

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Through the Eye of the Needle June 23, 2020 Suzi Armstrong

**James 4.7-8, 10** NIV

<sup>7</sup> **Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** <sup>8</sup> **Come near to God and he will come near to you.**

<sup>10</sup> **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

- Clear direction from the Lord on how to position ourselves before Him.
- How to live.

We, the church, are still in a place of submitting ourselves to God and resisting the devil. This is the position of repentance. Allowing God to search our hearts and reveal any unclean thing. Do not cut this process short.

In Luke 22 Jesus prophesies Peter's denial. Jesus tells Peter to listen to what He is about to say – your faith is about to be tested. Jesus also tells Peter, I have prayed for you that you will stay faithful to me no matter what. Peter boldly tells Jesus, I am ready to stand with you. Peter was confident that nothing could move him. Peter did not know the true condition of his own heart. Peter needed to submit himself to God in a deeper way. He needed to resist the devil and come nearer to God.

This is what God is asking us to do. Just like Peter, we do not know what is ahead that is going to test us. We need to submit ourselves to God in a deeper way than ever before. As God has been calling deep unto deep there has to be a deep cleansing that comes through repentance. In repentance the impurity is removed from our hearts and our conscience is cleansed, making us more sensitive to the Spirit of God. Just like Peter, we do not know the true condition of our heart even though we might think we do. Holy Spirit searches the deep things of the heart revealing sin, fear, resentment, hurts, offense, bitterness, jealousy, envy, hardness, pride.

Jesus continued to prophesy to Peter that before the rooster crows in the morning you will deny me three times, even though you know Me. The rooster is symbolic of pride. It is the picture of being puffed up and strutting about as if you have it all together. In Luke 22 before Jesus prophesied Peter's denial the disciples were bickering over which one of them was considered the greatest – this is pride. They were arguing. They were comparing. They were divided from each other because of their pride. And they were separated from God because of their pride.

The pride of life is a thing of the world. The world system, ruled and controlled by satan, is founded upon the pride of human life. Pride is self exaltation. In the book of James we are told humble yourself before God and He will lift you up. Pride of life can be subtle and sneaky. You can have it and not even be aware of it.

**1 John 2.16** NIV

<sup>16</sup> **For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.**

Peter did not think to pause in the presence of Jesus to say, what am I missing? Peter had been told that satan was coming to sift him like wheat and this would test his heart. Being sifted is a severe shaking.

We are now in a severe shaking with the prophetic promise that greater shaking is coming. But Jesus is praying for us to “make it.” Hebrews tells us that Jesus is ever making intercession for us. This is our hope and promise. God is calling us to come up higher – live in a higher place. Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? He who has clean hands and a pure heart and does not lift up his soul to an idol.

Yielded. Submitted. Honoring God. Aligned to truth. Following Jesus. In ancient days one of the gates into Jerusalem was called the eye of the needle which opened after the main gate was closed at night. A camel could not pass through the smaller gate unless it stooped and had its baggage removed. The camel then had to come through on its knees. This is a metaphor for how we are to enter this new era – humbling ourselves before God, allowing for our baggage to be removed. This is the entrance into victory.

### **Psalm 24.7-8** TPT

<sup>7</sup> So wake up, you living gateways!  
Lift up your heads you ageless doors of destiny!  
Welcome the King of Glory,  
For He is about to come through you.  
<sup>8</sup> You ask, “Who is this Glory-King?”  
The Lord, armed and ready for battle,  
The Might One, invincible in every way!

**We come through the gate of humility and repentance to become the gateway for the King of Glory to enter in.**

Wow!! Let the truth and reality of this sink in!!

### **Philippians 1.9-11** TPT

<sup>9</sup> I continue **to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure**, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things.  
<sup>10</sup> This **will enable you to choose the most excellent way of all—becoming pure and without offense** until the unveiling of Christ. <sup>11</sup> And **you will be filled completely with the fruits of righteousness that are found in Jesus**, the Anointed One—**bringing great praise and glory to God!**

We are positioned over our city and our nation as LIVING GATEWAYS. Chaos and division has overtaken our cities and our nation. Cities are burning. People groups are coming against other people groups. Violence, destruction, anger, confrontation, and name-calling fill the atmosphere. Our cities and nation are in desperate need of the King of Glory, the Lord armed for battle, the Mighty One invincible in every way. He is the Lord of Victory! Locked and loaded; the invincible commander of heaven’s angel armies!

We, Your LIVING GATEWAYS, welcome You King of Glory into our city and nation. Reveal Yourself and Your glory over our land and the people – fill the atmosphere with the sound of Your beauty and the demonstration of Your glory. Release the angel armies into our city and nation. We declare Your kingdom come and Your will be done in our city and our nation as it is in heaven. As in the days of Joshua, we fall facedown in reverence and awe of the Commander of the angel armies. We align ourselves with the King of Glory with drawn sword. By Your hand You re-design our city and nation. You bring justice in the streets. Restore the ruins. Establish righteousness and justice in our nation.

Let the voice of the Lord resound over us. **The God of Glory thunders.** The voice of the Lord is powerful and majestic and breaks the resistance of the enemy – the powers and principalities that bind and control. The Lord of Glory sits enthroned over our city and nation and He gives strength to His people.