

Don't Look Back!

January 1, 2012

My 60th Birthday

I turned 60 this year, a milestone in anyone's life. It was not only a new year but a new decade for me. Coupled with the fact that I had recently retired, I became very reflective. Looking around at the circumstances in my life, I realized that some things had not turned out the way I had hoped or planned. My thoughts plagued me---all the mistakes, things I wish I had done differently---regret was eating me alive.

In my house, we call regret the "shoulda, coulda, woulda" moments. Maybe if we had done this...it would be like this...I should have done it this way...Those moments bring regret and self-flagellation. It's exhausting, really. So I asked God how to deal with regret (come on, we all have it), and He said, "There is NO condemnation in Christ Jesus." Regret is a soul wound, a root of bitterness, a steel cage. Get rid of it. DON'T LOOK BACK!

Here is the vision that the Lord gave me: Under my skin was a steel mesh cutting into my body. It went all over me and made me bloody where it attached to my skin. I was in the middle of a 40 day fast and crying out to God. As I sat meditating, I was suddenly aware that I could not get up off the chair so I sat back and let the Holy Spirit wash over my head and shoulders like soothing liquid, penetrating deep into my soul. I knew that I was being freed of regret. Since that day, I haven't had one more moment of regret. I didn't know that I needed deliverance. I didn't know that God does NOT want us to look back with regret and condemnation, even if we are over 60, even if we have done terrible things, or (and this is really important) even if things were really good at some point, and we are yearning for that time again.

Then the Lord showed me that I am a symptom of what's happening in the church.

"My church is looking back," He said, "and that's a problem. My church cannot go forward if it is looking back. YOU cannot go forward if you are looking back." God also said, "Just like it is your birthday, Happy Birthday to my church." What do you mean by that, Lord?" I asked.

- He said, "It's a new year of maturity. My church is growing up this year. I am going to see to it."
- God is giving us a new birth, a new outpouring of His Spirit this year, but we have to STOP looking back, looking to what worked in the past, looking to what didn't. He's doing a new thing, and if we are looking back, we won't see it. In fact, we will miss it.

So I decided to study the one who looked back: Lot's wife. She really bothers me---no first name, just Lot's wife, but two verses, one in the Old Testament, and one in the new. And so many questions...

Why did she look back?

Why do WE look back?

Why did she turn to a pillar of salt?

More importantly, why can't we look/go forward?

I complained to my husband about it and he said, "You are Steve's wife." Ouch. The highest calling we have as a wife is to be known in the land as "Steve's wife," or "Bob's wife," and so on. She was "honored" to be called "Lot's wife." God is making a point about our covering, our protection. We have a wrong attitude about marriage.

Read Genesis 19. God sent two messengers to check out the situation in Sodom and Gomorrah. Because of Abraham's entreaty (Genesis 18), the Lord was willing to spare the cities if He could find ten faithful followers. He found Lot. The angels took Lot, his wife and two daughters out of the cities and sent them to safety, warning them not to look back. Lot's wife came out from behind her husband's covering and looked back, thus suffering a terrible fate. I have always thought in this scripture that she simply looked back, but, Ladies, she ignored the counsel of her husband AND of the Lord.

Genesis 19: 26. ²⁶ But his wife **looked back behind him**, and she became a pillar of salt. In **Luke 17: 32** of the New Testament, we are given the same warning to, ³² Remember Lot's wife.

In Genesis 19:17, the angel of the Lord told Lot and his family not to look back "lest [they] be destroyed." The Lord showed me that every time we look back, we are consumed and destroyed by bitterness as the wound goes deeper inside of us. Lot's wife was engulfed by the same brimstone salt bath that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because her heart went back there. She suffered the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah because she looked back. Her desire was for her old life.

She was:

- Consumed by her sin.
- Consumed by her possessions and comfort zone.
- Consumed by her soul tie to the past.
- Consumed by her love for the world.

I get this woman. She was a mother. She had children there, her home, her friends, her ministry, so-to-speak. Maybe she finally got that new Persian rug in her upper room. What about that new camel with the cushy silk inlay pillow seats? Maybe it was her turn to bring the fig dip to her basket weaving group. Her other daughters were getting married. Come on, God, I have to leave all that?
Mark 8:36.

Maybe YOU have **defined** yourselves by the past or by your title or activities: I am a widow; I lost a child; I am a pastor; I was with this ministry or that ministry for 20 years; I don't have a job or money or a car...so you are so busy looking at the circumstances that you are stuck there. That is NOT who you are in Christ, but it has become an idol in your life. It's a pillar of salt, a shrine, that is keeping you captive, holding you back, and not letting you move on with the things of God. A shrine is for the dead. I don't care what experience you are looking back at (some are good, some are not), the Lord says, LET IT GO!

(Word to the men)

Lot put his family into that place. He **chose** Sodom and Gemorrah (Gen. 13: 5-13). We look at his wife and daughters and see their bad choices, but Lot was their covering. And God is telling me that many of your families are suffering because of your choices, not in a condemning way, but with arms open wide to bring you back to Him. I'm not talking about unsaved people here---this was "righteous" Lot. I'm talking to the body. He is jealous for His men. Turn your hearts from the world.

I don't want to be consumed by the things of the world. I want my desire to be for my Lord, my first love.

I want to be:

- Consumed by a zeal and passion for the Lord
- Consumed by the Word of God
- Consumed by my obedience and work for the Lord

What about 2012? "My church is too busy looking back to see me," says he Lord. We say, "Oh, but it was supposed to happen this way or remember when the Lord did it this way or that way." Or, "This is how we did it in the past; we have always done it this way." It doesn't matter. Let it go. Even if it was good, the point is that it's over. Leave it and move on. The Lord is looking for a lifestyle change--a living, breathing church, and a changing of the guard---a changing of the old ways and a reformation of His army. He's doing a new thing, even different from last year.

He is warning us: not to look back to our old ways, to the old wine, to our sinful ways, to the things of the past.

2012 is a turning point; it's a pivotal year...a year of things to happen; positioning, alignment, advancement, placement, escalation, and increase.

Looking back = death. It enshrines and entombs us in the old ways. It wounds our souls.

Why do we look back? Because we have soul wounds and soul ties and because the devil does not want us to look ahead and sends a tormenting spirit of regret. We get stuck in the cement like Lot's wife did and focus on the wrong things.

God is saying:

Don't look back.

Don't look back.

Don't look back.

My church, don't look back. (to your old ways of life, to your sin, to your comfort zone, to your preoccupation with the past and your preconceived notions, to the way YOU think it should be.) STOP LOOKING BACK.

You are so busy looking back that you cannot look forward.

Go forward. I am thrusting you forward.

This is a new day, a new birth, a new thing, a new year.

Don't you get it? Holding on so hard, you have lost your way.

You will suffer the same fate as Lot's wife.

The earth will shake and quake and you will not. Don't look at the events happening as prompters or partakers of fear, but as milestones to get closer to Jesus.

Listen to Me. Hear MY voice.

The trumpet is sounding.

IT IS A CALL TO ARMS.

God gave me the acronym **TAPS** for 2012, for what He is going to do in this year.

TAPS stands for:

T = Transition (to new levels of faith and victory)

A= Activation (things starting to move/happen)

P= Positioning (things being put into place; heavenly networking)

S= Strategies (how to do things, how to save, how to create, how to do, how to get...)

When do we hear TAPS? Think about it. God is so smart: At the end of the day and at funerals. To show us that the past is OVER!

He says to do two things: **1-Come out of the tombs. 2-Put your hand to the plow!**

I believe that God is downloading strategies to people right now. I believe that He has already begun to show YOU what to do.

This is NOT about New Year's resolutions.

New Year's resolutions are all about ME. I break those within days of making those. I mess those up all the time. I'm going to lose ten pounds, I'm going to pray more, etc. This is about heavenly strategies and callings. This is about God. What are YOU and I going to do, God?

God has given me things to do, and I need His grace and supernatural strength and strategies to do them, but I also need to obey and take a step in faith **when** He shows me and **as** He shows me.

Example: You need a job. Have you put out resumes? You want to be healthier? Have you taken a walk? He says, "Do this." Then we have steps to take.

"Put your hand to the plow," He says.

Read **Luke 9: 59-62**. No one who looks back is **FIT** for the kingdom of God.

FIT means **well placed; appropriate; fitting perfectly into the right position; ordained**. I want to be **FIT** for the kingdom of God and to **FIT** where God wants me. Then I better not look back.

Word that the Lord gave me for 2012

It is ordination day for my bride. I am calling all my people into ministry---into serving me---into their destiny and calling in ME. Not one here, one there, but all my children doing what they see the Father doing; doing the Father's bidding---A CALL TO ARMS.

It's all about redemption---I am redeeming my people, my bride, and I am redeeming the time.

WATCH the son arise with healing in his wings and take back what the cankerworm has eaten, not so that my church can spend it on its own appetites and pleasures, but for my Kingdom. And they WILL come out of the stall and frolic in the Son, doing what He does, joyous and spotless and beautiful beyond belief.

The enemy has believed that he is victorious, that he has gained great ground, but really nothing has happened that my hand has not ordained. The wheels are set in motion for the greatest harvest, for the greatest outpouring of my spirit on the earth in the darkest hour.

Do not dismay, do not be afraid, for my Son arises and my power comes in waves on all who call upon my name. But upon those who play with my name and dabble with my name with spells and

witchcraft used to seduce my people out of their wills and destinies and monies, with promises that they cannot fulfill, woe to them, for they will reap what they sow as their house of cards, buildings and empires built by deceit, come tumbling back on them.

But my people, I am fitting my people into place, setting them into position in the body of Christ, raising up my bride out of the tombs. It's a juxtapositioning (placing side by side through a series of changing phases and events) of the body of Christ.

If we don't get into our proper place, we are hindering the move of God. If we keep looking back, we will drag a ball and chain into this new year. Do we really want to do that?

No one looking back is FIT for the kingdom of God.

As always in Him,

Elaine

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