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom

you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked.

"Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.

#4: kings, rulers and leaders saw their good action/deed.
Brethren, once our actions are noble they will spread further.

Acts 4 (contd.)

- ¹⁸ Then they (the rulers) called them (Peter and John) in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
- ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
- ²¹ After further threats they let them go.

They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

#5: As we climb higher on the mountain, the Lord strengthens us and emboldens us even more.

Acts 4: (contd.)

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God...... ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **And they** were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Both Peter and John went ahead to become authors of great chapters in the bible, which are inspiring us even today and will for generations yet unborn.

Brethren, we must "KEEP OUR CANDLE BURNING BRIGHTER AND SPREADING FURTHER"

We are required to declare the glory of God on earth; Required to be fruitful, subdue the earth and have dominion over the earth. We are told to "make the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:16)

To achieve these,

- The Lord has given us the Spirit of boldness and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- He puts hedge of protection around us, our possessions and household (Jhn 1:10)
- And God says concerning us: "from now on let no one trouble you for you bear on your body the mark of the scars of Jesus Christ." (Galatians 6:17)

Brethren, let us be on the look out for opportunities to use the power Jesus has deposited in us. Ensuring that our action/deed is noble and purposeful (for the bigger benefit of the population). Peter and John saw opportunity and applied their power on the lame man, then proceeded on the people, the leaders and the generations after. **Let us go and replicate.**

GOD BLESS YOU!