

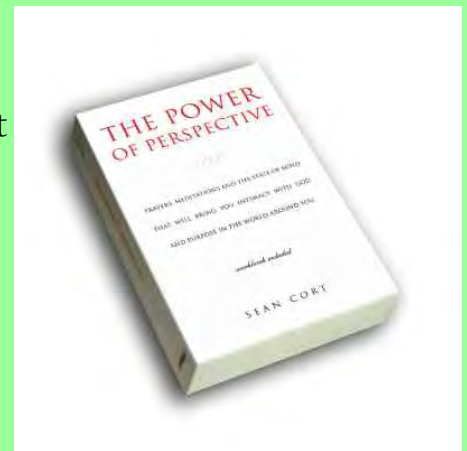
SNACK FOOD FOR THE SOUL

LIFE ENHANCING DEVOTIONALS
INSPIRED BY THE BOOK, *THE
POWER OF PERSPECTIVE*. WRITTEN BY
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WEEK OF 4/5/2010

Feast on this...

HOLDING PATTERN - PART TWO

HE IS RISEN! These are three distinct words that separate the Christian faith from any other faith and belief system ever known. God the almighty and sovereign creator of all we know reached from eternity into time and deposited His first fruit as both ransom and sacrifice for our sin. What seed do we know that was planted thousands of years ago and yet still produces fruit to this day?



What blood type do we know that can be shed on the ground and maintain its efficacy for two thousand years? The seed of Abraham that was deposited into this earth has sprung forth the living vine of salvation that flourishes to

this day.

But did you know that Jesus was in a holding pattern from the moment He was born until He uttered the words "It is finished?" The purpose for Christ's life was not in raising Lazarus nor was it feeding the multitudes manna. Christ's purpose became evident from the moment he uttered, "It is Finished".

Jesus was in a holding pattern for 33 years. As proof to all spiritual and natural hosts in time and eternity past, present and future, Jesus descended into Hell to set the captives free, then appeared to a few witnesses and had the first communion. As He ascended to be seated at the right hand of His Father, He told of His return.

After most of us have meditated on the power and significance of the cross in our Easter church service, we must now enter another week of our respective holding patterns. Jesus' disciples had no inclination as to how long it would be before His return but they knew they had to work fast and diligently to preach to the lost. This began their holding pattern as well.

The week after Christ's crucifixion was a very exciting time. Although much like our very own lives, disciples had to face walking through unfriendly territories and distant lands. Because they personally experienced the resurrected Christ, they had a firm and strong hope in the outcome of the task ahead.

It was easier for them to deal with liars, hypocrisy, mean spirited behavior, racism, sexism and the spirit of murder that seems to permeate the fabric of society. In the bible Moses experienced an 80 year holding pattern until God raised him up to lead the children of Israel out from under Pharaoh's rule. Joshua was also in a holding pattern until God took Moses. Jonah was in a holding pattern until he cried out to God from the belly of the fish. Ruth was in a holding pattern until Boaz saw her in her faithfulness to Naomi. King David's life seemingly stayed in a holding pattern until each time he sang the Lord a love song of praise and thanksgiving for his deliverance.

But for us, unless we have had the same day to day personal experience with

the Holy Spirit as these biblical servants, we will never be able to sustain ourselves through the conditions we live everyday. You must be intimate with God. Your holding pattern may simply be waiting for something positive and new to occur that feels like it was just for you. Even a sovereign God who chose to manifest Himself in the flesh still had to wait on destiny to present itself.

Not all Holding Patterns are bad. Some holding patterns come along to save us much like Jesus did. If your holding pattern is a painful one take courage in understanding that you may never know how the Lord of your holding pattern will show up to release you. The Jews never expected their messiah to manifest the way He did. As a result they missed Him and even killed Him.

God may place the key to what you desperately need within a person or a situation you desperately hate. So if this holding pattern you are in is a painful one, recite these verses from my favorite worship song and remember, HE TRULY HAS RISEN!

Lead Me on Lord
From temptation
Purify me
From within
Fill my heart with
Your Holy Spirit
Take away all my sin

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

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Have an indescribably blessed week!

Sean