

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, June 05, 2011**  
**Seeing Clearly part 2**

Last week we directed our attention on the fact that in order to see things clearly in our relationship with the Lord and all that it means in living productive lives, we need to get past previous hurts and preconceived ideas. Those wounds can shape the way we think and hinder us from all God intends to do in and through us. I wanted to follow up on that message with what we will see and what will happen when we are not hindered.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** The Christian life is to be the most amazing life that can be lived. We were created in the image of God to be just like Jesus, the last Adam who came to redeem us and change the way we live. When we come to Christ we become a new creation and there is nothing impossible for us. Look what it says in **Genesis 11:1-7 (NIV)**: <sup>1</sup> *Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.* <sup>2</sup> *As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.* <sup>3</sup> *They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.* <sup>4</sup> *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."* <sup>5</sup> *But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.* <sup>6</sup> *The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then **nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.*** <sup>7</sup> *Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."* Nothing was impossible for them because of their unity of language and resolve. It was not coming from their relationship with God, but it was possible because of being made in his image. God told Jeremiah that his plans were good plans and were not to harm them. God's reason for doing what he did at the Tower of Babel was out of mercy, compassion, and fatherly care. He never intended us to make a name for ourselves. He wants us to carry on the family name... His Name! We are his children created in his image with a divine destiny and purpose. It's a good plan.

**Ephesians 1:17-19a (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*** <sup>18</sup> *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,* <sup>19</sup> *and his incomparably great power for us who believe. In **Matthew 17:20b (NIV)** Jesus tells his disciples that they failed because of their lack of faith and goes on to say: "...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you.**"* Jesus told his disciples in John 15-17 (read it!) that he wanted us to experience what a joy it is to live the Christian life the way it was meant to be lived. We can participate in his joy. Our limited vision causes us to look at the natural realm and wish we had more money and more things, etc. God does not want to withhold that from us. He just doesn't want it to be our primary focus. In **1 John 2:15-17** we are told not to love the world or the things in the world. Jesus also said that where our treasure is, there our heart would be. **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> *Command those who are rich in this present world **not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*** <sup>18</sup> *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* <sup>19</sup> *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, **so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*** I love that... the life that is truly life. When Christ comes first in our life, everything else falls into place. But when we try to have everything else first and have the Lord as "part" of our life, we get messed up and can't see clearly. As Christians we should be the most creative and most successful people in the world. Is Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> in your life? Is he your greatest treasure? Let's ask God for a greater release of his blessings in order to go further than ever before in all that we do. **3 John 1:2 (NASB)** <sup>2</sup> *Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.*