

# **FOLLOWING THE CLOUD**

**August 2, 2020**

**In the O.T. following the cloud symbolized being led by the Holy Spirit. So, on Israel's journey, they were led by the Holy Spirit, by the cloud. In Numbers 9:15-23, we see this divine pattern displayed. When the cloud of God began to move, Israel was to move with it. When the cloud stopped, they stopped. They stayed with the cloud.**

**In the daytime, the cloud covered the Tabernacle.**

**At nighttime the appearance was like the appearance of fire.**

**I want to quote several verses from Numbers 9:15-23:**

**So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud stopped, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.**

**At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. And when the cloud tarried many days, then the children of Israel journeyed not.**

**When the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed.**

**Whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. Numbers 9:15-23.**

**What is the message of Numbers chapter 9? Move with the cloud.  
Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. When He moves on, we must move on.  
When He stays, we must stay.  
Whether by day or night. Whether a day, a month, or year.  
We must keep in step with the Holy Spirit.**

## **Expect the Unexpected**

**When God moves, it is usually not the way we expected him to move.  
For example, the cloud led them to a place where there was no water.  
Their reaction was wrong. But God supplied water from the rock.  
The cloud led them to a place where there was no food.  
But God later supplied food. All these were tests.  
They were tests to prepare them for the wonderful land of promise.**

## **God always moves in new ways**

**Do not look for God to come in ways He used to move. He won't.  
By nature, we resist situations that go against our routine.  
But these new situations promote change which leads to growth.  
Let's not try to put God in a box.**

**We have our set patterns. We have comfort and security in having...  
our old established way of doing things. But, let's be more open.  
God never moves the same way as he did in the past.  
Let's be open for change. We cannot imagine what God is about to do.  
Remember, at a moment that you think not, the Son of Man comes.  
Unexpected, totally different from what we calculated in our mind.**

**Remember the ladies who were praying for revival in Africa. When  
revival came, it was rejected by two sisters who prayed the hardest.  
Revival did not come the way they had expected.  
Maybe God was using people they didn't think were worthy.**

## **Dr. Brian Bailey's vision**

**Let us be more flexible, teachable, not settling on the level we are on.**

**There are many spiritual plateaus, as Dr. Bailey saw in a vision.**

**Dr. Bailey had a vision of a high mountain.**

**The Lord was at the very top of this high mountain.**

**Gods people were camped on various levels of this mountain. Problem**

**Many people want to stay on the level where they have settled.**

**We need to continue to climb higher and higher.**

**People on a certain level, were praising God. And just stayed there.**

**They were satisfied on the level they had attained to.**

**In this vision, people beckoned him to join them, and remain there.**

**But he had a tremendous desire to move up higher.**

**So, he went higher, and the same situations continued.**

**People were satisfied on the level they have attained.**

**Finally he reached the summit of mountain, collapsed with exhaustion.**

**But he collapsed at the feet of Jesus, at the top of the mountain.**

**To Win the prize, to win Christ, we cannot camp or settle on any level.**

**What is the point here? Let's keep moving on up.**

**There are many many new things that God wants to bring us into.**

**Let us not be content with the level we are on.**

**The Lord says; I need to find new people who will hear what I'm saying presently. 2 Peter 1:12 - tells us to be established in present truth.**

## **Opposition**

**It has been said that every new move of God is opposed most by the**

**people who were in the previous move of God. They have an attitude...**

**This is the way God does it! We have discovered the way, the method.**

**We have the pattern, the key, we know how the Spirit moves.**

**And they oppose anything that differs from the previous move of God.**

**We need new openness of spirit and mind. We do not have it all!  
God has blessed us with light. But we do not have it all!  
We will surely miss God if we do not continue to move on.**

## **A natural illustration**

**I had back surgery in 1965, and nine years later I needed it repeated.  
(after the second operation) This is what my doctor said to me:  
I have been doing these surgeries for 30 years.  
I did not think they could improve upon this.  
But sure enough, they came up with new procedures.  
The incision is opened up much more, they remove more bone.  
They're able to clean out the damaged area between vertebrae.  
And remove degenerating disc material. I was much better after this.**

**This is true in virtually every area of life.**

**With every vocation, whether secular or spiritual - we must be open  
To learn better ways, better procedures.  
To new enlightenment, or we cannot come to excellence.**

**God has many new things in store for his church.**

**We must be open and teachable, and not rely on the past.  
Behold I do a new thing says the Lord, and you shall know it.  
Do not let Tradition be a great hindrance to what God is doing.**

**Many years ago when I was a student in Bible school, we had revival.  
It came in a way we are not expecting. God used a woman prophetess  
There was what we call, new wine, holy laughter, and different  
manifestations of the Spirit. Some of the brethren called her a witch.  
They said she was manifesting a wrong spirit. Brother Bailey said:  
“if you reject this Spirit, you will get another spirit. The school  
administration, as a whole, rejected the new move of God.**

It is so important to be open to new things God is doing.  
Remember, the cloud that led Israel through the wilderness,  
Led them to many new and unheard of experiences.

## **The disciples of John**

In Acts 19:1-7, Paul came in contact with some of the disciples of John the Baptist. This was nearly 25 years after John the Baptist died. The disciples of John the Baptist represent a past revival. These were disciples who were moving in a past move of God. They had not gone on to what God was presently doing and saying.

They were running on past momentum, in the old order. They did not even know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Paul asked them, in Acts 19:2, have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed. They said, we have not even heard about the Holy Spirit.

Some believers not able to change emphasis when God changes it. Fortunately, in this case, these disciples of John, did receive the Holy Spirit when they heard the message. But this was 25 years later.

Many continue in the old order. "Remember how God used to move."  
Jesus talked about old wine skins in Luke 5:37-39.  
Where people say: the old is better.  
No, We must not be set in our old ways.  
Let's be open for a new move of God.  
It is unpredictable with our natural mind.  
Even some of the things we learned in the past, must be scrapped.  
Because of further light and revelation.

## **God always comes in ways we do not expect**

**No one could have believed that God would come as a baby. Be born in a barn, die as a criminal. That Messiah would be raised in Nazareth. Nazareth was the worst town in Israel. It had a terrible reputation. It was full of spiritual darkness, influenced by Greek philosophies. It was a city of commercial trade routes, with many nationalities. Yet, this was the city God chose to raise his Son.**

**Jesus came with a new message, a new way, a new move. He chose all Galileans for his disciples, who were open for change. But Jesus was not received by many. The Jews expected a Messiah who would destroy Rome. Instead, He came as a Lamb to die for the sins of the world. They had such mindsets that they could not see who Jesus really was.**

### **Dangers Of Tradition**

**Tradition can be of great blockage to a new move of God. Most of the Jewish leaders rejected Christ and the new message. John the Baptist was the forerunner of this new move. He was not trained in the Jewish schools, or by rabbis. The messenger of the N.T. was not trained in the established system.**

**Luke 3:2 says; the word of the Lord came unto John in the wilderness. In verse three, he was preaching the baptism of repentance. Tradition is a set format of rules and regulations. It does not budge. There is no openness for change.**

**God is about to move in a new way. We must be open and flexible. The Key is to spend time with God, ask him for discernment, Ask him for a flexible, teachable, Open spirit. God Bless you!**