



Hindsight is 2020

There were a lot of words spoken at the beginning of 2020 dealing with “sight” and meaning around the Jewish year with the “mouth”. We had no idea what this past year would bring, but God was clearly warning and revealing it to us, even if we did not fully understand what He was saying. Now, looking back... hindsight is 2020. I remember two key things that ended 2019 and started 2020. One, was a scripture the Lord placed on my heart towards the end of 2019 and secondly, a conversation I had with Jo McGuffin around that same time. Sometimes the Lord gives me a word or a scripture passage as a key focus personally for the year. It is not always this way. But as I was wrapping up thoughts for 2019 and looking towards 2020, I was impressed to write out Psalm 91 fully in my planner. If I had only known then how clearly the Lord was telling me what was coming and the keys to overcoming the year, I would have been more diligent in keeping it before my eyes daily. You are probably familiar with that chapter. But I encourage you to go back and read it again. In the NKJV, it tells us 3 times about plagues or pestilence. But how God is our place of safety. His faithful promises are our armor and protection (NLT). Verse 15 – 16 says, “When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.” What I found very interesting was the word “salvation” here. The Hebrew word (Strong's H3444) is “yeshuah” meaning saved, delivered, prosperity, health, and welfare. God was telling me what to expect and that He already has provided our answer. Jesus, our Yeshua, our Salvation, is the answer to our past, our present, and our future. He is all we need. When we dwell in the secret place with the Lord, He is our shelter, our place of safety, in the midst of the storm.

Which leads me to the conversation I had with Jo McGuffin at the end of last year and to what I believe is vital to us moving forward. Jo and I were talking how it is necessary to find God in the midst of any situation – good or bad. It's easy sometimes to see His hand in the good. But when life get messy and confusing (aka 2020), where is God? Looking back with this 2020 vision, I can see God's hand all over the place. The year didn't look glorious like many expected. We definitely saw things we never thought we would see and didn't want to see. Our eyes, if we have been paying attention, have been opened to God's plan unfolding from His Word – we've been receiving new sight. And although we may have interpreted the year of the mouth as being able to speak out for the Lord, the enemy has used it to “mask” our mouths and to make many silent. Where has God been? He has been in the unveiling of His Word coming to pass before our very eyes. He has been at work in the thousands upon thousands that have come to the Lord this year, who have been set free, and have been healed. And although

tragedy has tried to take our lives, life in the Lord has been going forth in ways to marvelous to describe. Where has God been? All over 2020. His goodness is still going forth, still surrounding, still extending to you and me. Can you see Him? Look back. What does your “hindsight 2020” look like? Where do you see God? I hope and pray that you look more at the victories than the defeats, more at the Victor than the one who brings destruction. That you look more into the face of God instead of what the world has placed before us.

In light of what you see, what do you expect for 2021? What is God saying to you? What area needs to be strengthened in Him? What area needs to be let go of? Where do you need to begin to speak and no longer be silenced? While I know that things don't magically change over to something new at 12:01 a.m. on January 1st, I believe that we serve a God who makes all things new in His time. He is up to something and He wants us to be a part of it. It is highly possible (unless the Lord brings about some crazy miracle) that 2021 will have a rocky start. But we do not have to be tossed to and thro by the waves. We each have a purpose on this earth, and that purpose is in Jesus. He is the plan. We are to be about the Fathers business while we still can – preaching the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) to all nations (wherever God has planted you) so that no man perishes but has everlasting life through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. That is our mission, our mandate, our focus. Get with God to see what that looks like in the life He has placed you in and begin (or continue) to do what He is telling you to do in the very face of opposition. Do...not....shrink....back. Do not be silenced. Do not walk in fear for you life, but fear the God who holds your future. Now is not a time to slow down but a time to pick up the pace. There is much to be done!

I have been asking the Lord what is the focus, scriptures, fruit of the Spirit, character, etc. that I need to remember this year. The word I keep hearing in my spirit and from seemingly random places is “joy”. In 2021, we will have to “choose” joy. True joy comes from the Lord and from a place of rest in Him. That no matter what we see, we choose Him and His ways, we choose to come before Him with joyful hearts even when we don't feel like it. Joy is mentioned in the Bible 242 times and is usually referenced around other words such as: gladness, thanksgiving, and a shout! Nehemiah 8:10 says, “Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your stronghold”. Whatever we have been grieving about over 2020, it is time to walk in the joy of the Lord which is our strength (fortified place, defense, safety, fastness, refuge). We need to come before the Lord with joyful hearts for all of the goodness that the Lord has done. (1 Kings 8:66). God promises in Psalm 30:5 that “weeping may come in the night, but there is joy in the morning”. And Psalm 126:5, “those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy”.

Where is God? Where He has always been. Always on time. Always faithful. Always good. And always with a plan. Let's enter into 2021 with joyful hearts, with singing, and with a shout! Let's take off what has been stifling our voices and speak out as the Lord leads. And remember to choose joy every day – because it is the joy of the

Lord that is your strength in the days to come. We don't know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds our future. And that is something to be joyful about!

Psalm 51:12 – Restore the joy of Your salvation to me and give me a willing spirit.

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