## KEEP YOUR LAMPS BURNING

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(PUBLISHED IN KEEPING IN TOUCH APRIL 28, 2002)

Praise God. When I came in here I felt a spirit of sadness, real sadness. The thing that comes to me is that I should tell you a vision that I had some years ago. I had this vision that we were horses; we had turned into horses. We were supposed to run a race, but there was a lion that wanted to eat. There was a lion that wanted to eat one of the horses. We got very indignant, and we felt that if we got together we could kill this lion. But God spoke, and God said, "Don't kill the lion, for the lion has his portion." Nevertheless, we were so indignant that we were going to kill the lion. This lion came in, and he sat down like a man in our midst, and I went over to him to strike him, and he said, "Remember what God said!" and we had to back off. The time came for us to run, and all the horses began to run. The lion was running in the back, and we knew instinctively that the lion was going to eat one of the horses. It was very sad! But we just had to obey God, that the horses that were in the back were going to be eaten by the lion. It has been a source of sadness in my soul, to know that some of us are going to fail.

When I look and see what is happening with some of the young people, that at the time when it is most important for us to press on in God, they are pulling back. Even among the ministry, I've seen a pulling back. The excitement which we had at the beginning; many have lost this excitement. Instead of pressing forward, they are looking back to the weak and beggarly elements of the world. The world has nothing to offer. Anything that we gain now, we are going to leave it, and lose it.

The time has come for us to be one, yet we are more divided. The time has come for us to move forward into God, and yet the situation of the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins is right in our face.

I believe that God told me that the tribulation is forty years. I believe that He told me that in 1970, that 2 years had already gone out of the tribulation. That is, the time when the war started in Israel, the '68 war, that was the time of the tribulation, the beginning of the tribulation. I believe that 40 years tribulation, I believe this now with all my heart, and one of the problems with us is that we believe maybe half of what we hear. Somebody will not believe this, or believe that, and somebody will say, "This is duCille, and that is." You must recognize God different from duCille. You must recognize God different from that child, for there are things that that child is going to say which is not that child, it is God! We have to begin to recognize God in our midst. We are going to begin to understand and BELIEVE GOD! We believe in prophecy. Oh yes. Praise God. We believe in prophecy. A prophecy comes, and it tells you how nice you are, and you feel very good, and you have it written out and every now and then you read it to feel good. But if that prophecy ever said anything that you didn't want, you would despise it immediately! This is a wrong nature in us. This nature is leading us into unbelief. For

unbelief is not believing part, it is believing part of the whole. If I said, "God said so and so, and so and so, and so and so." If you believe two out of three, you don't believe. For if you believe it's God that says the first two, then you have to believe it's God that says the third one!

We are going to have to begin to recognize the voice of God as different from other voices that are all around us. Even the stones will cry out! Turn with me to John, I think it's 10 I want. We start at verse 7, Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door of the sheep. Not just any door, but the door of the sheep. That is, if you are sheep, you must come through that door. When you are talking about sheep, you are talking about the specific nature that God has endowed the brethren with, the nature of the sheep. He said, you MUST come through this door. You cannot go through any other door. Many of us are seeking other doors. But He said, "This is the door! The door of the sheep!" Verse 8, All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door of the sheep. The thieves and robbers, the sheep will not hear. You know, we have had many brethren who felt one thing or another about us fellowshipping together, and they have gone, left us, and gone to fellowship with other people. It is sad, but I meet them on the street, and they say, "Well, I am going to such and such a place. I am fellowshipping now at the Baptist Church or so and so." I say, "Well, praise God. Are you happy there? Are you blessed?" They say, "Yes." I say, "Well, that's where you belong." If someone can leave us and go somewhere else, and find peace and joy and blessing there, that's where they belong! Encourage them to stay there! Amen! Because there is something about the sheepfold that there is a voice inside of the sheepfold that is not anywhere else, and it sounds peculiar. But you go into the shopping center and you hear someone talking, and the person's talk blesses you, that's the sheepfold. That's the Lord speaking, amen. In some unlikely places, you will hear the voice of God! Oh yes! But when you hear the voice, you must know exactly, you hear the voice of God, "That's the Lord!" Amen. You know, the brethren, after Jesus left them, felt really down and they decided to go fishing. When they were there fishing, there was a man sitting down on the seashore, and he was roasting fish. He said to them, "Come and dine," and they went and they are with Him and He spoke to them, and Peter said to one of the other men, "It was He." (John 21:5-14) You know what that means? He had changed. He had changed His face. He had changed His look. They were no longer discerning Jesus Christ by their eyes or by their ears! Amen. But the voice of the Master is planted in my heart, and wherever I hear this voice, that's where I am going to go. Let's read a little more.

John 10:9, I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

This means that we begin to lose personalities. We don't say, "Brother duCille says this, Brother Burt says this, Sister So-and-So says that." We begin to say, "The Lord said, the Lord said to me so and so and so and so." Because when the voice is spoken, spoken to you, it is what you hear. If you heard duCille, drop it! Don't follow it! If you heard God, you are bound, amen.

So one brother came to me and he said, "Brother Ces, are you perfect?" And I said, "No, I'm not perfect. But if God sent me with a word to you, and I faithfully give the word to you, THAT is perfect!" That's the perfection that we have in the Body of Christ. It is a perfection of a word that comes from the Almighty God to His people. Guess what? It must come at this time or you are a loser! If you do not hear God at this time, you are a loser! Because the time is the last time! God is coming to the church and the church is NOT READY. Therefore, I asked God one day, I said, "Lord, what are you going to do to bring us from way back here to way up there? What are you going to do?" God said, "Tribulation. Suffering." The only thing that is going to purify the church is suffering, and we are at the edge of it.

I am very sad because when I think of the condition of the church, God gave us a mandate. He told us certain things we should do. Any ten of us, any ten of us that join together could do it. And yet, it's not done, and it can't be done. If one person says, "God says so and so. Let us do so and so," the other person comes and says, "Oh, no, that is carnality." Therefore the Jehovah Witnesses can come in here and build a magnificent building in two weeks! They can do anything they want to do. They can have people going around giving away books to get their souls into their organization. We, the Sons of God, can do nothing. We cannot put up one building, not even one building in the whole United States of America. We cannot put it up! There is something wrong. There is something wrong, amen. Something wrong.

Let us turn to Matthew chapter 25. There's a verse that I want to quote before we go to Matthew 25, and the verse is, the marriage of the Lamb is come, and the Bride hath made herself ready (Revelation 19:7). The marriage of the Lamb is come, and the Bride hath made herself ready. Now, the question is, when is the marriage going to take place? Brethren, have you ever thought of it, as to what stage in our relationship with God, is the marriage of the Lamb going to take place? Have you ever thought of that? All right, we have the marriage of the Lamb, its going to take place at midnight, in the midst of the trouble. We are heading, heading directly now, into that trouble. I want you to understand exactly where we are. I got a word from God that said that on the thirtieth of March, this year (2002), blood and fire will be on the earth. We are not turning back, going back to peace. We are going into war and destruction. It's going to get worse, it's going to get worse, it's going to get worse. Many are talking about the economy getting better and so and so and so. The devil and the terrorists are going to strike again. Why are they going to strike again? Why is it our prayers won't stop them from striking again? Because it is their time! The enemy is now loosed! God said that there were four angels bound in Islam, in Islamic lands, that is the river Euphrates. There were four angels bound in that land and these angels were loosed on the eleventh of September last year. Now they have the power to do destruction, so destruction is already given an open door. Don't expect the circumstances to bring life back to normal. We are heading into it! Praise God! You know what we are heading for? We are heading for peace! We are heading for eternal peace! We are heading for, just down the road, Jesus Christ reigning and ruling on earth. In our minds it is a fable, it can hardly happen, but this is where we are heading. God is saying to us, "What manner of men are you to be?" If you know that the earth will soon be on fire, what manner of people are we? (See 2 Peter 3:11) Okay, so then, I'm going to read about this marriage. I am just telling you where we are, because we are just next door to the marriage of the Lamb, and let me explain to you why the marriage of the Lamb must come at midnight.

The scripture says that IF God does not intervene at this time, when it gets very dark on the earth, then no flesh would be saved. That means that man has the ability to destroy human life from the face of the earth, amen. You and I know it very well. So, if God doesn't intervene, no flesh would be saved. (Matthew 24:21 and 22)

Now, let's go back to Matthew 25:1. He said, Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins. Now, the kingdom of heaven is talking about where we live, amen? You are talking about where we live! The kingdom of heaven is likened unto ten virgins. But there is a problem that we have. Five of the virgins were wise, and five were foolish. Why five? Couldn't it be three wise, and you know, seven foolish, or six and four? Why did Jesus say five wise and five foolish? Because your Bible is written in such a way that you are not supposed to make any mistakes in understanding what God means. Five is the number of grace, five is the number of ministry and God is saying there is a wise ministry and there is a foolish ministry. All right? Now, you have to make up your mind as to where you are going to be. Are you going to be listening to the wise ministry or to the foolish ministry? The foolish ministry are leading people into a certain direction. The wise ministry are leading people in another direction. Now, you have to decide which direction is the one in which God is leading you. Amen. It says, "virgins." Now, the word "virgins" in scripture means "Christians." So, although you are born again, although you are saved, you can be foolish. I mean, I am born again, I am saved, I have done so many foolish things in my life that it's a good thing God didn't make feet that you can kick yourself! I'd be kicking myself! So, you can be foolish, and you can be foolish in a spiritual sense. You know, it is all well and good if you are foolish in the natural and you waste money and you do things wrong sometimes in the natural. But God is saying that these virgins, these Christians, were foolish in a spiritual way. He was telling us the meaning of foolish. He said here, (Matthew 25:7) virgins took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. Now, you cannot meet the bridegroom without your lamp shining bright. Your lamp must be bright and burning in order to meet the bridegroom. Now, you know what your lamp means then? Your spiritual life, and I'm going to explain something to you that probably you never heard before. Each of us sitting here now, if a spirit comes in here and he looks at us, he sees each person's lamp burning bright or burning dull, burning faint, you understand. And if he wants someone to tempt, he would be able to go to the one whose lamp looked dullest to tempt him, you understand. So when Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like virgins with lamps," he meant virgins with lamps, naturally, spiritually the lamps are there, only we don't see it with our eyes. Now, the scripture describes what the lamp is. The spirit of man is the lamp of God, working in the soul (Proverbs 20:27). Remember that? The spirit of man is the lamp of God, working in the soul. So what God is saying is that some peoples' lamps are bright and burning and some peoples' lamps are running out of oil. Remember now, we are coming towards midnight. We are coming towards midnight. I'm saying to you, midnight is just down the road. I can't tell you an exact

time when midnight will be, because things seem to be progressing much faster than I even thought in my preaching and believing I am hearing from God. Therefore it's not for us to even guess when will be midnight, but it's for us to be prepared! So therefore, now, God is looking at your lamp then, and five of them were wise and five of them were foolish. (Matthew 25:3) They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: Now, you have the lamp and you have the vessel. The lamp has oil, and oh boy, when you get saved, you know, the lamp is burning bright. But as time goes on, that lamp is going to need more oil. So now, if the lamp is your spirit, God wants you to have a vessel that has oil also. Now remember, the oil that brightens your lamp is the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God in you, the thing that quickens your spirit, and makes you bright. Now, if you have no oil in your vessel, what does that mean? We are vessels of righteousness. Do you know why we are vessels? The scripture says that ye are the temple of the living God, and that God dwells in you. (1 Corinthians 3:17) So we are vessels of God. We are vessels that contain God. If we are vessels that contain God and the vessel is empty, it means we do not have God in the right place! I wonder if you understand. In other words, the devil knows this. He knows if he gets you angry that you are out of the Spirit, there is no oil burning there. While the flame of the body is burning, the flame of the soul is low. So the devil will tempt you to get mad. The devil will tempt you to get upset, disturbed! You can't serve God while you are disturbed, while you are upset! You follow what I'm saying? So God says that if your vessel doesn't have the oil in it, that at midnight. . . Now let me tell you, the word midnight has quite a few meanings. One of the things is that your midnight might not be mine, in one sense, right? When you are having trouble, when you are under distress, when darkness comes down upon you, that is your midnight. That's the time you need oil in your vessel, because oil has to be in the right place. Now, where is the vessel? My mind is the vessel. Brethren, for God's sake, don't believe, please, that you can spend six days out of the seven with your mind involved with worldly things, not a thought for God, and that at the moment of trouble your mind is going to shift into high gear for God. No sir! Your mind will only shift in high gear for God if you have been meditating on the Word of God. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11). The Word of God, hidden in the heart; there is a magic potion in the Word of God. I don't know if I'm using the right words, but the Word of God has something in it, that by itself there is an energy and a power that works, amen! When you are in trouble, you don't have to think, "Let me think, which word should I use?" I know people get in trouble and they say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." (very fast, like a chant) You know, that sort of way. Too late! The spontaneous response to the devil must come from your spirit, from your soul, and it must blast the devil, and that's the only time he sees light. But if you have to start thinking hard what scripture to quote when the devil is before you, you are in trouble. It says, Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Psalm 119:11) The Word of God must be hidden in your heart and it must come forth spontaneously with a power that delivers you when you are under pressure. He says, "My sheep will hear my voice." And He says, "I know them. And they will follow me." (John 10:4,14) Did you hear that? God is confident that you will follow His voice when you are in trouble, if your mind is stayed on God!

You know, all of us have our jobs to do. I remember at one time on my job I got to the place where I could be working and doing the job all day, and not be there at all. I was in the Spirit just talking to God, but doing the job. I never forgot this, that there was a big joke in the department, that the auditor put up his report and there was a penny that was missing and nobody could find the penny that was missing. They gave me the books to audit and I was in the Spirit, I didn't eat lunch because I was just praising God and auditing. Checking and auditing, and before the day was done, I found the penny. When you get in the Spirit, when you walk in the Spirit, you can do your work and it does not disturb your being in the Spirit. Yes. You can do your work, and it does not, as a matter of fact, you do your work most efficiently when you are in the Spirit. More efficiently, you will discover things that you never thought of.

God Almighty says, then, that there were these ten virgins. Don't let us deceive ourselves. He is not talking about the church out there. He is not talking about the church in the outer court. He is talking about the church in the Holy Place. Do you know the destiny of the church in the Holy Place? Can anybody tell me the destiny, what destiny is for the church in the Holy Place? One part of the answer is to be taken by the anti-Christ. The abomination of destruction is in our midst! Isn't that weird? The abomination that is going to destroy the world is in the midst of the Holy Place church. This is where the devil wants his seat! These are the people who the devil really wants to rule and reign over! Why? Because this is where he gets the most power! The energy that you have in God, I come in here and I sit down and we start to sing, and I could feel the energy of God in our midst. This is what the devil wants to feed on! He feeds on energy! God will not give him any, but he gets it from man. So one day, I mean, this is a master plan. This is a master plan! Sometimes you feel that God has really done us badly because he let go the devil on us. Amen. But, God ordained that the devil should feed on man. You are devil food! Did you know that? Oh, yeah! You are devil food! Remember now, he is after you to eat you. The Bible said, he goeth about seeking whom he may devour! (1 Peter 5:8). The Bible said that God, speaking to the devil, said to the devil, "Dust shalt thou eat!" Yes! Dust shalt thou eat. Then in the verse below, He calls you the dust. The scriptures I am quoting from are in Genesis chapter 3, dust shalt thou eat, and then in verse 19 he said, "Thou art dust" to Adam! It means to say that God gave Adam the dominion and the power over everything that moves within this realm. And when Adam lost the dominion and power, who got it? The devil. So, all you see the devil doing, it is our power that he is using. So you can imagine how powerful we will be when we take that away from him!

Now, the master plan I was talking about. God said the devil must feed on you. You are the devil's food. So, who has the control then of the devil? We! We can starve him out! Starve him out! This is exactly what God is teaching us to do. Don't let the devil feed on you and don't let him feed on your brother! Keep praying for every sinner you see out there! Deliver them from the devil so that the devil cannot feed on them and the devil will have to get mad and leave Dubuque and every place else! Oh yes. If you begin to stir up enough spiritual energy in this place, the devil will not be able to function! Amen! Praise be to God! It's like a little on the reverse side, but this man, Andre Crouch. . . You know Andre Crouch the singer? He would have his ladies in black, and they would sing with heavy metal beat and all like that. He went to Africa, and there he was with his heavy beat, thinking that Africans love this now, you know. A

man rushed out of the crowd, rushed upon the platform and said, "Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!" He was the sorcerer of that area, and he said, "You are calling all my spirits away from me! I can't get anything done! You are taking them away!" That was a blessing to Andrew Crouch, because he is the man that tells the story. I believe it has really blessed him. He is not going to do that heavy beat anymore, because, you see, the devils feed on that. So when you see all these people dancing, carrying on with the beat, it is the devil they are feeding. All their energy is going to the devil! They are feeding devils. So God, therefore, ordained this so that we will have the handle, and we will use our handle to stop Satan from functioning in our midst at all! It is happening. It is happening. The Bible said that He that letteth will let. (2 Thessalonians 2:7) What does it mean? It means that the Spirit of God in us is holding the devil back from doing what he wants to do until God's time comes. When God's time comes, then He will let him loose. I believe that we need to understand this piece of scripture. Let's go back to it.

He said, now, the wise had oil in their spirits, which is where we will have the oil. When you get baptized in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God comes into your spirit. He does not come into your soul, right? So when you get baptized in the Holy Ghost the Spirit of God is in your spirit. Now, they had spirit in their spirit, God's Spirit in their spirit, and God's Spirit in their soul, that's the wise. Let me tell you what I mean. The Lord begins to say, "So and so, do so and so, don't do so and so, do so and so," and you begin to obey the Lord. You know what happens to you? The Spirit of God gets into your mind, and obedience becomes a part of your life. Obedience to God becomes a part of your life. You walk with God, and it becomes a nature, part of your nature. Amen. That means if you are even sleeping, you will dream that you obey God! Now, if you do not allow this Spirit that is in your spirit to move in your soul, come on now, the Spirit that is in your spirit must move in your soul, that means in your mind, the way you think, has a great deal to do with your whole life function. If you don't think the way of the Lord, and I am telling you, none of us naturally think the way of the Lord. We have to continuously struggle to keep our thoughts in the way of God. For the bombardment of the thoughts from everywhere are coming upon us, and we have to continually, continually repeat the Word of God and the Word of God will drive the devils out of your mind. One brother told me, he said, "Brother," he said, "I am just devastated by carnality." He said, "Before I was saved, I used to love to read pornography magazines." And he said, "I have never been able to get rid of the pornography. It comes popping up before me." He said, "When I see the sisters, the pornography comes before me." Many times the sisters feel bad when I say they need to dress properly because there is a certain amount of temptation that goes to the brothers. I want you to know that there are brothers, they are saved, but they are in trouble. They still have trouble. Maybe some sisters have trouble, too. They have to fight in their minds to get out the pornography that was there from years ago. Amen. God said it can be done by the Blood of Jesus Christ. And says some kind cometh not out but by fasting and prayer. (Matthew 17:21) You have to fast and pray until God purifies your mind. Amen. Some people say, "Well, maybe I need to get married." It's the worst thing you could do! If you are suffering from carnality, the worst thing you could do is to marry, because you will be taking the carnality home, and you will be training it. Amen.

Five were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish ones did not get their souls fixed, you hear me? The things that are in your soul, get them fixed, NOW! The things

that are in your mind, your emotions. Some people's emotions run away with them! God Almighty wants you to fix your emotions! Amen. If a person finds that he gets angry, angry, whether it be easily or not, he gets angry, don't take it simple. For God's sake, right now, get down on it! Do not allow anger to reign in your being, because anger is a sign that a devil is ministering death to you! It's a sign. Remember now, anger is only a manifestation. What is causing it? It is that there is something in there that your soul wants some oil, wants some oil in your emotions. Amen. The man who gets angry, is the same man whose emotions are out of control. That will lead him into fornication, will lead him into different areas. Therefore you cannot allow anger to continue. Tell God today, "I don't want anymore anger in my being!" Hallelujah. Amen. Many of us, we have gifts of the Spirit and the gifts are being hindered by the things that we allow in our souls. Do not allow anymore anything in your soul that is not of God. If your mind is slipping off unto carnality, see to it that it is stopped, you don't continue, don't let it continue. Amen.

I know some sisters that wear long dresses to service. Long dresses, because of course, they believe that's the norm. But as they get home, they take it off and put on shorts. What's the meaning of that? The meaning is that there is something in the mind, something in the mind that you have not overcome. You want to be feeling worldly, looking worldly, but because you are in an association like this where people will look at you, you pretend while you are with us. You might as well wear the shorts to service. We will all know what is the problem.

We need to understand that God is not judging you for how you look right now. God is judging you for what's in the mind, hallelujah, and what is manifesting in the mind, is what God is saying. Somebody asks, "Oh, I want to be among the wise virgins." Amen. The wise virgins, they paid for their oil. They didn't get it for nothing. You have to suffer to get rid of the things that are in you that are not pleasing to God. Now, is it possible for you to hear me? You have to suffer. Amen. I remember the days when I said to God, "Kill me. This thing is not going to destroy my spiritual life. For I see Jesus, I see God, I see righteousness, this is what I want. I do not want the other thing!" So, do we have a people who are willing to give up their lives to receive life? To give up what you like, what you want to do, what you feel like inside in order to have the life of God, to be among the wise virgins?

Do you believe there is a time when the door is going to be closed, and that there will be nobody else accepted to be in the bride class? Now, if you believe there is such a time, when do you believe the time is going to be? I'll tell you something, too. There are some people who are disqualified before the selection. Disqualified before the selection! The reason is, they have crossed the line, and they made up their mind that they are not going to make it, so they just go. That cannot be done unless you are motivated by the devil. For God is doing everything possible to make His people be the first fruits! Everybody! He's doing everything possible for you.

He said here now, the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. (Matthew 25:4-6) Hallelujah. Now, at midnight, Moses knew when it was going to be midnight. The children of Israel knew exactly what time it was. They were told what to do, and it was very easy for them to have the lamb prepared, and eating the meat, and with their waist

girded, and with their bags packed and ready to go at midnight. Amen. There was midnight when Jesus Christ ate the Passover with the brethren, and they knew exactly when midnight was going to be. Amen. But in the fullness of the word "midnight," we do not know when midnight will be. It is only the Spirit of the living God in us that is telling us when midnight will be. We know we are pretty close. Very, very close to it. I would say we are close in just years. Just a few years close to it, and yet I can be wrong, for I never thought that the war would have started from now. I'm looking forward to war starting somewhere in 2004. I did not know that it would start from now. That means that midnight can come anytime according to God's calendar, you understand? At midnight, the world will face annihilation. The world outside there will face annihilation. We, the people of God, will be called upon to have our lamps burning bright, for I believe that there are more souls that are going to be saved in the destruction than at any other time. You know, America is not used to so many people dying. Some nations, you have 50,000 people die at one time. We see with Israel when Moses was going through the land with Balaam, that 30,000 of them died at one time. You know what I mean. There are nations that have many people die. We send people to war, and they kill millions of people, and something like 4 soldiers die. You understand. We're not used to it. But the day when some of our enemies get an atom bomb, and blow it in a city like New York of 12 million people, and we see thousands, or hundreds of thousands of people die, it will be a different day for Americans. We are going to change overnight. This is what I am saying. I am saying that I see terrorists building a bomb in a basement. We are looking for them to send it with something, we are looking for them to bring it in here so we can arrest them. They will build it right here in our cities, amen. We need to pray to God that God will save His people, because so far, God has been preserving us, and delivering us from these things. Amen. No nation is going to face the United States front on, to fight them, you know that. It would be suicide, and everybody knows that. Russia is not going to do it. They will give somebody else the bomb to do it, then you start killing the other people and they join you. The Chinese are preparing to destroy America. American cities are now targeted by Chinese missiles.

We are living in the end of time, time when God says, "You must begin to look about your lamp and your vessel. Make sure your lamp is bright, for it is only this way that you will be delivered." You know, I made a remark yesterday and somebody asked me about it, that the scripture says, those who didn't take the mark of the beast will be killed, amen. I saw three types there. Those who take the mark of the beast, those who take the mark of God, and those who are killed. If God wants to save you and you will not take the mark of the Holy Spirit in your forehead, in your mind, so that you can resist the mark of the beast, in order to deliver you from the mark of the beast, what would God do? Allow you to be killed, to be saved. That's what He did with the people in the flood, at the time of the flood. The Bible says, in the time of the flood they were all drowned, only eight people were saved. Yet the Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ went down to hell He brought out people from the flood who were to be saved, who heard His voice, they heard the message from Noah, and they didn't pay heed, and they got killed, but they were saved, are you following me? (1 Peter 3:20)

So, God is telling us something. The people, <u>search your soul!</u> For God's sake, brethren. Search your soul, stop searching other peoples' souls, and search your own soul, and say, "See if there be any wicked way in me. Cleanse me, Lord." Look into

your emotions, look at what your emotions are doing. I don't need to name it out, but some of us, our emotions are leading us into dark areas. Look at your emotions, and say to your emotions, "I don't like that feeling. I don't like how I felt." Oh yes. "I don't like the temptation that I had when I was talking to that sister, or to that brother." Huh? Nobody knows. You and God know it. "I don't like that temptation." You go to God with it secretly. "Deliver me, oh, Lord God, for in Thee do I put my trust. Let me never be confounded or put to shame." Hallelujah.

We look around and we see the stars falling, and we do not know that it is the Bible that is coming to pass. We see the ministers which are the stars, falling. I mean, just last week, I read of two or three different ministers, some were arrested in my area for being pedophiles. Some were pornography, some were using young children, amen. They are falling everywhere. The stars are falling. When you see all that around you, say, "Oh God, preserve me, for in Thee do I put my trust. Let me not be confounded or put to shame." Yes!

He said at midnight then, there was a cry made. This is sudden. A cry made, "Behold the bridegroom comes." There is a scramble now! There is no way you are going to put your soul straight in a situation of terror. God is saying, get your oil in your lamp! We have oil in the vessel, we know it! You know why you know you have oil in your vessel? Put somebody on the piano, and they start to sing a song of God, and see how you feel. The Spirit rises up in you, and you feel so blessed. That's the oil in your vessel, in your spirit. You're all right when you are in the Spirit. You need to be all right when you are in the flesh!! Are you understanding what God is saying to us? We have to make another step forward from where we are, so that the soul part of us is also protected under the shadow of the Almighty, just as the spirit part of us is protected.

When the bridegroom came, there was a cry made. Did you notice the scripture didn't say this one cried, or that one cried. It says that there was a cry made! It means to say that there is a watchman company that God has watching, and when the bridegroom is afar off, he is going to spy Him, and cry out, "Get ready! He's coming!" And this is what we are hearing now! This is what we are hearing now.

The cry that the bridegroom is coming, He said all the virgins arose. some people it was too late, they were shut out, and they were not in the bride class anymore. I don't know if you understand what we are talking about. There's a class of people that God is selecting. He wants some people to reign and to rule with Him, to be the rulers in this world, spiritually. He is now selecting His people. You can be selected and yet you drop out. For even in the selection, it is part of the testing to make you hardened and ready for the job that is ahead of you. So God is saving that if you are going to move, move now! The way that you thought you should move in the past is not the way that God is speaking to you now. God is speaking to us to move on ourselves. Go to God. Be worried about your condition, amen? Some of us want a wife, or we want a husband, and it becomes an obsession to us before God. Go to God with it. "This thing is an obsession to me, it's disturbing my concentration upon You. Help me!" He might just give you one! He might just give you one, that might be the help. But He might say, "You look to the Lord, you turn your mind upon God." And guess what? When you turn your mind upon God, you will get all the things that you need to carry you on the next few steps. It is a God we are dealing with! It is not a man! Amen!

But we have to trust Him. Many of us don't trust God. I'm telling you, we don't trust Him! I had a confrontation, a good confrontation with one of my dearly beloved brethren. It was, "Oh, brethren, please pray for my son. Please pray for my son. Oh, God!" I said, "Do you think you love that boy more than God does? Leave the boy alone in the hand of God. Just tell God what you want and go rejoicing! God will do the rest! Stop worrying!" If you worry, you don't believe Him. You don't believe Him, you are deceiving yourself that you believe God. The things that we need in life we'd better put before God, and say, "Papa, take charge of it." And we love Him. "You love me, You're going to do it for me." And I start rejoicing! Forget it! Because this soul must be fixed. Do you hear me? Get into it, put your soul into the shop. I'm talking about your car now. Put your soul into the shop and leave it, and let God fix it! Because the time is late, late, late, late. You know, I would hate to see anything happen and you just start running. When the situation happened in New York, all the churches were full! All the churches were full, people still going to church thinking that is the way to appease God. This is the way. God wants us to begin to examine ourselves, and the blessed thing about it is that we are all wrong sometimes. Sometimes you say something and you think, "Man, I wish I didn't say that," but it was in there and you said it. But that coming out of your mouth, let it be a blessing. If you talk something wrong let it be a blessing, because you are conscious of it and you say, "Oh, God, don't let this happen again." And no sooner than you say, "Don't let it happen again," it happens again. You know what I mean. Don't give up on yourself! God is true! It is the Holy Ghost that brings, it says, He comes to judge the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (John 16:8) Even our righteousness sometimes is not up to mark, but He pricks you, "Alright, Jesus, leave it to me. I'm going to fix it. I won't do it again." But He will always be there with you. If we take God as a present help in trouble, One who knows and understands us, we can stop worrying about our condition. Stop worrying about our brethren, our children, whatever, put them in the hand of God, "Alright, take charge of it, Lord." Whatever circumstances you have, whatever problems you have, you see. I'm in a position to tell, because I have more problems than all of you put together. Whatever problems you have, just put it before God. "Alright, God, I leave it with You."

Praise be to God. We were contemplating what to do. We have this appointment to come to be with you to do the taping. Whatever are we going to do? So many problems coming in, bam, bam, one after the other. Then comes my sister-in-law, gets a heart attack, immediately, the day I am to leave. We had to run down there to help and things like that. We couldn't come. I said to God, "I just can't make it." We didn't come. My wife gets sick. I said, "Well, God, what do you want? Do you want me to stay home?" He didn't answer. He didn't answer me. Anytime God doesn't answer you, it's an answer, you know. Did you know that? When He doesn't answer you, it's an answer. I said, "Alright, God. I am going to put her in your hand, and I'm going to go to Dubuque. I missed Illinois, I'm going to Dubuque, and I leave her in your hands." And the first day she was pretty bad. The son comes in, "Oh, you have to go to the doctor immediately. We have to rush you off to the doctor!" She started to call me to tell me that the son wants to take her to the doctor. She couldn't get me, we were too busy on the set. She didn't get me, but all that was part of God's plan. When she got me in the evening, she said, "What happened to you all day, I couldn't get you? They wanted to take me to the doctor but I am feeling better now." So she was feeling better yesterday, and she is feeling better today, and I said, "Don't go to any doctor. Because once they get their finger into you they are going to find out all that is wrong! They will hospitalize you and everything else." But praise be to God.

I think we need to just remember that God loves us and our family and our people MORE than we love them! And we should never be afraid to leave them in the hands of God. God bless you! Praise God. And she says to tell you, "Hello."