

2018 Word: A Year of Devotion

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Note: The following is only a brief expository of the 2018 Word I feel the LORD is giving. To listen to an expounding of this Word, look for upcoming podcasts on www.inbcf.com.

Last year, the LORD gave me what I thought was an unusual word: *Culmination*. Many, many things, both good and bad, certainly culminated in 2017!

✚ This Year of 2018, the LORD gives the Word: *DEVOTION*

Since many believe they already know what *devotion* means and believe they are already devoted to the LORD, they may be tempted to ignore this word. Please don't! Whatever you think you know about *devotion*, forego it and deepen your understanding of it.

I found *devotion* to be a strong word, full of great meaning in which a large portion of the Church does not live anywhere near, but in fact, it will be our very lifeline and protection as we face the next very tumultuous and turbulent years. Thus, when the LORD gave this word, I felt a weightiness and seriousness with it.

The LORD speaks first of devotion to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is a complete devotion to Him and His Word. He wants to be FIRST in His people's lives once again. He wants us *ardently (passionate, enthusiastically, fervently, zealously) dedicated and loyal to Him in every way!*

The LORD our God does not want whatever we have left over to give Him—He wants the best, the first, the most! He wants our heart, our head, our body, and our life.

He wants our love. He wants our relationship. He wants our hopes, our dreams, our plans. He wants our service, our gifts, our submission and our obedience. He wants our past, present and future. He wants our devotion!

While grace is so essential to our belief, in many ways we have allowed a hyper-grace (which is a misunderstanding of grace) to rob us of a depth of relationship and devotion to God. "After all—we are under grace!" Right? Hmm.

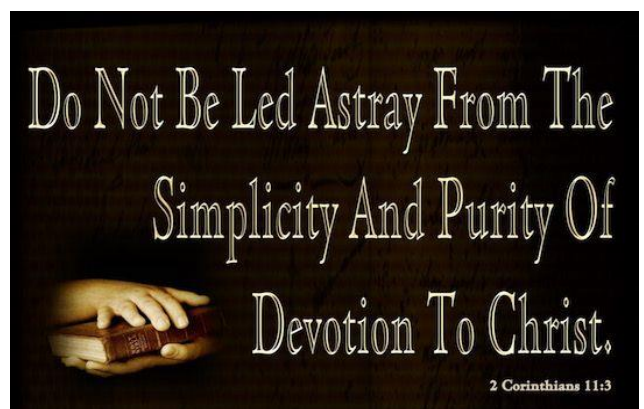
The apostle Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 11:3—*"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."* Paul had good cause to make this statement as the Church in Corinth was struggling in a number of ways with their complete devotion to God. This was a church that came into existence just a few years after the beginning of the First Church which was entirely devoted to Christ and to one another! (Acts 2:42)

A Life of Devotion is One that is Sanctified.

We cannot have a relationship of devotion with our God Most High without *sanctification* first and foremost.

(SCRIPTURES: John 17:17-19; Hebrews 13:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 1:1-; 1 Peter 3:14-15.)

Can one truly be saved without being sanctified?



A Life of Devotion is One of *Dedication (consecration, sanctification and renovation).*

We are to live a life of *dedication—now!*

1 Thessalonians 5:22-24 (AMP emphasis added)—“Abstain from every form of evil [withdraw and keep away from it]. ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete [sanctified] and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful and absolutely trustworthy is He who is calling you [to Himself for your salvation], and He will do it [He will fulfill His call by making you holy, guarding you, watching over you, and protecting you as His own].”

Romans 12:1 (AMP)—“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.”

. . . While too many things to mention demand our attention, I sense the LORD saying, “Turn over a new leaf—be devoted to Me by focusing on Me!”

A Life of Devotion is One *Without Distraction.*

The LORD says, “It is time for My true Church to be fully devoted to Me with their whole life—to be without distractions or hindrances—focusing their whole life in devotion to Me! I want to be the First (Alpha) and the Last (Omega), the Beginning and the End in your life!”

Hebrews 12:1-2 AMP—“—“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God’s absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, ² [looking away from all that will distract us and] FOCUSING OUR EYES ON JESUS, who is the Author and Perfector of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].”

What is distracting you? Distractions can easily rob our devotion to Christ. Anything put before God is an idol.

🚩 2018: The 18th Letter Tsadhe—Righteous

The 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet is *Tsadhe* or *Sade* and means *righteous*. *Righteous* means *according to right*; being right or God’s right or that which is right according to Him. Righteousness involves *justice*. The term, *Tsadhe* meaning *righteous*, is applied *only to those who are completely devoted to God* and the service of God, i.e., a *faithful servant*.

We are given righteousness and made righteous to empower our devotion to Christ! Thus, righteousness holds with it responsibility to Christ and His work on our behalf.

(See Psalm 119:137-144 which involves the letter *Tsadhe*.)

We are to live and reap righteousness (right according to God) this year allowing it to empower our devotion to Christ.



✚ 2018: The 18th Letter Tsadhe—Full Faithfulness

Devotion creates faithfulness (one who believes, is trustworthy and can be relied upon; as well as one who is full of faith).

The LORD says, “Be FAITHFUL until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

Faithfulness will prove our devotion to Christ!

✚ 18 and 8

We might tend to think that because the number 18 includes the number 8 (which means salvation, liberty, new beginning, resurrection life) that 18 would also have a positive and powerful meaning, but this is not necessarily so. The number 18 (standing alone) means firstly, *bondage*, and furthermore, *judgment, destruction, and captivity!*

Bondage can imply physical bondage; but it is mostly referring to spirit and/or soul bondage. Jesus came to remedy both.

2018 is a year to PURSUE DEVOTION in every respect through humility-driven RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS to God like never before. We must remember that those who are devoted to Christ are not subject to judgment, destruction or captivity. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:9)

No doubt, 2018 will, however, involve more and more bondage, judgment, destruction and captivity for those who are *not* devoted.

✚ Our 2018 is the Hebrew Year 5778—the *Year of the Open Door*



The number eight is represented by the Hebrew letter *Chet* which is synonymous with the *image of a door* and actually means *door* in Hebrew. In fact, many Hebrew scholars say it is more precisely *an open door*. As 8 is a number that represents *new beginnings*, 8 is an *open door which leads to a new beginning*.

To those who stand devoted the LORD says: “. . . *He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:* ⁸ *I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an OPEN DOOR*

which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My Word, and have not denied My name.”
(Revelation 3:7-8 NASB)

It means that *there is an anointing for those who are expectant*, to come into the New Year with ***an eye to see*** the grace and glory of a new beginning and opportunity for great blessings. It will be a year to close out those things that have come to an end and have been completed in Him. It will be a time where those who are mature enough to *see Him in a new way (through Spirit-given revelation)*, will be enabled to operate in a new anointing (*with Spirit-given wisdom and power*) as a covenant people—those *who are devoted* to Him, to walk through the door(s) that have been open.

On the other hand, we are given a choice: we can enter through the open door with devotion or we can turn and refuse to enter and end up going through doors that we have opened or the enemy has opened. No one is forced by God to enter the LORD’s open door. The choice is entirely ours.

✚ 2018 is a Year to Learn to Trust Him Completely and be in the Center of His Will

This year every Believer will be presented (or faced) not only with “if” they believe, but with “what” they truly believe.

I believe the LORD is saying, “Take up and follow MY WILL, not your will. My Kingdom must come and be firmly planted in your heart through My Will. My Kingdom-Will must affect your attitude and thinking; it must lead you, set your priorities, be the catalyst behind the decisions and choices you make, determine the paths you go down and motivate-drive you. It is My desire to implant My Will within you. My Will, will empower you—it will empower *your* will!”



✚ 2018 will be a Year of Real Repentance in Conjunction with Personal Purge for Protection

The LORD specifically used the term, “REAL REPENTANCE” meaning *genuine, sincere, true, honest, tangible* REPENTANCE versus a *false, insincere and dishonest* repentance. Repent—change your thinking and your mind. Turn and think differently! Rethink how you do life. It’s time to take up the “*Mind of Christ*.”² This is no longer a suggestion—it is a warning.

Along the lines of this real repentance, the LORD dropped into my spirit just recently that He wanted His true people to enter into a PERSONAL PURGE, i.e. eliminate—*remove every stumbling block and obstacle*.

I immediately thought about John the Baptist and the basis for his message and ministry: “*In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea² and saying, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.’³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS FOR HIM’*” (Matthew 3:1-3 NASB).

To “*prepare the way for the LORD*” means to *make ready the way by clearing out all the debris, rocks, junk and stumbling blocks*. And then following, *make straight paths for Him*, which means to make straight direction, as opposed to crooked—i.e. fix the path-road. In other words, the Greek meaning communicates to repair and restore the road/path without unnecessary zig-zags (detours), making it straight or *upright* (not crooked, bent) and *WITHOUT DELAY; ACTING IMMEDIATELY; STRAIGHTAWAY*; taking a *direct* path from “God's point A” to “God's point B” which avoids *unnecessary delays* (deviations).³ The LORD is definite, “Do it immediately! Do not delay. Do it NOW! Right NOW!”

This preparing the way involves repentance, but with it personal purging!

Romans 13:14 instructs, “. . . *PUT ON the LORD Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lust.*”

Apostasy, heresy, error is going to increase more and more this year. Where do you stand right now?

It is a year to decide what side of the fence you are going to be on. I saw a line in Heaven being drawn. The LORD says, “*Choose this day who you will serve*” *...who you will be devoted to!* (See Joshua 24:15)

Every Believer’s faith will be tested more this year.

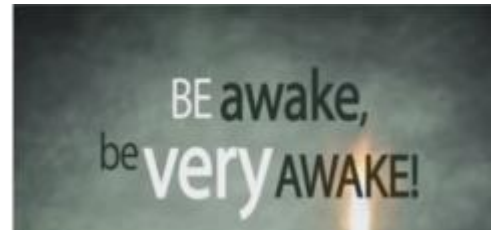
In all this, the LORD says, “*Put your house in order!*”⁵ This can happen for every Believer in Christ as they are “led by His Spirit.”⁶ Therefore, be devoted to Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit and then be led by HIM.

✚ 2018 will be a Year to WAKE-UP! Arouse! Rise up!

Cease sleeping! Arouse! Become conscious and aware!

“... It is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep, for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed” (Romans 13:11).

“After He (Jesus) had said this, He went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I AM going there to WAKE HIM UP” (John 11:11 NIV)



The LORD said, “My people are called by Me to be My Watchmen and thus, be on WATCH and thus, be alert; but many, many are asleep, not paying attention, not discerning, not interested or even dead to spiritual things. They are focusing on themselves and their lives or involved only in the physical things of this life and world. However, My people are to be the ones to truly SEE AND HEAR from the spiritual as I have given them the capacity to see and hear Truth through the Spirit of Truth. Yet many have been lulled to sleep. I AM telling them now to TURN and WAKE-UP from their slumber! HEAR My voice, the Voice of My Spirit. SEE! WATCH!”



✚ 2018 will be a Year of Suddenlies

Suddenly was also part of the word for 2017. As things were culminating, we seem to have had a lot of suddenlies in 2017 as well. *Suddenly* is a happening, event, etc., coming unexpectedly; marked by or manifesting abruptness or haste; made or brought about in a short time.

Suddenlies will continue on a scale and speed like never before until Jesus comes. Both good and bad events will happen suddenly—mostly without notice or warning. Suddenlies always come with Surprises!

On one side, many exciting suddenlies will happen on a scale that we have never witnessed. Many signs, wonders and miracles will happen seemingly, “just out of the blue!” Truthfully, these suddenlies will happen because of a build-up of faith (belief and trust) in the LORD and His work, as well as unity with Him and His Body that will cause sudden spiritual explosions of power all over and in many, many different ways.

On the flip side, many catastrophic events will happen suddenly without foresight or warning. Many religious theologians, news people, analogists, specialists, scientists, meteorologists, spiritists—mediums, etc. think they can predict what is going to happen next, but they will be suddenly and profoundly wrong! God is going to confound the wise. In this respect, if a Believer is not being led by the Spirit they will succumb to fear, discouragement, heresy and danger.

We need to remember—God is ultimately Sovereign over the suddenlies!

✚ 2018 will be a Year of Extremes

Extreme victories. Extreme breakthroughs. Extreme failures. Extreme tests. Extreme heresies and deceptions, and more. However, the LORD tells His people to trust Him extremely and He will cause His extreme PEACE-SHALOM!

✚ 2018 will be a Year to Set a New Course

Some have been on the wrong course (aka *a course of their choosing*); others have simply been on a comfortable course. Still others have been on a course that they just have not known how to get off! The LORD is going to interrupt many courses this year and set many on a new course—which is His course for their life. If He does not, many will not

finish their course. In this, the LORD is going to break many old destructive patterns in our lives. This will not be comfortable, but it will be necessary. And then—He will teach us about authority.

Have faith and in your new course: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight”* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

A new course is a result of desire for and devotion to Him. Have faith!

✚ 2018 will be a Year to *MOVE*—to Move Out, to Move In, to Move Things, to Move!

In some cases, this moving will involve a battle, but we will overcome by the LORD and His Word!

The LORD said to the Israelites: *“GET UP, GET MOVING, and cross the Arnon Valley! Here, I have put in your hands Sichon the Emori, king of Heshbon, and his land; commence the conquest, begin the battle!”* (Dt. 2:24 CJB).

“For in Him we live and MOVE and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

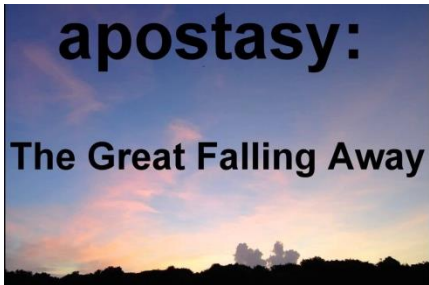
Many will move hindrances this year: *“. . . If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you”* (Matt. 17:20).

To move—we must be looking forward. No Believer is to look back or move backward!

“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).

✚ 2018 Great Division and Apostasy

“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God” (1 Thessalonians 2:1-4 NASB).



The Great Apostasy [departure, falling away, faithlessness, desertion] is specific to the Church—the Body of Christ. It is the falling away specifically from the TRUTH of God’s Word. This Apostasy (which is made up of various widespread deceptions) has been strongly developing and growing even more over the past few decades. But it will increase and become even stronger and evident this year as true devotion, faithfulness and righteousness arise from God’s true people. This great apostasy is, of course, fueled by rebellion—lawlessness, heresies and error of every

kind—aka the antichrist spirit.

✚ 2018 Devotion to the Body of Christ

2018 will be a year to put your roots down in the Body of Christ. *“But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the Body, just as He desired”* (1 Corinthians 12:18).

We cannot be truly devoted to Christ, allowing Him to use our life and gifts, and not be devoted to His Body. In fact, danger lurks for those who are not devoted to the Body.

In respect to the great apostasy and division, we are to put down solid roots where God has called and led us. We are to CONNECT (to become joined), each one finding his/her place. This means protection in every sense of the word.

True connection produces unity—a unity that produces power through the presence of Christ! In His final prayer for us, Jesus prays: *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹that*

they may all be ONE; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20-21).

One means one! One as opposed to many! Common. Connected as one!

The LORD says, “My true Church MUST arise in this Hour. And how they will arise as My true Church, how they will be recognized as My true Church will be their connection as one through unity and devotion to one another. Connect and connect *deeply!* Be devoted to one another for you will represent ME—you are My Body. Be connected to one another that My Body is whole and not disjointed or deformed! My true Church will walk in true agapá-love (action-love). Action-love will be the evidence of My true Church—it is that by which My Body will operate. From manifesting love, My true Church will walk in great and undeniable power! My true Church will be holy as I am holy. My true Church will bring a final revival to the land in order to reap the final harvest! My true Church will speak to the nations! And, My true Church will man this nation, the United States of America, until I say so! My true Church is indeed arising as the greatest ARMY of all time! You are in the ARMY NOW! Stand the ground I give you and fight together—arm in arm and back to back!”



The LORD tells us to first be devoted to Him and then, “*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves*” (Romans 12:10 NIV).

“*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.*”²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*²⁵ *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*” (Hebrews 10:23-26)

The LORD says, “Be careful! Trust Me FIRST. Discern. Hear and believe Truth. Do not yoke yourself with anyone who will not submit to and obey My Word and My Will.”

✚ 2018, a Year of Power Arising for the True Church

“*For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power*” (1 Corinthians 4:20).

Thus, the powers of Christ, also known as, the Powers (signs, wonders, and miracles) of the Age to Come (Hebrews 6:4-5) is about to be poured out. In other words, we are in “The Age to Come” and there has been reserved a special power or empowerment for signs, wonders, and miracles. John 14:12 will be forced out of us, “*Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.*”

✚ 2018, the TRUE Prophetic Voice to Gain Strength and Expand

The TRUE prophetic will not only gain strength becoming stronger and more intense this year, but as well as it will be expanded as more and more begin to be filled with the Spirit and prophesy according to Acts 2:17 and 1 Corinthians 14:1.

Prophecy is an End Times fulfillment, which before now has not been fulfilled in our time. But many, many this year will experience Christ and His Spirit in the greater baptism. Jesus Christ is baptizing His DEVOTED ONES with the Holy Spirit and fire. Therefore, while the prophetic has moved in place, it also has been very dull and lacking. In this hour, His prophetic voice will be accompanied with the fire of the baptism.

Much, much FIRE coming through the prophetic in the Church this year! While devotion will ignite this FIRE, this FIRE will in turn lead to even greater devotion!

The Spirit is going to disrupt and take over whole services with the FIRE.

True Believers who allow the fire and great devotion to permeate them will spill over with prophecy. It will just come out of their mouths, even unintentional! Many, many mountains will be spoken to and brought down. Many circumstances will be changed through prophecy. Many spiritual graves will be opened. Many demonic rulers will be conquered.

✚ The Number 18 in the United States and On the World Front

The number 18 means *bondage, captivity, judgment, and destruction*. I believe we are in the height of, “As in the days of Noah” (see Matt. 24:37) where bondages and captivity are increasing exponentially in the world.

Rumors of wars will escalate and climax becoming a persistent atmospheric condition and all out *wars* will commence. God is quiet in respect to the United States entering into war. I believe this is all related to our stance with Israel. Believers need to be in and remain in peace!

Natural disasters (judgment-destructions) will not only be on the increase, but intensify. I believe there are a couple of unseen or undetected grave things that are stirring—shaking right now.

Plagues (a disastrous evil or affliction: *calamity*; a destructively numerous influx or multiplication of a noxious animal: *infestation*; an epidemic disease causing a high rate of mortality: *pestilence*) *will be many, peculiar, never before seen or experienced, and on the*

While all this is naturally the most unsettling. The powerful in the world this year to show his true colors (to those to align the One World Church behind closed doors, but it will will do this to pave the way for



increase. Catastrophic. disconcerting; bondage will be antichrist spirit will become so that the false prophet will begin who are discerning) and continue openly. This has been happening be open this year. Of course, he the appearing of the Antichrist.

Cyber attacks—warfare. No doubt this has and is happening and therefore, is not really a NOW prophetic word from the LORD. However, I sense the LORD warning many, many right now to “back off”. The United States is going to have a major breach again that will be greater and more advanced than previous attacks. This attack will affect everyone involved in unimaginable ways. I can’t say anymore on this because so few will believe it or do anything about it.

Christian Believers need to be IN THE FAITH and exhibit FAITH. God’s GRACE is the *operational power of God to meet and overcome every evil tendency!* This must be at the forefront of and driving our life this year from now on. Again, God is ready to manifest His PEACE—SHALOM (Wholeness; nothing missing, nothing broken). PSALM 91 NOW!

The LORD tells us to “Get PREPARED and stay PREPARED in every way!”

And as always the LORD tells us to, “Keep watching Israel!”