

1. Last week I laid the groundwork for this series of messages that I am calling a word from the Lord for 2023.
2. Last week we looked at Acts chapter 2. It was the day of Pentecost, the day in which the Holy Spirit was poured out, and after a crowd gathered to find out what all the commotion was, Peter stood up and addressed the crowd and he quoted a passage from the Old Testament book of Joel.
3. **Acts 2:15-18** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17** "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. **18** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
4. The title of last week's message was God is a God of Dreams.
5. The purpose of last week's message was to remind us that dreams, visions, and prophecies are a part of God's plan for all believers in the last days. Which I believe we are in.
6. Sons and daughters. Young and old. Servants and masters. God desires to speak to each and every person through dreams, visions, and prophecies.
7. We were not meant to be disconnected from the Lord. We were created by God to hear his voice when he speaks to us.
8. I didn't say if he speaks to us, I said when he speaks to us.
9. Jesus makes it very clear what kind of communication he desires with his children.
10. **John 10:27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
1. As we closed last week's message, I asked you to cry out to God that he will pour out his spirit again.
2. Cry out to God that he will pour out dreams, visions, and prophecies again.
11. Cry out to God that he will perform signs and wonders and miracles for us, in us, and through us again.
12. I am convinced that God desires to do those things and that he will in fact do those things, the only question is, who will allow God to do those things in and through them.
13. We cannot divorce the power of God from the people of God. What do I mean by that?

14. We are not talking about asking for and believing God for all these things while we sit in the crowd like spectators at a sporting event.
15. Like audience members at a play or a concert.
16. God is not asking us to be entertained, feel good about it, and then go home in a good mood.
17. God desires to do all of these things and more through his children, through his church, through those who have been chosen (which is all of us).
18. So, what is it that God longs and desires to do for us in 2023.
19. The word from the Lord for 2023 is this.
20. **This is your year of Jubilee.**
21. The year of jubilee is a term and an idea that we first see in the book of Leviticus chapter 25.
22. Moses was up on mount Sinai, receiving instruction from the Lord to give to the children of Israel concerning how they were supposed to live when they entered the promised land.
23. This was a part of the command God gave.

TEXT: **Leviticus 25:2-11** "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. **3** For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. **4** But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. **5** Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. **6** Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, **7** as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.'

The Year of Jubilee

8 "'Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. **9** Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. **10** Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty (freedom) throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. **11** The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you;

TITLE: **Freedom.**

INTRO:

1. Please allow me to share some events with you that have led to my standing before you today and asking you to believe that the Lord has given a word for us for 2023.
2. In late July or early August of last year, I had arrived at the church on a Sunday morning between 7 and 7:30 am like always.
3. My routine every Sunday is to drop my things off in my office, and then do a walk-through of the building, making sure that everything is ready for the services that day.
4. On Sunday, I do everything in my power to shut everything else out, and focus only on what the Lord wants to do that day.
5. I'm thinking about the message for that day, I'm thinking about the worship for that day, what the Lord might want to do during the service and in people's lives.
6. This may be a slight exaggeration but not much of one. I am so focused on the services that day that if my wife called me and told me our house was on fire, I would probably tell her to get a bucket of water, or call 911 or something, and that we could talk about the fire after church was over.
7. So, it came as very much of a surprise to me that morning when I felt the Lord speak to me the very words I am going to share with you over the next several weeks.
8. I had gone all the way through the building, made my rounds through the sanctuary, and I came back through the hallway where the offices are.
9. As I got to the corner of April's office where I turn to the right to go down the hall to my office, out of the clear blue and without warning, in my spirit I heard the words, this is your year of jubilee.
10. I am NOT saying I heard an audible voice, because I did not. But I will tell you that I so clearly sensed that the Lord was speaking to me that I stopped in my tracks and I couldn't move.
11. For a second it startled me that I would be thinking about anything that didn't have to do with that day.
12. As I stopped, trying to process what the Lord was saying, I heard

again the phrase. This is your year of jubilee.

13. Now, I know what the year of jubilee is about. I have read about the year of jubilee in my daily bible reading dozens and dozens of times, but what surprised me was that I couldn't remember the last time I had read in the bible, or heard about, or even thought about the year of Jubilee.
14. The next thing I heard the Holy Spirit say was, this is my word for you, for BFA, and for anyone who will receive it in 2023.
15. I mentioned last week that this is not the first time I have shared a word from the Lord for the coming year. It is in fact the 7th time I am sharing a word from the Lord for the coming year.
16. But I haven't shared a word from the Lord for a few years, and quite honestly, even though I had planned my sermons out for about 6 months ahead, sharing a word from the Lord for 2023 wasn't even on my radar.
17. So, to say that this word from the Lord came out of nowhere is an understatement.
18. So, I'm standing there at the corner of April's office, frozen in my tracks, and the Holy Spirit just begins to wash over me what that phrase, this is your year of jubilee actually means.
19. I will be sharing more in the coming weeks about the significance of the year of Jubilee in the Old Testament, but for today I want us to focus on the most basic meaning of the word jubilee.
20. In the context of Leviticus chapter 25, the word jubilee means liberty or freedom.
21. **Leviticus 25:10-11** Sanctify the fiftieth year; make it a holy year. Proclaim freedom all over the land to everyone who lives in it—a Jubilee for you: Each person will go back to his family's property and reunite with his extended family. **11** The fiftieth year is your Jubilee year: (MSG Bible)
22. Why was a year of jubilee necessary?
23. In the years leading up to the children of Israel entering into the promised land, the Lord laid out very meticulously to Moses, and then later to Joshua, how the land was to be distributed and laid out.
24. Each tribe was to live in a designated part of the land, and within that tribe, families would be given an allotment of land. Then, individuals in that family would be assigned specific tracts of land, and

this division of the land was not to be messed with.

25. This land was considered a promised inheritance from the Lord.
26. When they entered the promised land, Joshua and the leaders of Israel divided the land and assigned the land and distributed the land exactly how God had commanded.
27. When each of them settled into their own land, they were living exactly in the place and the state of being where God wanted them to be.
28. It was essentially God's ideal inheritance and blessing for the people.
29. But as time passed on and as life was lived and as troubles and difficulties arose God's ideal vision for his people became marred. It became distorted.
30. Someone would run into trouble. Financially or otherwise, and so because they needed the money, they would sell parts of their land to others.
31. Some would sell crops from their land to others.
32. Others would sell the house they had been living in.
33. Still others, when extreme difficulty arose in their lives, would literally sell themselves or their children to their fellow countryman as servants.
34. In the case of a servant, everything they owned would be purchased, and everything, including the members of the family would become the property of someone else.
35. So over time, God's ideal, God's perfect plan, God's perfect inheritance would become all jumbled up and messed up and eventually it would resemble nothing like God intended it to be.
36. But in order to do a reset. In order to make everything right again and put everything and everyone back where God intended them to be, every 50th year they were to declare and observe a year of jubilee. A year of liberty and a year of freedom.
37. In the year of jubilee several things happened.
38. All lands that had been sold to someone else would revert back to the original owner.
39. Every house or piece of property would revert back to the original owner.

40. Every person who had sold themselves as a servant would be granted their freedom, and they could go back to the life they had before hardship came.
41. In its most basic terms, the year of jubilee was the year when everything and everyone would go back to living as God originally intended them to live.
42. Now, go back with me to late July or early August as I am standing there in the hallway, listening to the Holy Spirit speak to my heart.
43. Knowing this background about the year of jubilee, the Holy Spirit began to show me faces. And I could see on those faces the effects of this world on our lives.
44. I could see emotional scars and hurts. I could see people who God intended to be joyful whose hearts were heavy with pain.
45. I could see people whom God had created with gifts and talents and abilities, and yet because of the wounds of this life, they doubted their worth at all.
46. I could see people whom God created with hope and with a future, but because of their failures, because of the disappointments of this life, hopelessness had crept in and overshadowed them.
47. I could see people whom God had created to be whole, who were broken and left in pieces.
48. I could see people in whom God had created beauty and splendor, people made in the image of God almighty, who instead bore the image of shame and regret.
49. I could see others who were created rich in love, but the love had been crowded out by doubts and suspicion.
50. I could see still others who had been created to be confident and sure of who they were in Christ, and yet they have been left timid and insecure.
51. I could see those who had been created by God to dream and hope for the future who instead spend much of their lives reliving the past.
52. I could see others who had been created to be the spotless bride of Christ, who instead have been left soiled and sad.
53. I saw others who were created for fellowship and friendship, who instead feel the sting of loneliness.

54. I saw others who were created by God for successful living, who instead continually relive the failures and the mistakes they have made.
55. I saw still others whom God created to experience the fullness of life in Christ, who instead have been left with feelings of emptiness.
56. I saw some who had been created to be tools in the hand of the Master to build His kingdom, and yet they feel as though they are no more than rejects on the reject pile.
57. I saw some who were created to take spiritual territory, to cause the enemy to run in defeat, who were left huddled in a dark corner in fear.
58. I saw still others who were created to shine brightly with the Joy of the lord, whose days seem filled with darkness and sadness.
59. And one by one, as I saw the faces and I became aware of the pain, I heard the lord say, this is their year of jubilee.
60. This is their year of liberation and freedom.
61. This is the year where I bring restoration.
62. This is the year where, by the supernatural power of God, they are transformed into what I intended them to be in the first place.
63. This is the year where the enemy of their souls is put back in his place, and my children are restored to their rightful place as sons and daughters of the king.

Conclusion:

1. I don't have any proof of what God spoke to me.
2. I don't have a video of what played out in my mind that I could provide as evidence.
3. I don't have anything in my hands that I could give you to prove what I saw and what I experienced.
4. But what I can tell you is that for the last 5 months, the hope and the joy that I experienced that morning has not faded.
5. It hasn't lessened. It hasn't become weaker it has become stronger.
6. What I can tell you with full faith and confidence is that the same God who was able to restore the nation of Israel and bring everything and everyone back to their rightful place is still able to do the same for me,

and for you, and for us.

7. What I can tell you is that the blood of Jesus has not lost its power.
8. The Spirit of God has not been weakened and watered down.
9. The price that the lamb of God that was slain for the sins of the world paid has not diminished in value.
10. And I can tell you that the word of God is still the bread of life.
11. James the earthly brother of Jesus said it this way.
12. **James 1:16-18** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.
13. I would like to aske everyone who will to gather around the front.
14. You are welcome to be as close together or as far apart as you would like.
15. I would like us together, with our voices and our bodies, not just our minds, to express faith.
16. To be clear. I am not asking you to express faith in what I said. I am asking you to express faith in who Jesus is.
17. Lord Jesus, I believe you are who you say you are.
18. Lord Jesus, I want you to be you.
19. Lord Jesus, I want you to do what you want to do.