



## ***Going Deeper***

Greetings, our dear partners!

We're living in some pretty uncertain times, friends! Just weeks from now the United States will hold the most critical election to date, there is war waging in the Middle East and Ukraine, threats of war around the world, and the uncertainty of catastrophic weather events around the world (Matt. 24:6-8). Even now as we write this letter to you, there is another catastrophic hurricane brewing in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the state of Florida again. And as many of you know our daughter lives in Florida, so we are praying for divine protection over her home and everyone else in the path of this storm in Jesus name! This tells us that we're living at the end of the age, which confirms even more that we need to come into a deeper fellowship with the Father and be in tune with the Holy Spirit now more than ever before. We need to be so reliant on the Holy Spirit to lead us every single day so that we aren't led by our emotions and the distractions of the world.

We understand the importance of relying solely on the Holy Spirit because of what we went through before we escaped Romania over 40 years ago while living under the communist regime. Our lives were in danger every day, especially being involved in underground churches and evangelizing throughout the country. There were many instances when heeding to the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit meant the difference between life and death. You might be thinking, *that's a bold statement to make*, but it's true. Just our escape out of Romania alone is a testament to the importance of heeding to the voice of the Holy Spirit! John was put on a "red list" and followed by the secret police everywhere he went, so many times he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to get off at a different bus stop instead of the one he was supposed to take, not knowing that the secret police would be waiting to arrest him at his original stop. There are many, many other stories like these we could tell you, and we believe that one day the Lord will make a way for us to write a book about our story!

Many of you might be asking yourselves, *How do I come into a deeper relationship with God where I hear clearly from the Holy Spirit and not be led by my emotions or worldly thinking or human reasoning? How do I differentiate between the Holy Spirit and my own emotions and reasonings?* Here at JMM we've always encouraged the body of Christ to come into a deeper relationship with the Lord through the Holy Spirit, so that each believer can *hear and know* the voice of the Holy Spirit clearly. Jesus said that His sheep (us) know His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). The first and most important way to know Him and His voice is by being rooted in His Word. When His Word has penetrated deep into our bone marrow and DNA, we become immovable (1 Cor. 15:58)! Hallelujah! The more Word we have stored inside, the more we can discern the voice of the Holy Spirit from the voices of the world and our own human reasoning. But many of us don't take the time to seek His Word daily, so we end up chasing answers, directions, and prophecies from other people and their experiences which can lead to confusion. This can indirectly cause us to put our trust and reliance more in man than in God.

That's why in this current season, the Lord has been leading us to encourage the body of Christ to come into a deeper fellowship with the Father through the Holy Spirit. The days and months pass by so quickly, and we get so caught up in the busyness of life. And in all this busyness of life, we can easily become worldly minded and confused, which causes our emotions to rise up, and our spiritual walk with the Lord becomes out of balance. That's why fellowship with the Father through the Holy Spirit is vital to our daily lives.

***I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned. If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. John 15:5-7AMPC***

A deeper relationship with God is not something we can earn or gain because we somehow "deserve" it, or because we've worked for it by reading and praying daily. It's a choice that we intentionally make to stay in His presence ALL the time because we *enjoy our fellowship with Him!* We enjoy being in His presence everyday because He leads and guides us by the Holy Spirit. In the same way we intentionally want and choose to have close relationships with spouses, kids, mentors, friends, etc, how much more does the Father desire a deep relationship with us, His children? When we finally reach that level of deep relationship with the Father, we will be so content in His presence and filled with His peace that fear, doubt and unbelief will have no place to stay. And just like Hebrews 4:3 says, once we've entered into that deep, trusting relationship with the Father, then, **and only then**, we can rest in His promises.

***For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest; and this He said although [His] works had been completed and prepared [and waiting for all who would believe] from the foundation of the world.*** Hebrews 4:3 AMPC

Are you hungry enough to go into a deeper relationship with the Lord? Would you like to enter into His rest and **choose to believe** His Word even when there's turmoil and chaos all around? It takes intentional effort and discipline, but the more you desire to fellowship and commune with Him and want His will for your life, the more the voices of the world and human reasoning become silenced. That's how we, John and Alexandra, know the will of God for our lives- by being in fellowship with God and desiring more and more of Him every day. We will never trade any earthly possessions, power or fame for the joy of knowing Him and being known by Him. That's our desire for you too, friend. We pray that you will be solely led by the Lord through the Holy Spirit so that no matter what's going on around you, no matter what you hear on the news, no matter what your human reasoning or emotions tell you, or what the world says is "politically correct", you will not be moved! This is our mission here at JMM! To teach and exhort that body of Christ that the Lord desires a deep relationship with us, and that He loves us so much that He sent His Son **for us**. We will never stop telling people to go deeper and deeper with Jesus until we finish our race! YOU are part of this mission here at JMM and we are so grateful for each one of you, dear partners!

In His Service,  
*John & Alexandra*