



THE DISTILLED WORD

*Receiving What the Father
'Drops' Into Your Life*

by Matt German

Imagine standing at the edge of a large pond on a quiet spring morning. You're alone and everything is still. The entire surface of the pond is as smooth as glass, undisturbed by fish, water bugs, wind, or even a stray leaf falling from a nearby tree. Then suddenly you catch a flash out of the corner of your eye. **SPLASH!** Something drops into the middle of the pond, its impact sending out rapidly-expanding rings across the water's surface. Quickly overcoming your initial surprise, you realize that someone unseen has just cast a stone into the pond.

That is the way Yahweh's 'distilled Word' can be in our lives. It can come seemingly out of nowhere, catching us by surprise, totally disrupting the surface calm, and sending out waves that have far-reaching implications for us and everyone around us. And it will have that profound an impact – if properly understood and received.

What do I mean by the 'distilled Word'? *Distill* means to concentrate or purify; to extract the essential elements of; refine; to fall in drops; trickle. It is expressed in Hebrew by the word *natáph* – to drop, drip, distill, prophesy, preach, or discourse (see Strong's Concordance, #5197). The 'distilled Word' is the pure, essential, succinct proceeding Word of Yahweh that is inspired and revealed by His Spirit. It is something He speaks either directly to us or through another.

Before we get into an in-depth discussion of the distilled Word, consider this: the Word itself is more available and accessible to more people than ever before in the history of mankind. Every week in churches all across America, tens of thousands of sermons are preached. And with television, radio, and the internet, that number grows exponentially. Yet for all of that, it seems that relatively few lives are truly being changed and transformed. Why?

Undoubtedly, a lot of what is being preached as "the Word" is little more than feel-good exhortations and the extra-Biblical philosophies of men. Those with spiritual discernment recognize that such teachings do not represent the heart of the Father and are certainly not inspired by His Spirit.

On the other hand there are also good, sound Biblical messages being preached that do represent the Father's heart and are Spirit-inspired. Yet even these words do not seem to be having a significant, lasting impact on the lives of very many hearers. Again we ask the question, "Why?"

'Timing is Everything'

The first thing we need to understand is that the timing of a word is crucial – whether it be a prophetic word or an in-depth teaching.

Pro. 15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word in due season, how good it is!

When a word is spoke in due season – at the right 'appointed time' – it is a very good thing. Its effectiveness, however, depends not only on the word itself and the receptivity of the one to whom the word is spoken, but also on the timing of the word. Even a good word, spoken at the wrong time (or 'out of season') can cause more harm than good; at best, it won't accomplish what it was intended to accomplish.

Our heavenly Father, Yahweh, does everything for a reason. When He speaks He has a purpose behind His words:

Isa. 55:10-11 For as the rain comes down and the snow from the heavens, and doesn't return there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ so shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Yahweh's distilled Word – the Word that goes forth out of His mouth – will accomplish its purpose and prosper in that for which it has been sent. But the hearer determines to a large extent whether or not he will be blessed by it.

Pro. 16:20 He that gives heed to the word shall find good. And whosoever trusts in Yahweh, happy is he.

The Word of Yahweh – whether the *Logos* or the *Rhema* – does us no good if we don't give heed to it. Giving heed to it is more than just hearing it; it is receiving it and acting upon it in faith. We'll discuss that more in a few minutes.

'Dropping' the Word

Eze. 20:45-49 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, ⁴⁶ Son of man, set your face toward the south, and

drop your word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the field in the South; ⁴⁷ and tell the forest of the South, Hear the word of Yahweh: Thus says the Sovereign Yahweh, Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree in you, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burnt thereby. ⁴⁸ And all flesh shall see that I, Yahweh, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched. ⁴⁹ Then said I, Ah Sovereign Yahweh! They say of me, Is he not a speaker of parables?

The prophet Ezekiel was instructed to do 3 things: first he was to "set (his) face toward the south"; then he was to "drop (his) word toward the south"; third, he was to "prophesy against the forest of the field in the South" (v46). Notice how "the south" is mentioned in all three actions. This is not extraneous information – it has a direct bearing on Yahweh's purpose.

Ezekiel had to turn his attention, his face, in the direction of the Father's will before He could do anything else. Only then could he accurately "drop his word" in the right direction. We must do likewise; we must align our hearts and set our feet in the direction of the Father's will in any given situation. Generally when one is trying to get someone else's attention, he turns toward that person. If the other person is a long way off, he might even cup his hands around his mouth to form a megaphone or "trumpet", in order to "direct" his words.

One practical application for us today is this: before dropping Yahweh's word into another person's life, we must ensure that our motives are pure, that we have aligned ourselves with His will and are not acting out of our own desires or understanding. We must turn our heart toward that person and make sure that we're seeing them clearly.

Next, after Ezekiel had set his face toward the south, he was to drop his word in that same direction. This speaks of focus, of paying attention to what he was about to speak and to whom he was about to speak it. Words have tremendous power; the prophetic word can be like a flaming fire that burns everything in its path. Imagine the potential for destruction of a flamethrower used haphazardly by an unskilled or careless operator! Yahweh had to ensure that Ezekiel only dropped his word in exactly the right direction. Who knows what would have happened had he just "spoken into the air"?

Third, Ezekiel was given an even more refined focus: to prophesy specifically "against the forest of the field of the South". This was not just a particular direction on the compass; it was a specific forest of a specific field of the South. Notice again Yahweh's precision.

What we ought to glean from all of this is that a Word from Yahweh is not vague or nebulous; it is clear and concise – a

'distilled Word'.

Incidentally, we see the same principle of 3 in the next chapter:

Eze 21:1-2 And the Word of Yahweh came to me, saying, ² Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, and drop a word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel.

Returning to the text from Ezekiel 20, notice that Ezekiel was told to drop a consuming word. Yahweh said that He would kindle a fire that would devour "every green tree" and "every dry tree". This encompasses both that which is alive and that which has dried up and died.

The distilled Word can have that same effect in our lives. That's a scary proposition for many believers. They want a word from Yahweh, but they don't want a word that brings "flaming fire" that devours. We can accept that the "dry trees" in our lives have to go (even though we might resist it when it's going on!). But sometimes we have things in our lives that are good, that we believe represent life to us, and we don't want to face the fact that even those "green trees" might need to be removed or devoured in order to make room for what Yahweh wants to do next. We must realize and embrace the reality that Yahweh wants what is best for us; He will remove the 'good' in order to give us the 'great'.

Receiving the Distilled Word

As believers we must prepare ourselves to receive the Word. Oftentimes, people aren't blessed by the Word simply because they haven't prepared their hearts beforehand to receive it.

Job 29:22 my speech distilled upon them and they waited for me as for the rain

If we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we shall be filled (Matt. 5:6). The same is true of the distilled Word; if we wait upon Yahweh to send it, it will come.

As we discussed earlier, when a true word of Yahweh is dropped into the life of a believer, it has a specific purpose and is intended to have a profound impact. Unlike a stone dropped into a pond, however, the distilled Word is a living thing. It doesn't just 'drop to the bottom' in our spirit; it grows and blossoms, moving and flowing, going wherever it is supposed to go – if we let it.

We must do more than just 'hear' the Word; we must receive it. What does it mean to 'receive' it? It means allowing it to take root in our hearts, grow, mature, and produce the fruit for which it was sown in the first place. It's receiving it as a living and life-producing seed. If we receive it as a barren or sterile

thing, then it cannot produce the harvest that Yahweh desires.

Yahshua chastised the scribes and Pharisees for seeking to kill Him because His Word did not have "free course" in them (John 8:37). Some translations say because His Word "had no place" or "found no place" in them. When we don't allow His Word to have free course in us, we are – in effect – killing that Word. When we try to channel and direct the Word into a certain area of our lives (wherever we think it needs to go), we are actually inhibiting that Word's effectiveness in our lives. We must condition ourselves to throw open the flood gates of our hearts, adopting the heart attitude that says, "Father, where this Word is intended to go in my life, let it go." We must ensure that His Word finds its place in us.

'Not as the Word of Men'

Many of us have discovered that much of what we were originally taught regarding the Word was not true; because of this some have become "gun shy" about trusting those who instruct them in the Word or who bring a distilled Word. Certainly we are instructed in Scripture to "prove all things, (and) hold fast to [seize or possess] that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:17). Each of us has an individual responsibility to do that. But at the same time, if the Father has placed people in our lives to guide us and mentor us in the things of the Kingdom, then we also have a responsibility to embrace them as bringers of Truth – and embrace the Word that they bring.

1 Thess. 2:13 For this cause we also thank Elohim without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of the message of Yahweh, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of Yahweh, which also works in you who believe.

Notice that these believers received the word – and they accepted it as the "word of Yahweh" and not the word of men.

Too often, believers hear a word preached that could (and should) radically change their lives – and yet it's treated as 'just another sermon', just another 'word of men', rather than the Word of Yahweh! They accept it or reject it based on personal feelings or individual circumstances. Frequently, even if they do accept it, they try to make the word conform to their lives, rather than making their lives conform to the word! They try to mold it rather than becoming malleable themselves.

Paul declared that the believers at Thessalonica accepted the word and that it worked "in you who believe." The Word works in those who believe – believe Yahweh, believe the man of Yahweh, and believe the Word itself.

That brings us to our final point: true belief is demonstrated by action. We must put faith behind that Word by acting on it, and

we've got to act on it sooner rather than later. Often we think that we can't act on a Word until we understand everything about it, every nuance and detail. The reality is that we'll gain understanding and revelation as we put that Word into action – we learn more by doing than by simply hearing. The key is to act on it as we are led by the Spirit, just like Yahshua did.

Announcing the Launching of LION OF JUDAH APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

~ A Teaching & Equipping Ministry ~

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Ekklesia of Yahweh which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28)

Lion of Judah Apostolic Ministry is a new outreach dedicated to teaching and equipping the Body of Messiah for true works of service. Our vision is to provide apostolic* alignment, oversight, covering, and commissioning for ministries, individuals, families, and businesses that need and desire to be related to an apostolic ministry. An apostolic ministry is one that has been sent and established by the sovereign will of Yahweh and that is characterized by a strong sense of mission, Biblical order, and strength, stability, and balance. Those properly related to such a ministry can be profoundly impacted in every aspect of their life and walk.

The focus of this new ministry is:

- Kingdom alignment – teaching, promoting, and imparting foundational and revelatory truth to the Body of Messiah
- Planting and developing local ministries and ministers
- Fostering covenantal relationships among the people of Yahweh
- Ministry networking to establish true apostolic relationships among leaders within the Body
- Team ministry to accomplish more than any one man or group can accomplish alone.

"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and also a partaker of the glory which shall be revealed: Shepherd the flock of Yahweh which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:1-4).

We're here for you and are dedicated to helping & supporting one another in the work. Contact us for more information.

** Apostolic – 'of or characteristic of an apostle'; from apóstolos, 'one who is sent out'.*

Nigerian Orphanage

Lion of Judah Family Worship Center has been partnering with The Olive Branch of Huntsville, another local ministry, to provide aid and support to the **James 1:27 Orphanage** in Eket, Nigeria. This orphanage was established and is overseen by Bishop Evans Thompson, a Nigerian minister, and his family. They currently care for 78 children rescued from the streets whose parents died, were killed, or abandoned them.

The orphanage receives no government assistance, and our partnership with The Olive Branch is currently their only source of support. Pastor Reggie Whiddon of The Olive Branch just returned a few weeks ago from a visit to the orphanage and attests to the poor living conditions there. We're considering putting together a ministry team for some time in the future, but right now the dire need is just basic necessities.

These precious children often receive only 1 meager meal per day. According to Bishop Evans, to provide 3 adequate meals a day would cost about 3500 Naira per month per child (about \$23.33). We ask that you prayerfully consider helping out by: sponsoring one or more children, pledging a certain amount per month, or making a one-time donation. We guarantee that 100% of the funds donated for this worthy cause will be sent to them. Please contact us for more information. We thank you for your consideration.

"Pure religion and undefiled before our Elohim ('God') and Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:27)

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