

The NDCCRS 2020 Gathering in the Spirit Committee would like to thank our donor for providing these notes on Jim Murphy's five talks. Our donor, who wishes to be anonymous has requested, "please use your discretion to discern the accuracy of these notes."

Day 4 - 2020 Gathering in the Spirit with Jim Murphy

I believe God is everything that I need Him to be.

God give me the grace to know Your will, and please, God, give me the grace to do Your will. And Lord, help me to seek You.

Hebrews 4:16 **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

Psalm 51:1-2; 10-12 - **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

PROPHETIC WORD

- 1) **prayer image received by Fran**: I was standing on a rocky hillside, calling to the Lord... "Show me the way, which way should I go , which is the right path?" The Lord appeared to me and took my hand and drew me close to Him. I was enveloped in His presence, that was enough. He in me and I in Him...and the concerns of my life is taken care of

Zephaniah 3:17 - **The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.**

He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

- 2) 1 Samuel 12:54 : **Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.**

- 3) Malachi 3:7; 10 . **7...Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the Lord**

of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' ... 10 ... try Me

now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- 4) 2 Corinthians 12:9 **And he said unto me, My ^agrace is sufficient for thee:**

for my ^bstrength is made perfect in ^cweakness.

5) Joel 2:12-13 “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

- returning to the Lord requires repentance

- Prayer from Miracle Hour booklet: *loving Father, I am sorry for all my ways*

of offending you. I have sinned in what I have done and what I have failed to do. I come with a repentive heart. I come with a repentive spirit. Show me how I have blocked your love. Forgive all my failures.

For all the times I have not chosen life, I repent. I repent of unbelief in your goodness.

6) *image received during pre-prayer: for the conference:*

she had an image of Jim kneeling

at the foot of the cross. As he knelt, Jesus gazed down upon him.

From Jesus eyes came what seems like two lazer beams that rested on Jim and Immediately, a million rays radiated out of Jim resting on all of us gathering in the Spirit... they were completely covering us.

I then saw a blue cloth or a blue dome floating above all of us that are enrolled in the Gathering in the Spirit and the angels were singing.

I claimed that for the entire conference and for all of us

- confirmation from Fathe Obi; this is also his prayer for all the GIS candidates.

Ephesians 3:14-19 ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Jim Murphy - Day 4 (August 12, 2020) Topic: Turn to the Lord

- we continue with Isaiah 55

- God is very clear about what He is asking us to do

1) Come with all your problems, with all your sins, without

qualification

- all who need Me, I am here for you
- 2) Heed me and pay attention to Me
- 3) Seek Me with all of your heart and with all of your soul

V6 **seek the Lord, while He may be found; call on Him while He is near**

- we get a sense that there is a window of opportunity that is open
now

- we aren't sure if it will always be open

4) let the scoundrel forsake his way and the wicked turn away
from his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord of mercy, to our God
who is generous in forgiving

- we need to forsake our way and our thoughts and turn to
the Lord for His mercy

- this is what it means to repent

- the theme of John the Baptist was repent

- when Jesus came upon the scene, He also said, "

Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand."

- it is happening right now

- there is a moment of opportunity here which we
don't want to miss

- there is a grace given us right now; let's not take
that for granted

- right now, the Lord is inviting us to turn away from

our wicked and to turn towards Him

- repentance **implies feeling bad (for Catholics)**
 - **we think, the worse we feel, the better our repentance**
 - **contrition is important, it is sorrow in our hearts,**
 - **repentance is far more than that**

- **this is a very simple definition**
 - 1) **I recognize, I realize that I am not on the right path**
 - **it is recognition**
 - 2) **if I realize I am not going in the right direction, I turn**
 - **I move towards the right direction**
 - 3) **you have to continue going in the new direction**
 - **it is not just a momentary, emotional thing... a deep feeling**
 - **the feeling may not always be present**
 - right way and I keep walking now in the right direction**
 - **it is not enough to walk the right way only for 20 minutes**
 - **we need to walk in the right direction forever**

- **what does it really mean to turn to the Lord?**
 - 1) **recognize something is in the wrong direction**
 - **when we recognize something is wrong, there is usually a regret or a sorrow**
 - **ie: when Peter preaches on Pentecost Sunday and people were cut to the heart**
 - **there is a sorrow, "wow, we were so wrong"**
 - **there is a contrition there**

- in the OT, Nehemiah reads and all the people are weeping and sobbing because they recognize how wrong they have been
- the gift of tears is a charism in the Eastern church
 - they believe the HS gives people to tears to weep for their sins

- conviction is a work of the HS

- something is revealed to us; which may be difficult to see or hear
- the truth is revealed in order that we may turn and return to the

Lord

- ie: go to a 12 Step Meeting / going to Confession / meeting a counselor

- a coworker pulls you aside to tell you something that you

don't

want to hear

- there's hope and healing in that

- condemnation is NOT from God nor from the Holy Spirit

- it brings no life in it
- it is from the enemy
- its purpose is to bring us into a spiral of despair

- both conviction and condemnation can be upsetting', but one turns us to the Lord while the other brings us into despair

- pay attention to your feelings... is this the HS or is this the enemy who is trying to bring me down?

- this is a time when you need a good spiritual director or a spiritual friend
 - don't trust every feeling
 - the accuser can condemn you into destruction
 - contrition is different from condemnation
 - a lot of Christians fall into this
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- an aspect of going the wrong direction is the work of the Lord
 - it is more than feelings; it is an awareness
 - Jim's father was a sea captain... he gave Jim one of his compasses from his ship
 - the needle of a compass points to the north
 - there is one problem, a compass can be affected by other things
 - if there is metal on the boat ie: a metallic wrench can pull the compass off
 - iron ore in Lake Superior can pull the compass off
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- a lot of times we follow our own compass
 - this isn't a problem
 - but at times, our compass isn't direct
 - our conscience needs to be formed by the Holy Spirit and the teachings of God
 - some could have an ill- formed conscience or even an over active conscience which results in being guilty of everything
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- just because everyone is doing something right now doesn't mean that they are on the right path

- somethings can pull us astray

1) the 1st step of repentance is the recognition that something is off

- we talked about seeking and trying to hear and heed the Lord
- if you sincerely seek the Lord, if you are honestly trying to heed and hear the Lord, even imperfect... if you are really trying, God will show you where you're off course
 - ie: through a friend or He will show you through His word
- once he shows you, you need to respond to it
- don't ignore it

2) you've got to change direction; you've got to do something

- it is not enough to feel bad about it; you need to change direction
- stop talking and do it
- talking is not a substitute for action; you've got to change direction
- the enemy will say, "You can't change. You've got this problem for years. It's kind of in your family"
 - he will convince you that you are powerless against this

weakness

- remember: **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**
 - **with every temptation, God provides a way out of it**

- don't accept that everything in your life is not changeable

- everything that you need to change, with the help of God, can be changed

- **STORY: there is a large zoo in Germany which acquired several other smaller zoos**
 - **there was a bear from a smaller zoo that was kept in a small cage**
 - **it was only able to take four steps forward and then turn and take four steps back**
 - **they finally brought this bear to the large zoo.**
 - **when they lifted the door of its small cage up, the bear wouldn't come out**
 - **they need to prod it out of its cage**
 - **once it was exposed to the expanse of its new environment, it stood up to look around**
 - **once it finished looking, the bear went down on all fours and began to walk four paces up and four paces back because he thought he was still in his cage and so he was still in his cage**

- **Jesus Christ has broken the bars of your cage**
 - **Satan keeps telling us that we are still in our cage**
 - **while we continue to believe we are still in our cage, we remain in bondage**
 - **we have to believe in the Lord more than the enemy**
 - **He said that *If the Son of man has set you free, you are free indeed* (John 8:36)**
 - **whatever bondage we had, with the grace of God, we can change and be a different person**
 - **even if you've tried many times before, try again in the grace of God and watch what the Lord does**

- God wants you to be free; He'll give you everything you need to be free
- don't give up on yourself
- God has a good plan for your life

3) We need to continue to walk in the new way

- in John 6:35, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life and his followers said "This is too much! Who could do this?"
 - they could no longer walk with Him and they returned to their old ways
 - these weren't the bad guys, these were Jesus' followers
 - what happened?
 - when you have this encounter with Jesus, isn't this for life?
 - maybe not, because I know many people who were walking closely with God and who were really into walking with Him and who are now not
 - it's more than just walking with Him for a short period
 - God's put you in a new way of life; that's the way you need to lead your life
- Isaiah 30:21 **Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."**
- it's actually a promise for us...
 - God accompanies you in this new way, and He is willing to give you advice along the way
 - if we rely on ourselves, of course we're going to get discouraged, of course we're going to fail

- but if we trust the Lord, even when we fall back a little bit and have a misstep and we turn to the Lord yet again. and we say, "Lord, help me.", the Lord helps us
 - the Lord helps us, He heals us and He gives us

- St. Paul tells us that Jesus is like us in every way, except He never yielded to sin
 - He understands temptation,
 - He knows what it's like to fall and get up again
 - He understands our weakness and that's why He sends us the Holy Spirit

- It is possible for you to realize something in your life isn't right and it is possible for you to turn away from those things and it is possible for you to turn back to the Lord
 - He will give you a new way and He will help you walk in that way
 - there is a promise here of Him being with us

- Isaiah 55:7, **Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**
 - when we talk about "their ways", it is a pattern of life;
 - it's the way we do things
 - it's the way we relate to others and the lifestyle we live
 - let the wicked forsake his thoughts...

- thoughts are sometimes more difficult to change than actions
- we all realize we harbour thoughts in our lives...
 - we can talk about an attitude of not liking people, about anger, resentment, lust, greed, pride
 - these are attitudes not everyone can see, but it lurks in our hearts
- look at the sermon of the mount.
 - look at how often it focuses on our thoughts
 - Jesus said, "you shouldn't commit adultery" and you say, "Good, I haven't committed adultery."
 - but I say to you, "if you even look at a person with lust" and you say, "Oh man..."
 - it's not only about the actions, but what is in your heart
 - therefore be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect
- so this repentance is not only repenting from actions, but it is also repenting from attitudes
 - at times, we have attitudes that are like the thread that runs through the entire length of our lives

Isaiah 55:13 **Instead of the thorn bush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."**

- there can be many levels of understanding for a single verse
- these passages are talking about the people restored in the

land

- no weeds, but good plants will grow for these people

- I believe this is a prophetic word for some....

- some of you feel there are thorn bushes growing in your life

- something that shames you, bothers you, shames you.

- as you seek the Lord tonight, as you seek Him... as you claim Him not only is He going to take away the thornbush, He will replace it with a life giving bush

- for that gut feeling that is bothering you and perhaps other people, God's going to replace that with something beautiful and life giving and you're going to be a new person because you are walking a new life

Ephesians 4:28 **Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.**

- not only is the thief to stop stealing, now he has to get a job and to work hard so that he who was stealing from people now gives to people

- repentance leads to a new way of life

- repentance is life giving; turn to the Lord that you may be radiant with joy as we walk in the new way with the Lord,

- He is going to remove the nettles, the weeds and plant a new life in

us

- this is not judgement; God is not mean or mad; he is willing to give you everything
- He says, "I'm generous in mercy; come here and I will give you forgiveness.... I need you to turn to me and let things go
- we have free will... if we want to hold on to nettles, God will let us hold onto that
 - He will not interfere with our free will
- if we are willing to set aside those things and go to the Lord and say "I'm tired of these bad attitudes, etc... I am making myself sick with this pride. Help me Lord, I want to give them up and to turn to you, but I don't know how.", He will help you

Psalm 51 - **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

- I want everyone to know they can come to the Lord
- what can I do to help others come to repentance
- repentance is the greatest thing in life

Q: How do we help others come to repentance?

1) pray and fast for your people

- a spirit of repentance is a gift from God itself
 - God has to give people the grace

- you can't do it with your own effort
- Saul of Tarsus was given the grace to change
- for our loved ones, we need to pray and fast for them
- seek the Lord and ask Him what He wants you to do

2) share with them under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

- be sure what you are sharing is under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and not out of your own frustration
 - I need to really be listening to the Lord
 - He may just want you to say one thing and don't say anything else
- a) always show love and respect for the other, even if they're wrong or in sin
- b) never, under any circumstance, condone wrong doing
 - "I love you and respect you, but from a scriptural point of view , what you are doing is wrong and I can't condone it"
- c) under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, speak the true

STORY - a Priest was approached by a man living with his girlfriend

- "If I move out, it will break my heart."
 - the Priest jumped up and said, "If you need to break your heart, do it right now. What you are doing is not according to God's word."
 - it was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and it had the right effect
- be careful... but sometimes God will ask you to say strong things
- speak the truth, but make sure it is in the guidance of the Holy Spirit

d) help the person make the first step

- encourage them to go to Confession
- lead them to prayer

e) sometimes we need to give practical support in the new way they need to

walk

- ie: " don't have an abortion"
- "I can't afford to support another child"
- are you willing to financially support this child aside from saying "don't have an abortion"?

STORY: a young man was doing some illegal stuff which he needed to pay his bills

- if he stopped doing the illegal stuff, are we willing to help him find a job?

- the better thing is "walk with me and let's walk in the way of the Lord."

- you have a moral obligation to call people to repentance

- you don't have the responsibility of how they will respond, but you have

the responsibility to speak the truth to them

REPENTANCE summary:

- recognizing something isn't working
- taking some action to turn in the new way

- continue to walk in the new way for the rest of your life

**- the world hates repentance; but for the spiritual person, we love it
because it will lead us to the ways of the Lord**

- let's turn with hope and gratitude to the Lord.
