



## A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR A NEW DAY

by Matt German

Welcome to Kingdom Vantage Point, a new publication from Lion of Judah Family Worship Center. Its purpose is to share sound Biblical teaching and revelatory knowledge in a practical way that will be beneficial to you in your walk with Yahweh. The title of the publication is meant to convey that everything is written from the perspective or vantage point of the King, Yahshua the Messiah, and His Kingdom. May you be richly blessed!

### TABERNACLES 2008

*"Walking by the Spirit"*

The Feast of Tabernacles 2008 is officially in the books. And what a feast it was! Lion of Judah Family Worship Center was blessed to be able to host a Feast site for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. And although it was a relatively small gathering, Yahweh showed up in a mighty way! We had a tremendous time of praise and worship, witnessed several miraculous healings, and shared a lot of good fellowship and preaching and teaching of the Word.

In years past the Father has given me a definitive theme for the Feast a few months in advance. This year, however, I entered into the season without one. Over the course of the Feast the theme that developed was: "Walking by the Spirit."

In the day and hour in which we live, with so many voices and opposing viewpoints, it is extremely critical for all of us as believers to "walk by the Spirit". For many (most) people in the world today, that's a totally foreign concept. I can relate. Growing up I wasn't raised to walk by the Spirit. Nor did my education as an engineer lend itself to that. And after I became a believer, it still didn't change much, probably because I never heard a lot of teaching on the subject within the Body of Messiah. But in recent years I've come to realize the absolute importance of walking by the Spirit.

For most, it's a scary concept. Anything new or foreign to our way of thinking usually is. But what does it really mean to "walk

by the Spirit?" To put it simply, walking by the Spirit means walking the way Yahshua walked – not just keeping a set of commandments but actually discerning the Father's will and purpose on a consistent basis; in other words, hearing and obeying His voice. Every day of His life Yahshua was led by the Spirit; His actions (works) were governed by the Spirit; His Words flowed from the Spirit. He never went anywhere, said anything, or did anything outside the will of Yahweh.

**John 5:19-20** Yahshua therefore answered them, "Most assuredly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father doing. For whatever things He does, these the Son also does likewise. <sup>(20)</sup> For the Father has affection for the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does. He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

**John 14:10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I tell you, I speak not from myself; but the Father who lives in Me does His works.

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and are life.

When the words we speak are Spirit and life – when we hear and convey the voice of Yahweh just like Messiah did – people will want to hear what we have to say. When the works we do are the works we see our Father in heaven doing – when it is actually Messiah doing His works in and through us – that's when we'll see results and see lives radically transformed. To minister the way Yahshua ministered, as a true minister of the Gospel, you've **got** to hear the voice and see the works by the Spirit. It's **not** optional or even desired; it's required!

Hearing His voice isn't nearly as difficult or esoteric as we sometimes seem to think; Yahshua stated very clearly that "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27). However, to learn to discern that voice does take time and dedication. It's a lifestyle that must be cultivated. Like anything else, the more time and effort you put in, the greater the results you'll see.

Why is it so important? Because His Words are Spirit and they are life. This doesn't just mean those words He spoke 2000 years ago – it also means that which He is speaking today... to you and to me. Are we willing to take the time to listen? Are we willing to hear and obey His voice? Are we willing to walk by the Spirit? It's only when we walk by the Spirit that we won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

## FUNCTION OF THE "5-FOLD MINISTRY"

*Equipping the Saints for the Works of Service*

Any competent builder uses blueprints if he wants what he's building to last. Yahweh – the ultimate Builder – was the one who originated this concept. When He instructed Moses to build the tabernacle in the wilderness, He told him, "See that you make it according to the pattern." (Exod. 25:40). Solomon, likewise, was given a pattern for the Temple, a pattern, incidentally, that David had "by the Spirit" (see 1 Chron. 28:11-12). Yet for too long the 'church' – the Body of Messiah – has been building according to a different pattern than the one given in the New Testament. Is it any wonder that what's been created is imperfect, flawed, and relatively ineffective?

There is a better way, the way Yahshua originally intended when He said, "And I will build my *ekklesia* ('church', assembly), and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18). The foundation upon which He said He would build was the spiritual revelation of Him as both the Son of Yahweh and the Messiah [*the Anointed One*] (v17). Anything built on another foundation is ultimately going to crumble.

The apostle Paul understood the Biblical pattern for the *ekklesia*. He dealt with one major aspect of it in Ephesians 4:

**Eph 4:1-3** I therefore, the prisoner in the Master, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, <sup>(2)</sup> with all lowliness and humility, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love; <sup>(3)</sup> being eager (*giving diligence*) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Notice, Paul was literally pleading with them to walk worthily of their calling (v1). How does he define 'worthily'? He says it's "with lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" (v2). In order for us to walk worthily of our calling, we must see and conduct ourselves with humility, meekness, patience, and love. And we must give diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit. In other words, we're going to have to work hard and diligently to maintain the unity of the Spirit. It won't just "happen".

**Eph 4:4-7** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>(5)</sup> one Master, one faith, one baptism, <sup>(6)</sup> one Elohim ('God') and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. <sup>(7)</sup> But to each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Messiah.

There is one body, one Spirit, one Master, one faith. While we can have differences of opinion on many things, we must be careful not to cast aspersion on those whom we deem not as "spiritually advanced" as we think we are. That gets back to the humility, meekness, etc. If we recognize that "to each one of us

was the grace given" through Messiah, then we will show grace towards others who aren't where we're at spiritually.

**Eph 4:8-16** Therefore He says, "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." <sup>(9)</sup> Now this, "He ascended," what is it but that he also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>(10)</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. <sup>(11)</sup> He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>(12)</sup> for the perfecting of the saints, to the works of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah; <sup>(13)</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim ('God'), to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah; <sup>(14)</sup> that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of error; <sup>(15)</sup> but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him, who is the head, Messiah; <sup>(16)</sup> from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.

When Yahshua ascended He gave gifts [*domata*] of and to men. That is why these gifts are sometimes referred to as "ascension gifts", because they were given at His ascension. What exactly were these 'doma' gifts? They were gifts of men, consisting of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. Because there are five identified, these gifts are often also referred to jointly as the "5-fold ministry"

Yahshua never does anything capriciously, on a whim. Everything has a purpose. Here Paul explicitly states the purpose of these gifts: "for the perfecting of the saints, to the works of service". Contrary to popular belief, the purpose of the 5-fold gift offices is not to do the works of service, but to equip, train up, and perfect the saints so that they can do them. The ultimate goal? The building up of the Body, till we all attain to the unity of the faith and the true knowledge of the Son of Yahweh (v13), to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah.

Are we there yet? No. Are we even close? No. Therefore, those five ministry gifts are still necessary – all of them. In fact, in order for the Body of Messiah to become all that it's ordained to be, the 5-fold ministry must be functioning properly together as one.

I, for one, eagerly await the day when the Body of Messiah not only accepts, recognizes, and receives all facets of the 5-fold ministry, but when those 5 gift offices are truly functioning together as a single cohesive unit.

## POSITIONED, ALIGNED, AND JOINED

*Finding & Taking Your Place in the Body*

**Eph. 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of Elohim, <sup>(20)</sup> being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yahshua Himself being the chief cornerstone; <sup>(21)</sup> in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Master; <sup>(22)</sup> in whom you also are built together for a habitation of Yahweh in the Spirit.

As the Body of Messiah and the household of Elohim, we are to grow together into a holy temple, the habitation of Yahweh in the Spirit. In order to do that, we must recognize where we're assigned – where we're supposed to be "fitted together". Just as "Yahweh set some in the assembly" as apostles and prophets (1 Cor 12:27-28), so He has set each and every member in place where it pleased Him.

He's been dealing with me for several years on this subject: that each believer must be positioned, aligned, and joined in his or her assigned place. Very few believers recognize the importance of this in their spiritual walk: most don't recognize that they have an assigned place, much less what that means. Too often, believers adopt the lifestyle of spiritual gypsies, wandering from place to place with no sense of commitment or belonging. Some even view the local ekklesia as an orphanage or "halfway house", rather than the glorious manifestation of His presence that it is intended to be.

When a new brick building is being constructed, the first thing that happens is that all of the building materials are gathered or positioned in one place – the job site. But just piling bricks in one location doesn't make a building. Those bricks then have to be assembled according to the architect's blueprints – they have to be aligned. Even then, though, the building isn't complete. The bricks also have to be mortared together or joined. The same is true of the local ekklesia: the bricks (individual believers) must be positioned – gathered together in their assigned place; then they must be aligned (they must align their hearts with the purpose of the ministry and take their individual places in the overall structure); finally, they must be joined, mortared together by the Spirit with those around them. Unless all three steps are completed, the structure is incomplete, unstable, & susceptible to the winds of adversity.

The reality is that this is a time-consuming, patience-testing, labor-intensive process – and it obviously cannot happen if people don't have a heart to see it through, no matter the circumstance or adversity. It can be very frustrating to pursue relationships with others. It requires a lot of love and grace. Above all, it requires that all involved be led by the Spirit.

The first step is recognizing by the Spirit where we're supposed

to be. We have to ask and answer this question – to what part of the Body have we been assigned? Once we've answered that, then we must determine what our place is in that local work. The Apostle Paul dealt with this topic in depth in his letter to the Corinthians (see 1 Cor. 12 – 14). We must ask ourselves what our spiritual gifts are and how we are to use them. All of the spiritual gifts are given for the edifying (building up) of the Body, so it is imperative that we know what our gifts are and become adept at using them.

Paul referred to the Body of Messiah as the 'church' or ekklesia (see Col. 1:24 and Eph. 1:22-23, for example) and stated that the local ekklesia is "the pillar and the ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). What many believers haven't been taught is that our gatherings are more than just times of preaching & teaching of the Word, praise & worship, & fellowship. Our gatherings are actually "boot camp" or "basic training", where we are to learn to walk in our gifting and develop our ability to hear and obey the voice of Yahweh. It is incumbent upon each of us to make a conscious, deliberate effort to take advantage of the safe and secure environment that the local ekklesia represents. Otherwise, how will the Body of Messiah ever become all that it is truly meant to be?

May each of us find our assigned place and allow ourselves to be aligned and joined there by the Spirit!

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## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

*Lion of Judah Apostolic Ministry Center*

The Father has given me a vision to establish an apostolic ministry center. More than just somewhere to gather on a weekly basis for worship, this will be a place that will provide 24-hour ministry to those in need. In addition, it will be geared towards raising up and sending out ministers, as well as being equipped to host the annual feasts of Yahweh.

This is a big undertaking. We're anticipating the need for 30+ acres in order to accommodate this vision and are currently looking for the land and trusting Yahweh for the resources to accomplish it. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers.

### **About Lion of Judah Family Worship Center (LJFWC)**

LJFWC is an apostolic-prophetic ministry dedicated to preaching the Gospel, making disciples of the Kingdom, and manifesting Yahweh's glory in our lives. We are apostolic because we recognize that this ministry was sent and established by the sovereign will of Yahweh; it is characterized by a strong sense of mission, Biblical order, and strength, stability, & balance. We are prophetic because we embrace the ongoing revelatory word of Yahweh by His Spirit through His chosen vessels.

*For more information, please take a few minutes to visit our website at: [www.4lionofjudah.com](http://www.4lionofjudah.com) or you can call us at 256-797-9779.*

## Recent Sermons

- Honoring Boundaries & Borders (11/1/08)
- Familiar Spirits (11/8/08)
- Intercessory Prayer – Pts. 1&2 (11/15 and 11/22/08)

Visit our website for all the latest teaching & preaching from the ministry of Lion of Judah Family Worship Center – [www.4LionofJudah.com](http://www.4LionofJudah.com). Most recent sermons are available for immediate download in mp3 format.

## Recommended Tool of the Month

This section will feature a recommended book, CD, or other resource to assist you in your spiritual walk. These tools are usually available online and in many local Christian bookstores.

You Can Hear the Voice of God by Steve Sampson. This excellent book explores what the Bible teaches about the still, small voice of the Almighty. It is written in an easy-to-read style with many clear, practical tips for discernment, developing intimacy with the Father, and cultivating faith to respond to that quiet voice. Take your relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua to the next level with the information in this book. Available at [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) for \$9.99.

## Winter Firestorm 2009

*hosted by*

*The Olive Branch of Huntsville &  
Lion of Judah Family Worship Center*

**with special guest Jimmie Black**

**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – 7pm  
Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – 10am and 2pm**

**Make plans now to attend!!!**

**Call or write for details.**

Additional gatherings in 2009:

- \* Spring Manna-Fest: April 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>
- \* Pentecost Worship Weekend: May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
- \* Feast of Tabernacles: October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

Watch this space or check our website in the future for details.

### Contact us:

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