

Salem Family Ministries

February 1, 2008

Dear Friends,

Hard to believe it's February 2008! What a wonderful time to pray and listen to HIS VOICE concerning your time, your energy and talents, and where you can be the most effective for His Kingdom. As you settle in and become still before Him, He begins to minister, speaking in the still, small voice. Enjoy His presence!

We love you,

Harry & Cheryl and Family

Psalm 46:10

"Be Still, and know that I am God."

Most people are uncomfortable with stillness and quietness. Most of the time they fill the atmosphere around them with the TV, radio, or a headset with some form of noise media coming directly into their brains, and ultimately into their hearts. In a noisy world that is more concerned with the 'busyness' of life, than the peace of God, the stillness that can only come from HIM, should we not learn how to be still? Shouldn't we learn how to get comfortable in HIS PRESENCE?

I love numbers. I love the meanings of numbers, and when I fell in love with the Hebrew language years ago, one of the first things I noticed was that the Hebrew "alphabet" and its numerical system in the ancient language was the same. For instance, the letter "A" (aleph) and the number

"1" is the same symbol. This was more than a little fascinating to me as I believe the Lord speaks to me many times through the value of numbers, the vertical time line, instead of the horizontal time line. Humanity tends to think in a horizontal direction, but many things of the spirit have to be considered and meditated upon *vertically* to get the entire message through to our human brains! "Gematra" is a the examination and study of numbers.

I am going to give a very plain warning here. I am not talking about worshiping numbers, or such terms as "numerology," which seems to make an entire religion out of the study of numbers. This is not my intention at all when I speak of numbers. All I want you to see is that because of the ancient Hebrew language being the beginning method of transcribing God's words from His thoughts to paper and ink, we cannot dismiss the importance of numbers. Because of the interweaving of numerical values and letters/sounds in the ancient Hebrew language, we simply cannot ignore numerical values the way we would in our own English language where numbers and letters have their own separate values and definitions.

Each year, towards the end of one year and the beginning of the next, Harry and I begin a time of "being still." We rest in the Presence of the Lord. We begin to spend more time than usual in His Presence, listening, waiting, meditating on the words the Lord gives us when we hear from Heaven. Many times, it's a personal word or a word for our family, marriage, ministry, or all of those combined. These times are life-changing for us and they always have been. We feel that our year's peace is determined by how much time we are willing to set apart for the Lord during the last weeks of one year and the first weeks of the following year. We cannot stress to you enough how this has changed our lives and we encourage you to do what it takes to make time for this same special time each day with the Lord, and particularly in the beginning of a new year.

As we meditated this past ending of '07, we actually spent more time - weeks and weeks on our faces before the Glory of the Lord. We are still there, every day, for hours before His Throne, hearing from Heaven on some days, and on others, the still, small voice urges us to remain "still" while He does a mighty work within us.

One thing we are sure of is that He is teaching us to trust Him at a much higher level than we have ever been before, and it is so exciting to watch how He unfolds His love, provisions and even His step by step guide of

where and when He wants us in the coming months.

I guess I should back up a little and actually start in February, 2007 when we celebrated my 50th birthday. My husband surprised me with family and friends, a beautiful dinner and a lovely party at our home. Thinking about it now, I still get a rush of emotion and warmth - remembering my sweetheart and how he meticulously planned that lovely surprise for me, over a period of months! So, the year began with an excitement and anticipation of the goodness of God and His promises. And His promises are *all*, Yes and Amen (2 Cor. 1:20), but we had some trials ahead of us that would ensure that we hold on to His promises with all of our might!

From January to June, Harry and I fought sickness in our bodies, and overwhelming frustration in our travels, due to scheduling, airports, weather, etc. By late Spring, we had begun to show signs of wearing out. Harry & I flew into Tulsa on June 10th for our yearly physicals, which included a colonoscopy for me, on the 11th. Most of you have heard this testimony, so I will be brief. The condensed version of it is that the doctor found what he referred to as a "suspicious polyp" that lay flat against the side of my colon wall. According to my doctor, this type of polyp is more uncommon than others, and more difficult to detect. We had the first miracle when the Holy Spirit would not release the doctor to be done with the exam. You see, his natural eye had missed the flat polyp and his natural mind was ready to declare me polyp-free and finished with my annual visit. But, thanks be to God forevermore! The Spirit of God would not let him have peace with that decision, so he listened to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit, directing him to "look again." He obeyed and looked again and found the polyp. This led to another tedious surgery where they resected my colon, a stay at Cancer Treatment Center and a big dent being kicked into our very full travel schedule! But, with God's grace, we made it through. Harry took me home to rest and recuperate, and all was well. Or so it seemed.

In July, we experienced our second miracle. My colon unexpectedly twisted, sending us to the emergency room in the middle of the night with me in excruciating pain! Harry and our sons were distraught at seeing me in so much pain and my dear, sweet husband was physically and emotionally exhausted and anxious for answers. But no answers came. Test after test was administered, and still no answers. Surgery was scheduled. I was wheeled back to my room in tears, after an agonizing day of torturous tests. I was beside myself with pain and pure anguish. Our oldest son, Harry had seen and heard enough. He strode across the room, clamped a

powerful, anointed hand on my shoulder and began to pray. *Loudly. Fervently.* Roman joined him in agreement and after five minutes of continued, fervent prayer, the pain stopped, my colon "untwisted" and I was showing immediate, significant signs of recovery. Believe me, in spite of the pain, then the miraculous release from the pain, and the sheer exhaustion that Harry and I both were feeling, the epiphany of our boys taking on this spiritual leadership and showing godly strength on our behalf was not lost on Mom and Dad! I was released from the hospital the next morning, and we soon tried to resume our summer activities, with a modified and limited travel schedule.

In September, my beloved step-dad died of a sudden massive heart attack, leaving my mother heartbroken and alone. I went home to Mississippi for the funeral, and while I was there, my sister-in-law's father passed away suddenly. My young niece and nephew lost both grandpas in one weekend. We were all devastated.

By October, Harry and I were moving, breathing and living (barely) on fumes. The events of the year were grueling and had taken their toll. We had to come off the road in November, December, and now January. We have flown nowhere for three months and have only driven to preach within a two hour distance from our home. *We are learning - to 'be still'.*

I believe that God has hidden for us (not FROM US) in His infinite garden, innumerable treasures and nuggets of wisdom. I believe that He delights as we, His Children, seek and discover His nuances and His immense goodness towards us. My love of research and the Word of God has led me to some rather interesting thoughts about the coming months as we have listened, and I have researched words, meanings, definitions and numerical values folded into the mix of revelations and insights.

There is no way to do more than give you the background on this piece, but I promise more of this message will be waiting for you next week! So I will leave today with the simple words 'to be continued.' Until next time, BE STILL and listen to HIS voice.

We love you,

Cheryl & Harry

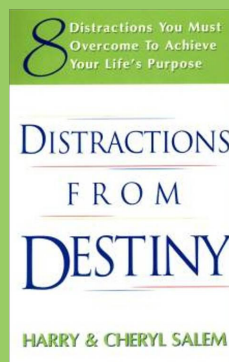
"Distractions from Destiny"

Take control of your destiny today! Can you honestly say that you are walking in the destiny to which God has called you? Do you experience the joy and the satisfaction of walking in His will? Are you truly enjoying all the blessings of His provision? If not, maybe you are being distracted from your destiny.

The enemy uses various distractions to steal and destroy your God-given dreams and visions before they can become reality. If the enemy can lure you off your path of destiny, your effectiveness will be minimal in the kingdom of God and you will be dissatisfied. In this encouraging and insightful book, Harry and Cheryl Salem share biblical principles that can help you discover:

- * God's will and purpose for your life *
- * How to identify the distractions that can keep you from being all God has created and called you to be *
- * Strategies to keep your destiny alive *

God wants to pull you away from the distractions of life that leave you feeling like you are just surviving. He wants to dust off the dreams that used to excite you and help you to start walking in your divine destiny. It's time for you to do what He has called you to do. Put aside those distractions and start walking in your destiny today!



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