

March 2007

By Pastor Dave

March. It is known as the month of transition from lifeless winter to the resurrection of springtime. Some have tried to describe its widely varied weather patterns by comparing these to the vast difference between a lamb and a lion. Temperature extremes and the gamut of precipitation types are the “norm” for this month when the seasons change from winter to spring. Our current season of life on the planet is a lot like the month of March. The “norm” is unpredictable and unsettling. This unpredictability breeds fear in the human heart –but it also fuels our spiritual hunger and faith. Society is split over the unsettling “whys” behind this season of life, but we all agree that the solution to the sum of our problems is beyond our collective wisdom. Christ’s followers know that the answers to life’s problems are found in the One known as the Answer. In a letter of invitation to Foursquare Church Leadership to participate in a leadership training event, Pastor Glenn Burris (Glenn spoke to the New Life congregation last May), General Supervisor of the Foursquare Church of North America, expresses this faith-inspired yearning for answers during this season of unpredictability of life. What follows are excerpts from his letter.

*“Solomon asked the Lord for these things in 1 Kings 3. He asked the Lord to “give your servant **a discerning heart** to govern your people and **to distinguish between right and wrong**!” God was honored by the purity of his request and granted it. While depositing this rich gift into his life, the Lord was impressed by the things that Solomon did not ask for: 1) Long life; 2) Wealth; 3) The life of his enemies.*

What we pursue in life may inadvertently reveal what we have avoided. Both of those arenas play a significant role in how God ends up dispensing the riches of His kingdom in our leadership influence....

There has never been a time during my 31 years of ministry that I have been more aware of the desperation of leaders who want to understand the power that we must lead with, the absolute need for spiritual and moral purity (the credibility of our message), and a “word” from the Lord concerning this season of their life. This has been a sobering season of seeing the very “public” results of living in submerged pain and deception, and it calls us to lead with strong determination to live in the light....

Solomon learned early on to pay the price for obtaining wisdom; “Though it cost all you have, get understanding” (Prov.4:7 NIV).

In this age of unpredictability there is One who does not change – One who invites us to know Him in relationship, and trust Him with our lives. Pastor Glenn’s letter issues forth a challenge that flows right from the heart of God

Himself for all Jesus' followers. ***“Will you trust me with your life? It will cost you everything (this is what it means to call Jesus, Lord); but the end of trusting me is always life.”***

Although our immediate circumstances look bleak - like March, like the lifeless months of winter; resurrection is promised both in nature and in the spiritual realm. In the natural world I am ready for spring, and in spiritual issues, I am also ready for an infusion of resurrection life in myself personally, in Jesus' Church corporately, and in our society collectively. He (Jesus) is willing and able –the cost for us is everything –are you willing to say to Jesus, “whatever it takes count me in”?