

### **Volume 5, Day 29: What Compelled Me to Ministry?**

Has the way in which you have been serving God resulted in exhaustion? If so, then consider how your own compassion may have instigated the ministry. Ask yourself, "Where did I get the idea to start the service from? Was it from your own sympathy or from the expressed purposes of God which is essentially the basis of the Redemption of Jesus Christ?" Continually go back to the foundation of your affections and recall where the source of power is. You have no right to say, "O Lord, I am so exhausted." He saved and sanctified you in order to empty you of your own efforts and resources, that is, to exhaust you. Be exhausted for God, but remember that your supply comes from Him. "All my fresh springs shall be in Thee."

Because I have listened definitely to one thing from God, it does not follow that I will listen to everything He says. The way in which I show God that I neither love nor respect Him is by the obtuseness of my heart and mind towards what He says. If I love my friend, I intuitively detect what he wants, and Jesus says, "Ye are My friends." Have I disobeyed some command of my Lord's this week? If I had realized that it was a command of Jesus, I would not consciously have disobeyed it; but most of us show such disrespect to God that we do not even hear what He says, He might as well never have spoken.

The destiny of my spiritual life is such intimacy with Jesus Christ that I always hear God, and I know that God always hears me (John 11:41). If I am united with Jesus Christ, I hear God. A flower, tree, donkey or a servant of God, may convey God's message to me. What keeps me from hearing is that I am distracted by other things. It is that I am devoted to things, service, people or convictions that I do not hear Him. The child-like attitude is always, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant hears." If I have not cultivated this devotion of hearing, I can only hear God's voice at certain times; at other times I am distracted by things - things which I say I must do, and I become deaf to Him, I am not coming to God as a child. LISTEN! You might hear God speaking right now.

My Confirming Scriptures & Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

### Volume 5, Day 30: Overcoming the World

"...we are more than **conquerors** through Him that loved us."  
Romans 8:37 And in Luke 4:10 Psalm 91:11 the Bible says,  
"... He shall give His angels charge over you to **keep** you."

We often gravitate to the victory lap after the race. We even brag about victory before it occurs in reality. We sometime do so because we believe that the scriptures we just read mean that we can and will be victorious. We also consider ourselves to be safe from harm and misery as sheep in the keeping of the "Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ." Yet, we at the same time spew out our complaints when we do suffer. We blame Satan or evil spirits or other people for our misery in the situation we find ourselves. And, to be honest, we sometimes think that God has failed to fulfill His Promise Keeping!

Now James writes in his epistle, that we should, "Consider it all joy when we encounter various trials..." Then he continues with the explanation of this outrageous statement! Trials serve an essential purpose for every person. The maturing or curing process takes time. It usually produces pressure and heat for the object being perfected for its intended use. Yet we want to have the benefits of maturity without the necessary steps to becoming mature.

We are more than conquerors. How can you be more than victorious? We are kept, but not from adversity and trials. So why does the Bible proclaim these things. We to be sure, it might seem like God sometimes fails us. And many of us believe that. But if we keep in proper perspective the meaning of victory from God's point of view, we can see clearly that He never fails us. He is always trust worthy.

What God offers us is victory over our worldly, selfish complaining about maladies and miseries. He enables us to face every trial as an opportunity to be victorious over our natural responses or reactions to negative experiences. Our testimony is as Jesus told His disciples at their last supper together, "...by this will all men know that you are My disciples, that you love one another as much as My Father and I have loved you!"

My Confirming Scriptures:    Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

### **Volume 5, Day 31: God Is Sincerely Right About Faith**

You cannot be wrong, sincerely enough, to be right! --  
John Henry Alan

My brother sent this personal experience of sincerity:

I received your text message on November 24th, and I have kept it available to think about what I would like to reply. This became a very serious topic for me when I was studying at Wayne State University in Detroit. This was the first time I remember encountering people with different beliefs, like Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism. As I considered why each of us held our beliefs sincerely, I recognized that I sincerely believed in Christianity and the Bible because I had grown up in this religion and all of those around me believed it.

I began to wonder if maybe all of those others around me sincerely believed what they did for the same reasons. Maybe all of us held to our beliefs sincerely because our predecessors had done so. Then the question became - how far back in our ancestry did the belief originate, and was it real or fabricated. It was at that time that God caused me to consider seminary seriously.

As I studied each of the belief systems and their origins, I recognized that only Christianity had real foundation in actual historical events. Each of the other religions had risen out of human reasoning or "so-called, divine revelation"; each of which may be flawed. As I recognized the flaws of these other religions and the flawlessness of the 66 documents of the Bible, I was able to commit myself to the God of the Bible and His Son.

The miracle that God did at the Detroit Rescue Mission back in 1984 gave me absolute confirmation of my belief, as my faith became sight. A man in the audience insisted that I pray for his healing. He was sure I could do it. Because of his insistence and only that, I prayed that God would heal this man's badly deformed shoulder. I was shocked into incredible faith by healing affected by this man's faith and not my own.

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

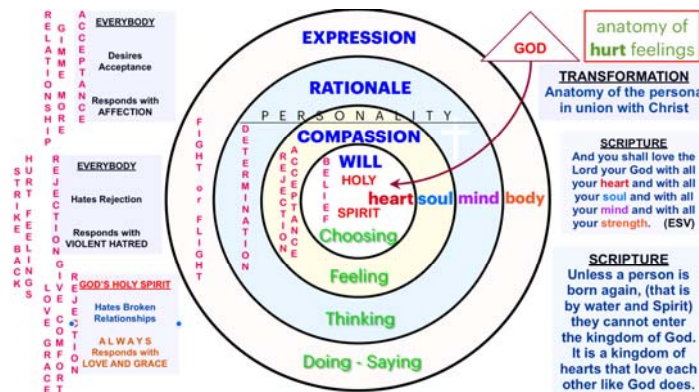
**DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan**

## Volume 5 – Anatomy of hurt feelings

Do you have your daily devotions as hurriedly as the rest of your daily duties? Why not do it slow, relaxed and deep? Think about it!

Being unaware of our own personal inability to love our enemies, it behooves us to tap into the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) to **love others in ways we can never achieve** without His love and power posited within us. One purpose of the Holy Spirit being in us is that He loves like Jesus loves. Without the 'second' birth (Spirit of God birth) the best we can hope for is not to do anything criminal toward those who hurt us on purpose. The natural of humans is that we can easily love those who love us. It is just as natural to resent those who resent us. But when God's Holy Spirit indwells us He can, and does, show love and respect to even our enemies. And this is quite natural for God. He loves every person into whom He has breathed life. Many of us also tend to feel this, "Love me. Love my children."

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DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

**Experiencing the Depths of Prayer**  
**Chapter 1: From the Shallows to the Depths**  
{as told by Jeanne Guyon, edited by Bob Clarkson}

As you pick up this book, you may feel that you simply are not one of those people capable of a deep experience with Jesus Christ. Most Christians do not feel that they have been called to a deep, inward relationship to their Lord. But we have all been called to the depths of Christ just as surely as we have been called to salvation.

When I speak of this "deep, inward relationship to Jesus Christ," what do I mean? Actually, it is very simple. It is only the turning and yielding of your heart to the Lord. It is the expression of love within your heart for Him. Possibly the best way to understand it is to feel as strongly and deeply affectionate toward God as you feel for your most significant others on earth.

Paul encourages us to "pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17) The Lord also invites us to "watch and pray." (Mark 13:33, 37) It is apparent from these two verses, as well as many more, that we all live by this kind of experience, this prayer, just as we live by love of the deepest feelings for others. Imagine God as the 'perfect' Father, Mother, Friend and Mate!

Once the Lord spoke and said, "I counsel you to buy from me gold tried in the fire that you may be rich." (Revelation 3:18) Dear reader, there is gold available to you. This gold is much more easily obtained than you could ever imagine. It is available to you.

The purpose of this book is to launch you into this exploration and into this discovery.

**I give you an invitation:**

- If you are thirsty for love, come to the living waters. Do not waste precious time digging wells that have no water in them. (John 7:37 Jer. 2:13)
- If you are starving for love and can find nothing to satisfy that hunger, then come. Come, and you will be filled.
- You who are depressed, come.
- You who are rejected by others, come.
- You who are anxious about your unfortunate condition or miserable circumstances, come. You will find stress relief and contentment!
- You who have much anger and bitterness in your soul and need a superb counselor, come. Don't hesitate because you are too broken to be healed. Come be honest with God and you will be healed!

Dear child of God, your Father has His arms of love open wide to you. Throw yourself into His arms.

- You who have strayed from God and wandered away as sheep, return to your Shepherd.
- You who are sinners, come to your Savior.

I especially address those of you who are very simple and you who are relatively uneducated in the ways of God. You may think you are the one person most incapable of this abiding experience of Christ, this prayer of simplicity. You may think yourself the one farthest from a deep experience with the Lord; but, in fact, the Lord has especially chosen you! You are the one most suited to know Him well. So let no one feel left out. Jesus Christ has called us all.

Oh, I suppose there is **one group left out!** Do not come if you have closed eyes, ears, soul, mind and heart. Before you come, there is one thing you must do: You must first open your heart, soul and mind to new revelations from the Lord.

Continue reading and you will learn what it means to give your heart to the Lord and how to make it a gift to Him. Do you truly desire to know the Lord in a deep way? God has made such an experience possible for you. It come through the grace He has given to all His redeemed children. It comes by total trust and surrender of your life to His Holy Spirit's guidance. (John 16:13 "... into **all** truth!")

How then will you come to the Lord to know Him in such a deep way? Prayer is the key. But I have in mind a certain kind of prayer. It is a kind of prayer that is very simple and yet holds the key to perfection and goodness-things found only in God Himself. The type of prayer that I have in mind will deliver you from enslavement to every sin. It is a prayer that will release to you every Godly virtue.

You see, the only way to be perfect is to walk in the presence of God. The only way you can live in His presence in uninterrupted fellowship is by means of prayer, but a very special kind of prayer. It is a prayer that leads you into the presence of God and keeps you there at all times; a prayer that can be experienced under any conditions, any place, and any time. Is there really such a prayer? Does such an experience with Christ truly exist?

Yes, there is such a prayer! It is prayer that does not interfere with your outward activities or your daily routine. There is a kind of prayer that can be practiced by kings, by priests, by soldiers, by laborers, by children, by women, and even by the sick.

This is **not** a prayer that comes **from your mind**. It is **a prayer that begins in the heart**. It does not come from your understanding or your thoughts. Prayer offered to the Lord from your mind simply would not be adequate. Why? It is because your mind is very limited. The mind can pay attention to only one thing at a time. Prayer that comes out of the heart is not interrupted by thinking! I will go so far as to say that nothing can interrupt this prayer, the prayer of simplicity.

Oh yes, there is one thing. Selfish desires can cause this prayer to cease. But even here there is encouragement, for once you have enjoyed your Lord and tasted the sweetness of His love, you will find that even your selfish desires no longer hold any power. You will find it impossible to have pleasure in anything except Him.

I realize that some of you may feel that you are very slow, that you have a poor understanding, and that you are very unspiritual. Dear reader, there is nothing in this universe that is easier to obtain than the enjoyment of Jesus Christ! Your Lord is more present to you than you are to yourself! Furthermore, His desire to give Himself to you is greater than your desire to lay hold of Him.

How, then, do you begin? You need only one thing. You need only to know how to seek Him. When you have found the way to seek Him, you will discover that this way to God is more natural and easier than taking a breath.

By this "prayer of simplicity," this experiencing of Christ deep within, you may live by God Himself with less difficulty and with less interruption than you now live by the air which you breathe. If this is true, then I ask, "Wouldn't it be a sin not to pray?" Yes, it would be a sin. But once you have learned how to seek Jesus Christ and how to lay hold of Him, you will find the way so easy that you will no longer neglect this relationship to your Lord.