

**On This Greatest Of Days,  
Who Are The Beings God Wants To Be There?  
Last Great Day  
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Today is my favorite holy day. When God called me back in the mid 60s, it was the last piece of the puzzle that fell into place that brought me into the church. What happens to the rest of the world? I went to ministers in various religions and they didn't have a satisfactory answer. They mumbled and stumbled. It was a mystery and nobody seemed to know. Yet, in God's word, it is very plain.

Today is the biggest single event in God's plan of salvation as far as the magnitude of the number of people affected. I'm not diminishing from Christ's sacrifice. I don't mean that at all, but as far as what affects more people in an immediate effect, it is this day. It affects those that have never been called, never had God's holy spirit. They are resurrected and have their chance at eternal life. Christ hinted at that. Let's turn to Matthew, chapter 12 and look at verses 41 and 42. He not only hinted at it, He prophesied that this day would occur. Obviously the people then did not understand, and thankfully we do today.

***Matthew 12:41.*** *The men of Nineveh (long been dead) shall rise in judgment with this generation ... (KJV)*

So what He is saying is that the generation of Nineveh is going to come up along with the generation that He is speaking to.

*41b) ... and shall condemn it (the current generation) because they (the men of Nineveh) repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah [is] here.*

*42) The queen of the south... (KJV)*

It's commonly considered that this is the Queen of Sheba.

*42b) ... shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon [is] here. (KJV)*

So Christ was giving them a hint of what was going to happen on the Last Great Day, and the men of Nineveh and obviously the Queen of Sheba were long dead when He said these words. All of those will have the opportunity to live with God's spirit in them in a much better world and a much better environment than we find today. Widows are going to see their husbands. We've lost many men and women here in the last decade or so. Husbands are going to see their wives again. Children are going to see their

parents and parents are going to see their children and have an opportunity to mend fences as we say in West Texas and make things right one with another.

Now let's go to the keynote scripture of this day, Isaiah 65 and we're going to begin in verse 20. When I read this scripture, the puzzle pieces started falling into place and I think that's true for all of us. Isaiah 65:20; notice this. There's going to come a time, this tells us:

***Isaiah 65:20. There shall be no more an infant of days ... (KJV)***

There's going to come a time when there are no new births.

*20b) ... nor an old man that has not filled his days... (KJV)*

There's going to be a time when no lives are cut short.

*20 continued) ... for the child (someone who started as a child) shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner [being] an hundred years old shall be accursed. (KJV)*

He's run out of time. He's going to be accursed.

Now obviously this hasn't happened yet.

*21) And they shall build houses and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

*22) They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree [are] the days of my people, and my elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. (KJV)*

This tells us that this is a world that has never existed before. There's no wars, no fighting, no treachery, there's no stealing.

*23) They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they [are] the seed of the blessed of the Lord ... (KJV)*

They're our relatives, the seed of the blessed of the Lord.

*23b) ... and their offspring with them.*

*24) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer ... (KJV)*

What a time!

*24b) ... and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. (KJV)*

You see, that's what our loving God does with us, this tiny group on earth. That's what He does with us today, but He's going to do it with everyone at this time.

*25) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust [shall be] the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Eternal. (KJV)*

What a wonderful time. Then they will have time, a hundred years, to be judged according to God's word. Let's go to Revelation 20. We've been there several times in the Feast before. We're going to look at the beginning of verse 5 and then to verse 11, just to set the context in the beginning of verse 5. Notice what we are told.

**Revelation 20:5.** *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. (KJV)*

Okay, let's jump to verse 11.

*13) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.  
12) And I saw the dead, small and great ... (KJV)*

Important and unimportant in the world's view, rich and poor... (KJV)

*12b) ... stand before God; and the books were opened, and another book was opened which is [the book] of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.  
13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and the grave delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (KJV)*

We can't begin to imagine the scene that's going to occur on this day. Now let's go back to Ezekiel 37 and we're going to read the words, but let's try to imagine, stretch our minds to imagine what is going to happen on this day. Ezekiel says:

**Ezekiel 37:1.** *The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which [was] full of bones, (KJV)*

The valley was piled high with dry bones. The bones have been there for who knows how long. He's looking at this.

*2) And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and [they were] very dry. (KJV)*

Indicating that they've been dead a very long time.

3) *And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?... (KJV)*

And, of course, Ezekiel being wise and learned to keep his mouth shut about it, he said:

3b) *... And I answered, O Lord God, you know. (KJV)*

“You’re the one.”

4) *Again he said unto me Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*

5) *Thus says the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you and you shall live.*

6) *And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine what that would look like; skin forming, sinews, muscles forming over piles and piles of bones? And after that process is finished:

6b) *... and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I [am] the Lord. (KJV)*

Now notice the purpose for their living. “*And you shall know that I am the Eternal.*” All of those who had never heard the name of Jesus Christ, never heard God Almighty and never had been exposed to the Bible. They will be raised so they will know that God is God and He is sovereign.

7) *So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.*

8) *And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above; but [there was] no breath in them. (KJV)*

They were just corpses, but they were fleshly corpses, newly minted bodies.

9) *Then he said to me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon those slain, that they may live.*

10) *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. (KJV)*

Put your mind in their mind. They’re standing and looking around. My guess is that they’re naked. There weren’t any clothes there; I don’t know. They’re looking around and the last thing they remember is the last thing they remembered before they died.

11) *Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel... (KJV)*

We know that the entire world will ultimately be grafted into Israel.

*11) ... behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. (KJV)*

Of course their hope was lost. They died in unimaginable ways.

*12) Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus says the Lord God ... (KJV)*

Notice what God says ...

*12b) ... Behold, O my people... (KJV)*

These are people that had been cut off from God from day one, they never had a chance, and yet this loving God says, "*Behold, O my people ...*"

*12 continued) ... I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.*

*13) And you shall know that I [am] the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,*

*14) And shall put my spirit in you, and you shall live, and I shall place you in your own land (notice this) then shall you know that I the Lord have spoken [it] and performed [it], says the Lord. (KJV)*

So think about this. At last people who have had no knowledge of God will not only have knowledge of God but they'll have His spirit in them. They will have their chance.

Think with me about the numbers. We talked about that a little bit last year, and this will be a refresher if you were here last year. It took thousands of years for the world population to reach one billion. That occurred in 1810. It took thousands of years for that to happen. It only took 120 years after that to get to the second billion, and that happened in 1930. Then it only took 31 years after that to get to three billion, and that happened in 1961. Since that time every eleven to fourteen years we add another billion. Last year, 2012, we passed seven billion.

So let's ask the question; we have over seven billion people living on earth today. What percent of that is the total population that has ever lived? Is it fifty percent, forty, thirty? The people today compared to the people who have ever lived, and these are estimates and, of course, estimates can be wrong and wildly out of skew, but the best estimates available today say that those who are alive today are only 6-1/2 percent of the people that have ever lived; only 6-1/2 percent of the people that have ever lived. Now, therefore, the estimated number of people who have ever lived, and again someday we will find out the exact number, but with the knowledge we have today, the estimate is 106.5 billion people who have ever lived. It's hard to grasp that number.

I'll repeat this as a refresher, if you stood all those people in line and you had one put out their arm and put in on the shoulder of the one in front them, how long would that line be? Would it be around the world two or three times? It would wrap around the world over 1,600 times, if they were a couple of feet apart. That's a lot of people. And if we were to speak their names, first name and last name, take two seconds to speak their name. Say Christa Schwanke, Ivan Robinson, and then name everybody's name of all 106.5 billion people. If you started at the time of Adam, when do you think you might end speaking their names? Would it be 1,000 years ago; 500 years ago or 100 years ago? No, we would still be speaking their names 750 years from now. Think of the number of people. Given today's land mass, including the North Pole, South Pole, all the bush in Canada, the Sahara Desert and every bit of land mass; if you put all those people on that land mass, you would have 1,858 people per square mile. Now we can see why God's going to raise the oceans and bring the mountains down to give people some living space at this time.

Now here's the thing that blows your mind. This 106 billion people does not count all the miscarriages that have occurred down through the years. Statistics today in the United States indicate 15 to 20 percent (and I'm sure it's similar in Canada) of confirmed pregnancies end in miscarriages. That percentage is probably higher around the world because of their lack of sanitation and all of that. And it's probably higher in ages past. So this could add another 15 to 20 percent to the figure we just talked about of 106 billion people. But that's nothing compared to what is happening with abortions. I've got to control myself because I get very angry when I think about what is happening with abortions. In the United States today there are 1.1 to 1.3 million abortions every year. That's 3,500 a day, and during the two hours of the services, that means 290 babies have been killed in the United States while we are sitting here enjoying ourselves at services. Now the world average for the last ten years is forty to fifty million a year that are killed. Think about that. That is greater than the deaths of the six years of World War II in one year in the world. During services, in the world 11,400 babies have been killed in the two hours we will be here together. In the last fifty years it is estimated that 2.5 billion babies have been killed.

Do you think God might be upset with that? Do you think God might want to come with a sword and take care of that? That is more in the last fifty years than all the wars combined. We are killing them legally in the western nations at a faster rate than wars could kill people all over the world. This adds many more billions to the 106 billion we already talked about. Who knows how many? And who knows at what age God will resurrect these little kids? They were killed before they ever left the womb or partially left the womb. My guess is that God would have to raise them at some point after they are weaned so they could live on solid food, but will He resurrect them at a year, six months or two or three years? We're going to have to find out, but they're going to be resurrected by the billions.

So for sake of discussion today, let's say it's 110 billion. We'll just add some more and even the number out. We could be wildly off. It could be much worse than that. I don't think it's going to be any less than that, but let's say 110 billion.

Let's change the time frame. At the time we're resurrected as saints, let's say the Last Great Day happened at the same time or shortly after. We're just resurrected as saints. The Bible indicates there are 144,000 resurrected. Let's say the Last Great Day happened the next day. How many people would that be per saint? Each one of us, how many people would that be that we would have to look after and take care of? Would it be 20,000 or 50,000? It would be 764,000 per saint. Want your city? Think about that. That is equivalent to the population of Charlotte, North Carolina, Fort Worth, Texas and it's right in the middle between the population of Edmonton and Winnipeg for every saint. It boggles the mind. Now we're going to have helpers down the way through the thousand year period, but the firstfruits could be responsible for over three quarters of a million people each.

That adds a new dimension on some things that we ought to start doing today. Think about how people died, all these people, these billions. Now the little babies died without much awareness, just pain. But some people died very angry. Some people died violently. They were fighting for their lives or somebody was hacking them to death. Some died in incredible pain through illness or injury. Some when they died were frightened beyond belief. They were scared out of their minds, and as a result, some when they are resurrected will have their minds blown. They will not be able to take care of themselves. Think about that. We're talking about billions of people that are coming up that are dazed, fearful, angry and are probably very confused. They don't know what on earth is going on.

So here is the big question. This is all by way of introduction. We're getting into the subject today. Here is the big question, and I'll outline it and take a couple of minutes. As spirit beings, who would God want beside Him when this happens? What kind of spirit beings would He want? Would He want those who are eager and ready to rule with a rod of iron and who are barking orders and intimidating people and instilling fear in people? Do you think God might want that? Or those who are eager and ready to aggrandize themselves and they get on their jack boots and put their swagger stick under their arm and strut back and forth, thinking only about themselves and their image in front of these billions of people. Do you think God might want somebody like that? I remember an evangelist who made a comment a number of years ago about the world tomorrow and the Last Great Day, he said, "All the good jobs are already taken." Okay, that means that he viewed himself at the level of the apostles and David and Moses and Abraham. Those are already taken. Why would somebody want that? "Well, look at me." Do you think that God would want somebody like that there on that day? Is that what these multiple billions need? Or will something else be required?

So at this critical juncture in God's plan, God wants spirit beings who have obviously previously been human beings, who have previously learned and demonstrated to live a certain way of life. That's what He wants. He wants people who, in their physical lives have demonstrated that they can live in a certain manner. Then when they are resurrected, they can help Him in this phenomenal task.

So in some ways this sermon is a continuation of the first one I gave at the Feast and it's really a continuation of everybody else's sermons at the Feast, because it's amazing how many scriptures keep popping up over and over and the same words over and over but from a different perspective. So the title is a long one. It drives John Pollock crazy when he tries to put a label on a DVD.

On This Greatest of All Days, Who are the Beings God Wants to be There to Help?

If I don't run out of time we'll have five.

**The First Point: God will have those who have developed a deep humility, but will not compromise with His law.**

Now let's ask the question; how did He come? How did He come, and what was His attitude? Let's go to Matthew 11:29. Christ tells us what He wants then and today. Christ, our loving older brother says:

***Matthew 11:29. Take my yoke upon you... (KJV)***

Notice this.

*29b) ... and learn of me... (KJV)*

Learn what I think; learn what I do and learn what I say.

*29 continued) ... for I am meek and lowly in heart ... (KJV)*

And because I am meek and lowly in heart:

*29 continued) ... and you shall find rest unto your souls. (KJV)*

Christ says: "Learn from Me because I am meek and I am lowly, and you are going to find rest."

Do you think these billions are going to need rest and might need time to get their minds together and have peace and tranquility to learn of God and get rid of all the upset and anguish and the hormones and the adrenaline going through their systems and have a little peace and rest? Absolutely.

Notice Isaiah 66:2. These fundamental scriptures, these simple scriptures tell us who God wants on that day. Christ, the God of the Old Testament is speaking these words.

***Isaiah 66:2. For all those [things] has my hand made... (KJV)***

We know Christ, at God's direction, did the creating.



*2b) ... and all those [things] have been, says the Lord: but to this [man]... (KJV)*

The word "man" is in italics. Just cross it out.

*2 continued) ... but to this (person, human) will I look, [even] to [him that is] poor and of a contrite spirit (humble), and trembles at my word. (KJV)*

One who fears to break God's word and lives with God's word. When Christ came to the earth, the religious leaders of the day were arrogant and prideful. They thought that because Abraham was their father, they were superior to every other human being on the face of the earth. Christ came upon that attitude among the Jews.

Let's go to Matthew, chapter 3 and see the process that John the Baptist started to change that mindset of those that God would call. We will read the first two verses of Matthew 3 and then jump to verse 5.

**Matthew 3:1.** *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,*

*2) And saying, Repent you, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (KJV)*

That was his message. Then in verse 5:

*5) Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region around about Jordan,*

*6) And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. (KJV)*

But notice this; things begin to change here.

*7) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, ... (KJV)*

His attitude changed.

*7b) ... he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

*8) Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

*9) And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. (KJV)*

God doesn't need any of us. No human is indispensable, contrary to what some people today say about themselves. God can raise up stones to replace us any time He wants to. You see, Christ brought a different way than aggrandizing the self or the religious leaders strutting around calling attention to themselves.

I already referenced it on the first day; we won't turn there, but it's in Luke 14. Christ and the disciples were invited to a wedding and Christ observed how certain people came to the wedding and they took the highest rooms. We would say today that they went into the great room and sat in the plushiest arm chair by the fire. He marveled at people that would do that. He said to them, "Don't do that. Don't sit at the highest room. Take the lowest room, so that somebody can come to you if you're down in the kitchen or the basement, the person that invited you will come and say, 'Don't sit here; come sit by the fire.'" That analogy is Jesus Christ saying to His disciples, "Come to the wedding supper despite what the world thinks of you." He said at the end of that, "Whosoever exalts himself is going to be abased, and whosoever humbles himself is going to be exalted."

So on this day, God wants beings that are dedicated to helping others and putting others before themselves. Otherwise how can you deal with 110 billion people if you have selfish individuals trying to deal with them? It's not going to work. It's not going to happen.

Paul picked up that same thought. Let's go to Philippians 2. We've read this many times. Philippians 2, verses 3 and 4. But read it with the thought in mind of having this mindset when 110 billion people are resurrected. Think about that. I'll read it out of the New King James.

***Philippians 2:3.*** *[Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit ...*  
(NKJV)

There God is saying by extension on this day, "I don't want people who are selfish. I don't want people who are conceited. That's not going to work today."

***3b) ... but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.***  
(NKJV)

These people who are resurrected on this day come before me. These people I want to help. They need us badly.

***4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*** (NKJV)

What God wants on this day are beings who have minds that have the welfare of the billions of people ahead of their own interests and of their own desires.

Think about this. On this day the people that are being resurrected, most of them will have probably committed horrible sins; butchers, murderers, rapists, thieves, torturers, and the list goes on. Many of those people who are resurrected today died committing horrible sins. The last thing they remember was committing some horrible act. With that in mind, let's go to John, chapter 8. Christ said, "Learn of Me." Let's see how He handled a situation like this.

**John 8:2.** *Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. (NKJV)*

Now when the religious leaders saw that, they started coming over. Someone was taking the spotlight and they wanted part of it.

3) *Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, (NKJV)*

Again, I think we all know that this was probably a setup. How did this just coincidentally happen, but it did. So they threw this woman down on the ground in front of Christ and said:

4) *they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. (NKJV)*

This didn't happen a few days ago or a few years ago. It happened five minutes ago. It makes you think how that all worked out.

5) *"Now Moses, in the law commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" (NKJV)*

They said this in verse 6, trying to test Him that they might have a reason to accuse Him. They could care less about the woman. They were trying to trip up Christ. But Christ stooped down and with His finger He wrote on the ground as though He didn't even hear them, which obviously probably aggravated them no end.

7) *So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." (NKJV)*

That's all He said, one sentence. Then He knelt back down in verse 8.

8) *And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

9) *And those who heard [it], being convicted by [their] own conscience ... (NKJV)*

Maybe He was writing a name and a sin and another name and another sin. We don't know.

9b) *... went out one by one, beginning with the oldest [even] to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. (NKJV)*

So after they had all gone and everything settled down, Christ stood up and looked around and didn't see anybody but the woman. He said to her:

10) *When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" (NKJV)*

And her answer is interesting because she said, "No man, Lord." My suspicion is that she was beginning to get the idea that this was no ordinary man talking to her. She probably didn't know if He was an angel; who knows what she thought, but she knew that this was something special.

11) *She said, "No man, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." (NKJV)*

The Greek word for "condemn" means *to sentence or damn*. Remember that they said she deserved stoning. He said, "I'm not sentencing you; I'm not damning you to death." But He did say, "Go and sin no more." There was no yelling, no intimidating, no instilling fear as most of us have experienced in the past. My guess is He looked right into her eyes and very calmly and very assertively and said, "I don't condemn you, but don't you do that again." So He did two things. He had compassion, but He didn't abrogate God's law. God's law is still in effect. He said, "Don't do it again."

He set the example of how we should teach, with loving concern; that people learn God's way and follow God's way and not compromise with God's way. He mixed loving concern with no compromise on God's law.

So this first point: God wants from us deep humility, but at the same time not compromising His law.

**The second point: God will have those there on this day who have learned to have deep empathy for others.**

I choose the word "empathy" because it has a lot of meanings and it encompasses understanding of others. It encompasses sympathy for others and it encompasses compassion for others. All in one word: empathy. It means *understanding, sympathy and compassion*.

Look at the empathy Christ showed when He walked this earth. We are learning from Him. Let's go to John 11, and we'll read verses 32 through 35. The context here is the death of Lazarus. He is dead and he has been dead a few days. Christ comes on the scene. They had asked for Him, but He didn't arrive before Lazarus died.

32) *Then when Mary came where Jesus was ... (NKJV)*

He was coming to the town and she went out and saw Him.

32b) *... and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*

33) *Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.*

34) *And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." (NKJV)*

It simply says:

35) *Jesus wept. (NKJV)*

He wept because others were suffering and He had empathy for them. He could feel the hurt that they had inside and He had compassion on them.

Let me read a current day example of empathy that we would do well to follow. It's an example of a young man in his thirties. His name is Welles Crowther. I'm going to paraphrase a story that comes from USA Today and a television interview that I saw of his family. It regards what happened on 9/11. Now Welles Crowther was born in New York City in May of 1977. When he was a young kid (I saw the interview of his father), his Dad said, "I wanted to do something special for my son. I took out a paper napkin and folded the napkin like you would fold a handkerchief that you would put in your shirt pocket. I folded it and put it in his shirt pocket. I said, 'That's for show. That doesn't mean anything.'" He said, "Then I gave him a red bandanna and I said, 'This is yours and I want you to keep it, because this is for blow. This isn't for show.'" It's interesting that from that time forward he kept that bandanna. It was a bond between him and his father. He carried it everywhere. He played football in high school and he always had it with him. It was in his helmet or in his pants; it was always there. Then he went to Boston College. He played Lacrosse, and his Dad told the interviewer that he always had that bandanna under his helmet. They showed pictures of the Lacrosse team. They were pretty good. The bandanna was either dangling down from under the helmet or it was at his waist. It was a symbol between him and his Dad. In 1999 he graduated with honors with a degree in economics.

He moved to New York City and took a job as an equities trader on the 104<sup>th</sup> floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. He was there several years. He told his Dad a few weeks prior to 9/11 that he was tired of looking at a computer and if he had to do this for the rest of his life, he didn't think he could handle it. He said, "I want to be a fireman. I'm seriously thinking about being a fireman." This was two or three weeks before 9/11. Then on September 11, 2001, minutes after United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower between the 77<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> floors (he worked above that) he called his mother from his office on his cell phone and said, "Mom, this is Welles. I want you to know I'm okay." So he made his way down after that to the 78<sup>th</sup> floor. There is a sky lobby where people gathered together and he encountered a group of survivors. They were huddled and waiting for help. There was a woman named Ling Young who was badly burned. She had blood all over her glasses and she couldn't see. Crowther came down the steps carrying another woman over his back. Ling Young said that he directed them in a strong authoritative voice, "Get to the stairway." They all gathered there and he led them down the stairs with his woman on his back. They followed him

fifteen floors down and they met some other people; they were down well below where things were shut off, and some other people could take them and direct them down to the street level. When he took the woman off his back, guess what he did? He went right back up again. He could have gone out to safety, but he went right back up. He returned to the 78<sup>th</sup> floor and by this time he had his bandanna around his nose because of all the smoke. He found another group of survivors, which included a woman named Judy Wein; she worked on the 103<sup>rd</sup> floor. She somehow made it down to the 78<sup>th</sup> floor. She had a broken arm and cracked ribs and a punctured lung. She said that he assisted in putting out fires and administering first aid. Once he did that, (I'm quoting her who is quoting him) he said, "Everyone who can stand, stand now. If you can help others, do so." He got them all up and he started back down the stairs again. She said in this interview, "If he hadn't had come back, I would not have made it. People can live a hundred years and not have the compassion, the wherewithal to do what he did." He took them back down to lower floors and dropped them off. Then guess what he did? He went back upstairs again. He headed up, and a few minutes later the South Tower collapsed. We know what happened. Of course, Daisi really knows what happened that day. His body was not found until six months and eight days later. It was found among the rubble alongside several fire fighters who were there and he was trying to help the fire fighters.

The Crowther family knew nothing of these details. All they know is they got the call from their son and didn't hear a thing until the tower collapsed, and then six months later they found the remains of their boy. In the interim, a New York Times article came out and they were interviewing a woman and she said, "Some man in a red bandanna saved my life." The parents knew immediately that that was their son. This led to the mother having a meeting with all of those people who had noticed that article and remembered the red bandanna, and they got them all together. The women named Wein and Young confirmed by the photographs what Welles was indeed the man wearing the red bandanna. According to the combined accounts, he saved about a dozen people before losing his own life.

Welles Crowther's legacy is what? ... empathy, compassion, sacrificing oneself for others. As Christ said in Mark 12, a scribe came up to him and said, "What is the great commandment?" Christ told him both commandments and the scribe said, "You are absolutely right. Keeping those two commandments is more than all of the burnt offerings that have ever been offered." Christ said, "You have said well. You are not far from the Kingdom of God." When Welles is resurrected with that kind of character, he is going to be a young man who is not far from the Kingdom of God, easy to teach, a helper, someone with the right attitude.

I spend this time doing this because this should be the same attitude we have today, developing empathy and compassion for other people. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 12. We'll read verses 25 through 27. These are not new scriptures, but think about these in relation to the attitude Welles Crowther had who did not have God's holy spirit and project that to us and what our attitude should be with God's holy spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:25.** *That there should be no schism (division) in the body, but [that] the members should have the same care for one another.*  
26) *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with [it]; (NKJV)*

When Welles came down the second time and remembered that there were still people above him suffering, and he couldn't ignore it and he went back up.

26b) *or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with [it].*  
27) *Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (NKJV)*

You see when we think about it, God wants people with empathy on that day, so how do we develop empathy? Well, the fact is the trials we suffer today help us to do that. Give an example of just back pain. If you've never had back pain, you don't have a clue what it's like. You can't feel for other people because you've never had back pain. I've heard it so many times when somebody gets back pain, usually later in life. They say, "Oh, I just didn't realize pain could be this bad." One of them said, "I kind of blew off all the people who had back pain before this, because I didn't know what it was all about. Now I see it in a whole different light." When we have back pain, when we have hips, elbows, what Kiki went through with her arm, what it does is it gives us an appreciation for what other people are going through. Sometimes God allows those things to come upon us, as painful as they are and as much as we wish it would go away, He allows it to come upon us so in the world tomorrow we will know what these people are going through. Otherwise we won't have any feeling for them. So we must develop empathy now because it is absolutely necessary in the world tomorrow on this day.

I'm pleased to say we are learning. I get emails from all over and people who have had trials are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from God's people through cards and letters and emails. Daisi said that to me when she had this IRS problem. She said, "People I've never met wrote to me and contacted me. I feel they're praying for me and I know they're praying for me." Look at the result.

So, the second characteristic is that we must develop empathy for all people, not just in the church, but for all people, because ultimately all people are going to be resurrected on this day.

**The third point:** God will have those there on this day who learned to treat all people with dignity and respect and fairness, no bigots and no prejudice.

Let's go to James 2 and find the defining scripture there. James paints quite a picture, and I think some of us in the church over the years have seen this.

**James 2:1.** *My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons.*  
2) *For if there should come into your assembly (Sabbath service) a man with gold rings, in fine apparel... (NKJV)*

He drives up in a nice car, polished shoes, everything matches, and maybe his wife too. Everything is top drawer.

*2b) ... and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, (NKJV)*

He might smell. Back in New Testament times the slaves may have come to church in rags. They might not have had a bath. They came to church. He's drawing an analogy, the wealthy slave owner versus the slave.

*3) and if you have respect to him that wears the gay clothing (vocabulary has changed in two thousand years) and says unto him, "Sit here in this good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit at my feet."*

*4) Are you not then partial in yourselves and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

*5) Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world ... (NKJV)*

John Yavelak talked about that, the regular folks of the world.

*5b) ... [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

*6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? (NKJV)*

Don't the politicians just mess us over all the time, and they're wealthy.

*7) Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? (NKJV)*

The government is doing that through every politician.

*8) If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, ["You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"] you do well;*

*9) But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (NKJV)*

And if you break one, you break them all. He goes on to say:

*10) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point,] he is guilty of all. (NKJV)*

I'll have to say the greater church, past as well as present, has not always done a good job of this.

I remember back a few years, I was ordained an elder on Trumpets of 1974. We went to the Feast in the Poconos that year. Here I am, this newly minted elder and I'm bopping into a ministerial meeting. It was my first chance to ever go there. It was in the



administration building on the Pocono grounds. They had a head table, and Garner Ted Armstrong was there and several evangelists and a lot of the muckety-mucks were there. The rest of us were at long tables scattered throughout the room. I walked up and across the table from me there were people already seated, and there was a lady and her husband right across from me. I put out my hand and introduced myself, and before my fanny could hit the chair, she said, "When did you graduate from Ambassador College?" I said, "I never went." She looked at me and then lifted her head with her nose in the air and turned and immediately engaged in a conversation with the person next to her. I thought, "Oops! What happened?" Well, because I didn't graduate from Ambassador College, I wasn't worth talking to. You see, that is respect of persons, and I've been on the receiving end of many such things.

I have a little bit of feeling of what it is like to be a black man or black woman in a white man's world, because that happened within the Church of God. As an aside, Pacific Church of God will never, ever, have a head table. I guarantee you that. But the ministry here is here to serve, not to be served.

We must rid ourselves of bigotry and prejudice and favoritism before Christ returns, because He is not going to have it on this day. If He has leaders on this day, spirit beings who promote prejudice and bigotry and division through respect of persons, we're going to start the whole process all over again! It can't happen. He will not have it, because these billions will have had a belly full of discrimination, prejudice and bias. They need leaders who will treat them with equal respect, equal dignity, equal honor and care for all with the same degree of concern.

So today you see, we need to show God that we will treat not only our brothers and sisters, but all people with whom we've come in contact with dignity and respect, because the human race ultimately are our brothers and sisters.

**The fourth point: God will have those who have learned to sacrifice themselves, to give of themselves.**

When you think about it, what did Christ do? He paid the ultimate sacrifice. He didn't come to be served. He came to give, and He gave in such a powerful way that He gave His life. We won't turn there, Romans 12:1; we've talked about it many times. It says we need to be not a dead sacrifice, but a living sacrifice. We talked about it the first day. They knew what dead sacrifices were all about, but here Paul is saying:

***Romans 12:1.** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. (NKJV)*

Notice Luke 6, verses 37 and 38. Christ is bringing a new way. He's talking about a new way to look at things contrary to the world that He found Himself in Jerusalem and Judea.

**Luke 6:37.** “Judge not ... (NKJV)

The Greek means *to condemn or to damn*.

*37b) ... and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (NKJV)*

Notice verse 38, He says:

**38) “Give ... (NKJV)**

A simple word, just “give”, and in addition to give, it can mean *to minister* but it also can mean *to yield*. Don’t always insist on your own way.

*38b) ... and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (NKJV)*

The King James says that you *mete out, or you put out or judge*. With whatever yardstick you use, it’s going to be measured the same way back to you. If you condemn, condemnation is going to come back. If you give, then you’re going to be given to. Remember Paul asked Philemon to give to Onesimus, his slave that ran away. Paul wrote to Philemon and said, “Take him back.” And he certainly implied, “Give him his freedom.”

God asks the same from us today, to give and forgive. We need to do both, to give and forgive. As spirit beings, here is the neat thing; we will have unlimited ability to give and to serve these billions. We don’t have to eat; we don’t have to sleep. We will have unlimited energy and power to give and serve these billions, but we need to develop the attitude of sacrifice to serve today. We can’t wait until we are changed. God won’t allow that. We have to develop that attitude today.

**The fifth point: God will have those who have learned to love their fellow man.**

Jack talked about this very well yesterday and said, “The weightier matter.” What is the weightier matter? It’s love. That’s the weightiest matter of all. It’s been quoted many times in Matthew 22 and Matthew 19. When people asked Christ what is the greatest commandment, He said two; love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself. You see, God is giving us the opportunity to practice loving our neighbor now, because it’s going to be needed on this day. We can’t say, “Well, I’m going to hate these rascals out there. They’re all unconverted and they’re doing this and that, and I just hate them all.” Then we’re going to throw some switch on this day and have us love all these people? We’re probably worse in many ways than the people we rub elbows with. It’s not going to happen. We have to learn to love people today.

We won't turn there, but in 1 Corinthians 12. It's a chapter that talks about spiritual gifts. We're going to turn to 1 Corinthians 13, so you may as well turn over that way.

1 Corinthians 12:13, the context being spiritual gifts. What does Paul say? He said to covet these gifts that he was talking about: prophecy, healing and speaking in languages, etc. He said it's okay to covet those gifts but:

**1 Corinthians 12:31.** *But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. (NKJV)*

That Greek word for excellent is hyperbole. We get our English word hyperbole, but it's hyperbole and it *means throwing beyond others*. It's an athletic term. You could throw a javelin or a discus or a shot put. Hyperbole, meaning you sent it farther than anyone else. It means *far exceeding or beyond measure*.

So Paul is saying, "I'm showing you a way that is further, greater and better than anything else. Then he jumps right into 1 Corinthians 13:1. He tells us in the first three verses that, "Hey, if I have faith, if I have prophecy, if I can move mountains, if I have all knowledge and know all this stuff it isn't worth a hoot."

Now verse 4, as we start to read this, he says, "Let's think on these virtues, these verses in relation to what's going to be needed today in front of billions of people.

**1 Corinthians 13:4.** *Love suffers long ... (NKJV)*

Do you think these people might need a little patience after what they have been through?

*4b) ... [and] is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; (NKJV)*

We're not there to strut in front of these people and aggrandize the self.

*5) does not behave rudely (sets a good example), does not seek its own (seeks the welfare of others), is not provoked ... (NKJV)*

People might say things to provoke. They are just coming alive.

*5b) ... thinks no evil;*

*6) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*

*7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (NKJV)*

Then to verse 13:

*13) And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these [is] love. (NKJV)*

They're going to need that more than anything, because most of them probably never really had it. They don't know what it's all about. Yes, there will be some hard cases. There will be some difficult people. This is just my speculation, but you come up to some guy and he wants to take your head off. He's angry and doesn't like God's way. Maybe we will have a spiritual straitjacket. You can just think it and all of a sudden he's frozen. He's just frozen solid and he feels like he's in the grip of the most powerful thing he has ever come up against. The only thing he can move are his eyeballs. He's standing there, and you look at him and talk to him and say, "Look, I just told you this is the way and here's what you just did. We're not going to allow that. Do you understand what I'm saying? If you understand what I'm saying, move your eyeballs up and down. Now I'm going to say it again. This is the way you should go. Do you understand what I'm saying? Okay, now I'm going to let you go, but I'm going to watch you and see what you do. Are you ready for this?" You let him go and see what happens. There's no violence, there's no fear, but there is a respect of power I'll guarantee you. We will teach as Christ taught, because remember it was said: 1 John 3:14: *We have passed from death to life when we love the brethren*, and we have to love them so much that we want to teach them and show them the right way.

Passing from death to life and loving the brethren, but you see the key is that all people are ultimately going to be our brothers and sisters. So we better start. I'm speaking to myself. The person at the grocery store, the guy that cuts you off in traffic; he may be rude and loud or whatever; we have to get our blinders off and realize that we're going to be dealing with all of these people some day. Therefore, we need to demonstrate to God now that we have His love inside us and that love will be absolutely essential on this day, and those who do not have that love will not be there. That is a sobering thought.

Now, let's wrap this up. I asked in the beginning: what does God want from His servants on this day? Do you know what the simple answer is? It's the same things He wants from us right now; it's no different. He wants us to bear the fruits of His spirit now in order to be there on this day. We can read the fruits of God's spirit. We know what they are, but they have to be essential parts of our character now. God wants those practiced now. No more "Do what I say, not what I do." We must develop His mind now, because before it's all over, God is going to test us like He did with Abraham in sacrificing Isaac. He had to go sacrifice his son, and it came to the point where the knife was coming down and Christ stepped in and told him to stop. Christ said, "Now I know you're going to follow Me." So God and Christ are going to set up situations in our lives between now and the end where He can say, "Now I know. Now I know that they will have love and compassion; they will have no respect of persons, they will have empathy for others and they will treat all people with dignity and respect and they will be willing to sacrifice themselves."

Now some people, I think, erroneously believe that after we are changed to spirit that God is going to wave a magic wand and will give us perfect character. I met a man who said, "God will have to get rid of this sin when He changes me into spirit." No, that's not

going to happen. We have to develop the character now and God will give us opportunity until He can say, "I know that I want them with me on this day."

We will have unlimited capacity to learn and grow, and we're going to spend an eternity learning from God and Christ. It's like God is over here and we are here when we are newly minted spirit beings. So the first year or two we will maybe get to here, maybe half way and then in the next few years we'll get another half way and then another half way and another half way. But guess what, as long as you do that, you'll never really get totally there. We get so close that you would take a microscope to see the difference. But you see, we will never achieve the level of God. Why? Because God has had an eternity. We haven't; we will never have an eternity because we had a beginning. He doesn't have a beginning. Therefore, we are going to always look to God for guidance, wisdom, leadership and Jesus Christ right with Him. We will always be looking to them. No matter how much we grow, they will always be setting the example and we will want that example because we will need that example.

So let's prepare today for this Last Great Day. Remember Revelation 19:7.

***Revelation 19:7.*** *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the bride) has made herself ready. (NKJV)*

As we go forward from this Feast, let's use this time that we have. We don't know how long, but let's use the time we have to prepare ourselves to be together on The Last Great Day.