

Prayer and Fasting for Life and Awakening

WEEK 1: THE BIG SHIFT—FROM DISCIPLES TO AGENTS.

GREETINGS

CONSECRATION

THE SONG: TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS.

Abbot Lot came to Abbot Joseph and said: "Father, to the limit of my ability, I keep my little rule, my little fast, my prayer, meditation and contemplative silence; and to the limit of my ability, I work to cleanse my heart of thoughts; what more should I do?" The elder rose up in reply, and stretched out his hands to heaven, and his fingers became like ten lamps of fire. He said: "Why not be completely changed into fire?"

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM. IT IS WITH OUR CONCEPTION OF DISCIPLESHIP. WE HAVE MISTAKEN DISCIPLESHIP FOR THE GOAL OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FAITH.

AND WE WONDER WHY WE END UP WITH A LITTLE RULE, A LITTLE FAST, A LITTLE PRAYER, A LITTLE MEDITATION, A LITTLE CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE AND A LITTLE EFFORT TO CLEANSE THE THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS.

AND ALL THE WHILE THE QUESTION: WHY NOT BE COMPLETELY CHANGED INTO FIRE?

WE HAVE CONFUSED THE MEANS FOR THE END. DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT THE END OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THEREFORE IT CANNOT BE THE GOAL OR THE MISSION. DISCIPLESHIP IS THE MEANS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. SO WHAT IS THE END OF IT ALL? AGENCY. TO BECOME A BONAFIDE, AUTHORIZED, AUTHENTICATED AGENT OF JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF—WHEREIN YOUR PRESENCE BECOMES THE AGENCY OF HIS PRESENCE.

ALL THE EMPHASIS HAS GONE ON THE GREAT COMMISSION, which is good as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with

you always, to the very end of the age."

It's why Jesus taught for forty days following his resurrection and convened his disciples a second time— at which time he instituted and prepared them for THE GREAT COMBUSTION.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. **3** Just then **BEHOLD** there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, **BEHOLD** a bright cloud covered them, and **BEHOLD** a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. **7** But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." **8** When they looked up, **BEHOLD** they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

And after this our Lord showed himself more glorified, to my eyes, than I saw Him before. By this I was taught that our soul shall never have rest till it comes to Him, knowing that He is fullness of joy, friendly and courteous, blissful and very life. Our Lord Jesus said again and again, "It is I; it is I; it is I who am highest; it is I whom you love; it is I whom you delight in; it is I whom you serve; it is I whom you long for, whom you desire; it is I whom you mean; it is I who am all."

—St. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

JESUS SHOWS US WHO HE WILLS TO BE IN AND THROUGH US.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY TO SHOW THAT THIS ALL-SURPASSING POWER IS FROM GOD AND NOT FROM US. v.7

AS JESUS CHRIST BECOMES THE LOVE OF OUR LIFE. WE WILL BECOME THE LIFE OF HIS LOVE.

I AM THE TRUE VINE

MY FATHER IS THE FARMER

HE CUTS OFF EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARS NO FRUIT.

WHILE EVERY BRANCH THAT DOES BEAR FRUIT HE PRUNES SO THAT IT WILL BE EVEN MORE FRUITFUL.

YOU ARE ALREADY CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE WORD I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU

ABIDE IN ME ~~AND I WILL~~ AS I ALSO ABIDE IN YOU

NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF. IT MUST ABIDE IN THE VINE. NEITHER
CAN YOU BEAR FRUIT UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME.