

The Fire That Endures — The Mark of a Kainos Being

Text: Acts 7 – 8:1

Introduction

This past week we witnessed an historic moment ... Decades old - sworn enemies – sat together and signed a peace agreement – in the middle east ... This was not an isolated incident as all year long – we have been witnessing peace deals and peace declarations all across the world ... Like never before – our world has been saturated with talks of peace.

And yet – in the midst of all this global peace – China is now stirring the pot — pressing alliances — provoking disputes — and desperately trying to extend its influence ... What may look like diplomacy – is actually posturing ... And if you have ears to hear – sight to see beneath the headlines – discernment that can cut through all the clamor – you may sense a rising tension rather than a peaceful calm ... See – Jesus warned us in Matthew 24:4 – when He stated - - **Take heed that no one deceives you** ... Paul clearly stated in 1Thess. 5:3 - - **When they say peace and safety sudden destruction comes.**

What I've observed – and what deeply concerns me – is that the church seems to struggle when it comes to hearing and discerning the voice of the Spirit – in matters pertaining to earthly events ... This was clearly seen in the 2020 election – when many prominent prophetic voices boldly declared that President Trump would win his second term ... Now – no matter how you feel the election went down – why didn't the “prophetic” see or hear clearly.

What deeply concerns me is – society has made a major push concerning this issue of – we must trust – without question – whatever the so-called experts tell us ... This was clearly evidenced in the covid era ... We have been discouraged and even ridiculed – from doing any type of our own research into any matter ... This is purposeful in its intent and this behavior has also crept its way into the church ... Let me simply call it what it truly is – Indoctrination.

The church needs to get back to its roots as a new creation ekklesia ... What do I mean? ... All throughout our time in this series – an underlying principle keeps bubbling to the surface – Discernment ... Seeing clearly in the spirit ... Cutting through the clutter and noise of this natural realm ... Discerning the heart and mind of the Spirit so that true wisdom and guidance may freely flow ... Once again – we see this in the life of Stephen ... A true kainos being who have been inwardly transformed by his Pentecostal experience – facing persecution – which resulted in death – and through it all – he endured

So, how is the church to deal with – a world that is shouting peace and a body that has forgotten how to listen ... We must dig deep into the Word and we must realign ourselves with our Oneness in Him ... Because every time the world declares peace – our ears need to perk up and discern what the Spirit is saying ... Catch this revelational truth – deception always precedes persecution ... When persecution arises – discernment must arise ... Once discernment arises – then clarity will open our eyes – wisdom will fill our mouth – and influence will permeate the atmosphere that surrounds us ... And through it all – we will be that shining light – that kainos being – on full display – for all to see.

The Discernment of a Kainos Being

Now – let's dive deeper into the need and importance of discernment ... Because this is the hour when every believer must see clearly – hear accurately – and move in spiritual awareness ... Jesus said – **Take heed that no one deceives you** ... He was not trying to frighten His followers – He was trying to keep them awake ... Deception doesn't come – cloaked in a red cape – wearing horns ... It comes cloaked with a big smile – declaring “all is well”

Jesus later said – **You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky – but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. (Matt 16:3)** ... That statement wasn't just historical – it was prophetic ... He was saying – you can predict the weather – but you can't discern the wind of the Spirit ... You can read the clouds – but you can't perceive the shifts of My Kingdom.

And here is the danger – when the church loses discernment – it begins to call peace what God calls deception ... The prophet Jeremiah said – **They have healed the wound of My people lightly – saying peace – peace – when there is no peace. (Jer 6:14)** ... That same deceptive spirit is still at work in our world today ... The headlines may announce peace – but it's a peace built on compromise ... Nations may shake hands – but their hearts remain far from God – Who is the true Peace-maker.

Discernment is the eye of the kainos being ... Jesus said – **If your eye is single – your whole body will be full of light – but if your eye is evil – your whole body will be full of darkness. (Matt 6:22-23)** ... A single eye is the key to a focused – undistracted spirit ... It sees through the clutter of this world and stays fixed – listening to the heart of God ... It isn't distracted by headlines or swayed by emotions ... It sees kingdom realities – and hears what the Spirit is saying ... The world shouts peace – but the Spirit whispers – wake up ... And those who are truly born of the Spirit will hear that whisper – even when the world grows loud ... Because a kainos being doesn't live by sight – they live by illumination ... Their inner eye stays single – and that light within them exposes every deception around them.

Paul warned – **When they say peace and safety – sudden destruction comes upon them. (1 Thess 5:3)** ... He wasn't trying to scare the church – he was trying to awaken them ... Because the moment your eye drifts from light – darkness creeps in ... Catch this – discernment doesn't panic – it prepares ... It doesn't react to every rumor – it responds to revelation ... A kainos being lives anchored – eyes single – heart attuned – spirit aligned with kingdom resonance ... They don't live restless – they live ready ... They're not fearful – they're faithful ... They're not chasing information – they're walking in illumination ... And that's exactly what we see in Stephen – a man so full of the Holy Spirit – that the noise around him – could not confuse the voice within him.

Spiritual Nugget

First comes drowsiness ... Then comes deception ... And once deception settles in – persecution is never far behind ... The Spirit is sounding the alarm – wake up – be filled – and discern the time you are in ... Because this is not the hour to coast – this is the hour to be alert

... To see what others refuse to see – and to stand when others choose to sleep ... That is the posture of a kainos being – awake – aware – and aligned in Oneness with the Spirit of Truth.

The Endurance of a Kainos Being

Once your eyes have been opened – you must decide how you will stand ... Because discernment always leads to a test ... Revelation will be proven through endurance ...

Stephen not only saw clearly – he stood firmly ... He did not fold when the pressure rose – he did not let fear rewrite his faith ... The same Spirit that filled him also sustained him ... And that's the true mark of a kainos being ... Not that they shout loud in blessing – but that they stand strong in testing ... Endurance is the proof that your revelation is real ... Anyone can praise when the wind is calm – but only a Spirit-filled life can stand when the storm breaks loose.

Now here's what that endurance looks like when it's lived out ... It isn't some abstract idea or lofty goal ... It's practical – visible – and powerful ... When the Spirit truly fills a kainos being – endurance takes on form ... It shows itself in peace that cannot be shaken ... In forgiveness that cannot be provoked ... And in vision that cannot be dimmed ... Let's look at how Stephen carried these three marks in the middle of his testing

Unshakeable Peace

The Bible says – *You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26: 3)* ... Stephen stood in the middle of chaos yet peace never left him ... The council raged – but his spirit rested ... Stones were raised – but his spirit remained steadfast ... That is not calmness manufactured by his humanity ... That is calmness – resulting from his Oneness in Christ ... This kind of peace does not flow from a personality – it comes from His Presence ... When the fire of Pentecost truly burns inside a believer it does more than excite – it stabilizes and anchors ... You can tell how full a person is – by how still and secure they stand – when everything around them shakes.

Forgiveness

As the stones struck his body - Stephen cried out – **Lord do not hold this sin against them ...** Those words were echo by Jesus when HE hung on the Cross – **Father forgive them for they know not what they do.** ... Could it be – the Spirit of Christ was once again speaking – but this time through the one He indwelt.

True endurance is embodied by forgiveness – refusing bitterness ... As you live out of your oneness in Him – you can never carry personal offense – as the spirit's natural response is – **Father forgive them for they know not what they do** ... Always remember this spiritual truth - - Forgiveness is never a display of weakness – it is power and authority couched in humility ... It means the flesh – no longer dictates your response ... A kainos being does not mirror the hatred of the world – they manifest the heart of the Father ... Every time you forgive – you prove that death has lost its grip on you ... The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead empowers you to release – instead of retaliate ... That is true power and strength.

Vision

The Bible says – **But Stephen full of the Holy Spirit looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (Acts 7: 55)** ... Vision is what separates those who endure – from those who escape ... When you see the kingdom open – you can face anything hell throws your way ... The first martyr of the church did not die staring at stones – he died staring at glory ... Vision lifts you above the situation ... It reminds you who you belong to and where you are going ... Stephen's eyes were fixed upward because his life was already hidden there ... Paul said – **Set your mind on things above – not on things on the earth – for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1–2)** ... That is why endurance never feels like loss – it feels like homecoming ... A kainos being is not looking for escape – they are looking for encounter ... Their faith doesn't end at death – it transcends it.

And here is the mystery of God – the fire that the world tried to extinguish through Stephen only spread farther ... Because standing there that day was a man named Saul ... He watched

the stones fly ... He heard the prayer of forgiveness ... And though he did not yet understand it – something pierced his soul – deeper than any rock could ... This brings us to something powerful as our take away for today.

Takeaway – The Influence of the Enduring Fire

The Bible says – **Saul was standing there giving approval to his death. (Acts 8:1)** ... In that moment – Saul thought he was witnessing the death of a religious fanatic ... But the reality a fiery seed of the Spirit was being planted in his soul ... The fire that burned in Stephen – did not die with Stephen – it was transferred ... It leapt from one life to another – from a deacon to a future apostle.

Stephen's endurance became Saul's conviction ... The words Saul once hated would one day shape every letter he wrote ... The same Spirit that filled Stephen on that day would fill Paul on the road to Damascus ... That is the power of the enduring fire – ignited through a true Pentecostal experience ... It never goes out – it only multiplies.

When a kainos being endures to the end – they do more than survive – they leave a trail – a legacy of transformation ... The peace they carry outlasts the pressures they face ... The forgiveness they release – unlocks grace for others ... The vision they see – calls the next generation to rise even higher ... Stephen's death was not a tragedy – it was a literal transfer ... His faith became the blueprint for what God could do through a yielded vessel ... And that is our call today ... To live with such discernment – and such endurance – that even if the world rejects us – the kingdom will record us ... To walk so full of the Spirit – that our faith becomes a flame for another's awakening ... To be a ekklesia whose fire endures beyond the service – beyond the storm – beyond the season.

Closing Prayer

Father awaken Your ekklesia ... Stir our hearts to discern the times ... Deliver us from the comfort that dulls our spirits ... Let the same fire that burned in Stephen burn in us ... Fill us

again with unshakeable peace – with a heart that forgives – with eyes that see heaven open even in the storm ... Make us a people who endure to the end and ignite others along the way ... Let the fire of Pentecost become the fire that endures ... In the name of Jesus – Amen.