

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO HIS CHURCH IN 2001?

[The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Russell, NZ – 21/7/2001 –EKB]

The Lord Jesus is saying many things of course, but generally speaking, I think this is what He is saying.

1. **Humility, Humility, Humility.**

Biblical Humility, *1Pet 5:6, Jam 4:10, Lk 18:14, Mat 18:4*, is based upon a **secure self identity, significance, self worth and security**. See Pastors' Notes No 91,127.

Jesus is our example in this matter, *Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:3-14, Mat 20:20-28, Lk 22:24-27*. Before He humbled Himself He was totally secure in who He was/is, *Phil 2:6, Jn 13:1,3, Jn 5:16-39*. (See No 91,141, Pastors' Notes.)

If we try and “humble” ourselves, without a secure identity, etc., we will end up belittling and demeaning ourselves, which is not God's will for us.

For a definition of humility we can turn to *Romans 12:1-3*.

12:1 **Fully surrender** your body to God to do His will.

12:2 **Renew your mind** with the Word of God, so that you come to an understanding of His call and purpose for your life. (This takes time.)

12:3 **Live in the confident assurance of what God has made you to be**, in obedience to Him and in service to others as the Holy Spirit guides you.

Jesus said, “Whoever humbles himself as a little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven,” *Mat 18:4*. “Whoever humbles himself will be exalted,” *Lk 18:14*.

God says, “To this one will I look, to him who is humble, of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word,” *Is 66:2*.

So the Word of God urges us to humility, *1Pet 5:5,6, 2Chr 7:14, Eph 4:2*.

Every step forward in God starts with humility, *1Pet 5:5,6*, because God resists the proud.

We are humbling ourselves to confess our sins, *1Jn 1:9, Jam 5:16*, to **forgive others**, *Mk 11:25*, to **bless our enemies** and pray for them, *Lk 6:35,28*, to **admit our wrongs** to others and say, “I am sorry, please forgive me, I shouldn't have done that,” *Mat 5:23,24*, and to **serve others in love**, *Gal 5:13b, Jn 13:14, Mat 25:35,36*.

2. **Oneness, Unity, Acceptance.**

From the base of humility, we can **build oneness of relationships together** in openness and honesty, *Eph 4:1-6*.

Church leaders are meeting together to build relationships and pray together, in each town and city in Northland, NZ.

The early church was **in one accord**, *Ac 1:14, 2:1,46, 4:24, 5:12*. Where this was lacking, Paul urged the believers to re-establish it, *1Cor 1:10, 3:1-4*.

Jesus said, “**Any Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation**, *Mat 12:25*. So it is essential for the church of Jesus Christ to restore “oneness” today, *Ps 133:1-3*.

3. **United Prayer and Seeking God’s Face**, *2Chr 7:14, Ac 4:23-31*.

With humility and oneness, our united times of prayer, praise and worship, are very powerful and effective, as we pray together for one another, our churches, the lost, the needy, the town council, the business leaders and the nations. Today the leaders of the various congregations, in each town of Northland, are seeking out one another, to build relationship and pray together each week. Thanks to God.

4. **The Presence, Power and Blessing of God**, *Ps 133:1-3*

Out of humility, oneness and united prayer comes God’s manifest presence, power and blessing.

It is God’s commanded blessing – nothing can stop it.

It is God’s jurisdictional blessing – it covers the whole region.

It is God’s covenantal blessing – that fulfils God’s promises.

The following Scriptures declare what is happening in Northland NZ, **NOW**:

Is 45:8 **NOW**, the heavens and skies pour down righteousness, (*Hos 10:12*),
The earth (and people) bring forth salvation,
Righteousness and salvation spring up together,
Because Jehovah has created it.

Is 42:13 **NOW**, the Lord goes forth like a Mighty Man, - in us
He stirs up His zeal like a Man of War, - in us
He shouts out and cries aloud, - in us
He prevails over His enemies - through us.

Is 31:4,5 **NOW**, like as the lion, and the young lion
roaring over his prey.....
so the Lord of armies is coming down
and fighting for Mount Zion and the hill thereof,
As birds flying, so the Lord of armies is defending
Jerusalem, defending He is delivering it, and passing over,
He is preserving it.

5. **Revival in the Church, Salvation of the Lost, and Community Transformation to Righteous Living.**

Out of the manifest presence, power and blessing of God:

- a. **The church is revived to newness of life, holy living and purity, zeal, prayer, bold witnessing to the lost, care of the needy, worship and fellowship.** New converts are matured and released in ministry and witness.
- b. **The lost become aware of their need** of God’s mercy and grace and seek for Him and His salvation, e.g. Brownsville Assembly of God, Pensacola, Florida.
- c. **The community is transformed.** The violence, prostitutes, drug traffic, pornography, alcoholism, and open wickedness decrease greatly. The fear and awareness of God descends upon the town or city, e.g. Almolonga, Guatamala and Brownsville. In Almolonga the gaols have been closed down.