**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

**OCTOBER 2020**

**GO DEEPER IN ME AND COME UP HIGHER TO ME**

Greetings to you in the wonderful and loving name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, son of the Living God. For those of you on the East Coast of the country, we are experiencing some Fall season temperatures and it feels refreshing. I trust that where ever you are as you read this Devotional teaching that you are doing well.

Last month, we concluded our teaching entitled “**Hold On To Your Peace**”. I trust that the teaching was a Great encouragement to your heart, as it was mine. This month as I pondered on what I would share, I kept hearing these words: **Go Deeper and Come up Higher**, so that is what we will be sharing about in our devotional this month of October 2020.

As I heard those words in my spirit; **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher**, I have sensed a strong pull of the Holy Spirit to Intercede in a different and higher dimension of the Spirit and to draw closer and closer to Him as never before.

We are living in unprecedented, fearful and uncertain times and if we ever needed the Hand of God on our lives as Believers in Jesus Christ, we need it now. I really believe the Holy Spirit is sounding a Clarion Call to His people to **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher**. I also believe that it is essential for our spiritual well-being.

We as born again, blood brought children of God must not and should not miss the call and pull of God by His precious Holy Spirit to **Go Deeper and Go Up Higher**.

We will start our teaching looking in the book of **James 4:7-8** from the King James Version. However, before we read this verse, I will give a short commentary of these (2) verses before we read it from **(KJV)** ***7****Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* ***8****Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

**Commentary**: *Submit therefore to God* is a military term which means "to align oneself under authority” (These words also) implies that believers must allow God to enable them to submit in a completed way to His will.

The next part of the scripture: *Resist the Devil* literally means, "take a stand against” Then the last part of **verse 7** says: *he will flee from you*, this is saying Satan will flee before God’s provision and our faith but only for a season. Because submitting to God and Resisting the Devil is a constant act of our will and has to be exercised moment by moment, hour by hour and even day by day sometimes.

Verse **8** says *Draw Near To God* and this reflects Old Testament regulations for the priests that is now applicable to all believers. Because of the finished work of the Cross, we as New Testament believers can now **draw near to God** without the intervention of a Priest. We believers in Christ Jesus can draw near to God and God draws near.

*He will draw near to you* is not a works-righteousness emphasis, but a promise that God responds to our faith. The last part of verse 8 says *Cleanse your hands ye sinners*, this is interested that James refers to us as sinners but let’s see what the commentary has to say about this part of **verse 8**: This is an OT metaphor that relates to the ceremonial purification worship rites for OT priests. It became an OT idiom for the turning from and removal of sin. The "hand" becomes a revealer of the "heart." We become what we think, what we dwell on mentally. Believers need to have clean hearts and hands, as well as a single commitment to our Lord.

Lastly the verse says: *and purify your hearts, ye double minded.* This is not just outward ceremonial cleansing but inward spiritual cleansing. James is clearly asserting that believers' motives and lifestyles make a real difference in the way one experiences the Christian life. Peace, security, joy, and effectiveness are not automatic.

Wow, there is so much meat and substance in those (2) verses. Now let’s read it in the Passion translation before moving on to a few more scriptures before closing

(TPT) it declares: ***7****So then, surrender to God. Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will turn and run away from you.* ***8****Move your heart closer and closer to God, and he will come even closer to you.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4%3A7-8&version=TPT#fen-TPT-11627a)*] But make sure you cleanse your life, you sinners, and keep your heart pure and stop doubting.[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4%3A7-8&version=TPT#fen-TPT-11627b)*]* Let’s make a decision today to **Go Deeper in God and Come Up Higher To Him**!

In **Jerimiah 29:11-13** we see the Prophet Jerimiah declaring these words to the people of God (Israel at the time) but we as Gentile believer can also take hold of this promise and declaration. As we **Go Deeper in Him and Come Up Higher To Him**, we have to seek Him and Pursue Him. He is longing for us to come after Him with our Whole Heart, let read this scripture now from the Amplified version: ***11****For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,’ says the Lord, ‘plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.* ***12****Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear [your voice] and I will listen to you.* ***13****Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity] and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Our last scripture in part I of our teaching will be in **Psalm 119:2**, let see how it reads in the Amplified version: *Blessed and favored by God are those who keep His testimonies,
And who [consistently] seek Him and long for Him with all their heart.*

I love this scripture because when we **Go Deeper and Come Up Higher** in the Lord, we have to keep His ways (His Word) and long for Him with our whole heart.

In this New Decade and Era, God is making even a louder Clarion Call to His people to not just know Him as Savior but Lord and in so doing we will make Him Known to the world but we can’t truly do that until we **Go Deeper In Him and Come Up Higher To Him**.

I pray that this short devotional has been an encouragement to you as it has been to me to pursue the Master as never before as we look and wait earnestly for His return. We look forward to sharing with you next month as we will start part II. Remember, God has **Blessed you to be a Blessing**!