



Alpha & Omega
Christian Worship Center
1110 39th St, Newport News, VA 23607

My Best is Yet to Come

Pastor K. Franklin, Sermon Notes/ Sunday, 14 Dec 2008

Outline is available at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Resources.htm>
Listen to the sermon online at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Audio.htm>

ST LUKE 1:

1. Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us.
2. Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word:
3. It seemed good to me also having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,
4. **That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.**
5. There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.
6. **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**
7. **And they had no child because that Elisabeth was barren, and they were both were now well stricken in year.**

It is easy to look at life and say that it has been a waste or that all my dreams have past and it is too late for me.

Please look at your neighbor and let them know today, that the **THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!**

- You haven't seen the best of who I am
- I know I haven't been the best or done the best but don't measure me by my past, measure me by my future
- As long as I know God, there is still time
- God is still working on me and All I can tell you is that greatness and goodness is in me
- My dreams have not all died, though I may be well up in age, I can still be used by God and for his Glory

We have this written word (compiled in this book we call the Bible) to teach us the surety of what God has given to us. Think of where we would be if God had not taken the time to inspire men to write these words. Without the Word of God, our life would be in disarray and we would be lost and without Hope. But when you hear the word of God it brings hope. It starts to answer questions for which we have been longing. It gives us purpose. It gives us direction. It brings clarity. We need to lose ourselves in the study and reading of God's word.



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REPENTANCE:

If you want to be blessed of the Lord, you must repent. John, who comes through the obedience of Zacharias and Elisabeth, came preaching repentance to prepare the way for the Love of God.

- Before Love there must be repentance.
- For Faith to flourish there must be repentance.
- If you want to see the best in your life, you must repent.
- If you want to be filled with the blessing of God and his goodness, there must be repentance.

Repent or some form of it appears in 105 verses in the bible.

ST MATTHEW 3:

1. In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
2. And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
11. I indeed **baptize you with water unto repentance:** but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

ST MATTHEW 9:

12. But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.
13. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, **but sinners to repentance.**

ACTS 2:

37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
38. Then Peter said unto them, **Repent,** and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Repent // G3340 // Metanoeo // met-an-o-eh'-o //

1. To change one's mind, i.e. to repent
2. To change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins

God is looking for real change in our lives. To be what God wants us to be, we must turn from our wicked ways to follow the living God.

Notice that Zacharias and Elisabeth were committed to the things of God. The scriptures record that they were both righteous and walking in all God commandments and ordinances. If we want to see the best of what God has for us, we must leave our old habits and ways behind and let Jesus cleanse and wash away our sins in his blood. Then we must be obedient and "Go and sin no more" (St John 5:14, St John 8:11, Hebrew 10:18, Hebrew 10:26).



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Power of Affliction

Some of us may be disappointed because we have had to endure so much in life. We feel that we have been overlooked and that God has not smiled on us.

I am starting to understand that many times, it is not that we have been overlooked but that we are being prepared for something greater. God uses life to prepare us for the purpose and role for which he has called us.

How do you know when it is time? The scriptures teach us simply that “In the day that you hear his voice, harden not your heart (_____). Moses was born in the family of Levi as a Hebrew but found himself living in Pharaoh’s house as a son and heir, but then he was forced to flee into the wilderness because he killed a man when he took matters in his own hand. His heart was in the right place but it was not his time yet to deliver his people. But God used that situation to send him to desert where he could continue to mold and shape him. It was on the backside of the desert that he saw a sight, a burning bush, and drew near to approach when he heard the voice of God. He did not turn and run like many of us do when he heard the voice of God, but he drew near.

In the day that we hear the voice of God, **AT THAT TIME IT IS TIME TO TURN FROM OUR WAYS UNTO GOD.** Don’t wait and delay. Don’t waste any more time. Draw nigh to God.

GENESIS 15:

13. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall **afflict them** four hundred years.
14. And also that nation, whom they shall serve **will I judge** and **afterward shall they come out with great substance.**

EXODUS 1:

8. And there arose a new king over Egypt which knew not Joseph.
9. And he said unto his people, Behold the people of the children of Israel are more mightier than we:
10. Come on let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that when there falleth out any war they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.
11. Therefore they did set over them **taskmasters to afflict them** with their burdens. And they build for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.
12. But **the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew.** And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

ISAIAH 58:

3. Wherefore have **we fasted**, say ye, and thou seest not? Wherefore have **we afflicted** our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.



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4. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness, ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.
5. **Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul?** is it to bow down the his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? **A day or to afflict his soul for a day?**
6. Is not this the fast that I have chosen? **to loose the bands of wickedness**, to **undo the heavy burdens**, and to **let the oppressed go free**, and that **ye break every yoke?**
7. Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?
8. **Then shall they light break forth as the morning**, and **thine health** shall spring forth speedily: **and thy righteousness** shall go before thee: **the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.**
9. Then shalt thou call, and **the Lord shall answer**; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, **Here I am.** If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking of vanity.
10. And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, **and satisfy the afflicted soul**; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday.
11. And the Lord **shall guide thee continually**, and **satisfy thy soul in drought**, and **make fat thy bones**: and thou shalt be like a **watered garden**, and like a **spring of water**, whose waters fail not.
12. And they that shall be of thee shall **build the old waste places**: thou shalt **raise up the foundations of many generations**; and thou shalt be called, The **repairer of the breach**, the **restorer of paths to dwell in.**

There is something special about afflictions. God led his people into a place where he knew they would be afflicted for 400 years. He did not simply take them in to afflict them, but the purpose of the affliction was to bless them. He hardened the hearts of the Egyptians and caused them to place hard taskmasters over his people. But, the harder and tougher it was, the stronger his people grew and the more they were blessed. **The scriptures say they GREW and they MULTIPLIED.**

God will place things in our life to cause us to GROW and to MULTIPLY.

Not only that, but he gave us the principle of FASTING which I call the lost art of the church.

It seems that most people don't fast any more. They don't see a reason to fast. There is no benefit that they can see.

They fasted throughout the Old Testament.

Jesus ushered in the age of the Church with fasting. He started his earthly ministry by going into the wilderness where he fasted 40 days, after which he was tempted.

Jesus even taught that some spiritual demonic forces can only be removed by prayer and fasting.



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ST MATTHEW 17:

20. And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place: and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
21. Howbeit this kind goeth not out BUT by PRAYER and FASTING.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:

5. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to **fasting** and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:

27. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in **fastings** often, in cold an nakedness.

The benefits of fasting are so far reaching and important to us that God has given us an easy way to reap the benefits.

The born again believer is victorious and has already overcome the world. With this being the case, God gave us fasting as a means of afflicting our own bodies that we might grow and multiply.

Fasting is a way to deny ourselves.

Fasting is away to humble ourselves.

Fasting is a way to remind us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross.

Paul teaches that he had to buffet his body and keep it under subjections. What are you doing for your body? Are you letting your body (flesh) control you or are you taking authority over your flesh.