

"ANOTHER LEVEL -- Sinking Is NOT An Option"

Matthew 14:22-33

I have been in prayer for quite sometime over what our 2009 focus would be. I am excited to finally share with you what the Lord has conveyed to me.

For the past 3-4 years I had been praying to the Lord and proclaiming to Him my desire to go to another level; that is to say to grow and mature as a wife, mother, daughter, ministry leader, friend, sister in the Lord, business woman, spiritually, mentally, in my health, finances etc. I declared to the Lord for years..."Lord, I want to go to another level...Please God take me to another level". For years I prayed this without hearing a word back from the Lord in response to my plea.

It was not until last September 2008 while at a Women's Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada that I heard the Lord speak to me loud and clear on this idea of my wanting to go to another level. In fact for about 1 hour straight while at the conference and while speakers were speaking that I became distracted by the words of God to me that had nothing to do with what the speakers were speaking on. I knew God was speaking directly to me and for that hour He had my full one on one attention. I took notes as He spoke into my heart.

I hope and pray that the lesson shared with me by the Lord would prove to have the same impact on you as you endeavor to do better in the different areas of your life as well. **I pray that 2009 will prove to be a time of meeting God where it is you desire to be!** Look ahead now as I share my lesson learned back in September:

First let's take a moment and have you examine where in your life you too desire to go to "another level" in: For instance.....

WIVES: Are you the wife who says that I a, ready to go to another level as a wife? I am ready to be the wife that God has called me to be; the wife who supports her husband better; the wife who makes him feel like a man when the outside world has dogged him; the wife who lines up and submits to my husband even when I don't understand the vision given to him by the Lord to lead our family; the wife who submits even I don't agree or when I am mad at him? (You can fill in the blank if none of these apply)

SINGLE WOMEN: Are you the single woman who says that I am ready to go to another level as a single women? I am ready to go to another level in my lifestyle; the single woman who stands out from my other single friends and who determines not to compromise even in my times of loneliness; the single woman who is sold out for the for the Lord; the single woman who makes the Lord her husband, even though she may or may not be looking for one? (You can fill in the blank if none of these apply)

MOTHERS: Are you the Mother who says I am ready to go to another level as a mother? I admit that I have not been giving my children the love and attention that they need because I have been too focused on myself; the mother who no longer wants to allow the world to rear and raise my children but am now ready to lead my children in the way they should go; the mother who says I am tired of fighting with my son or daughter by way of my flesh and now want to surrender to God's way of dealing with them?

WOMEN IN GENERAL: Are you the woman who says that not only do I want to go to another level as a wife or single woman or as a mother but in every other area of my life as well? The woman who is ready to go to another level in my emotions; a woman who is

ready to let the pain of my past go and instead walk in the future that God has for me; the woman who says that I am ready to go to another level in God's word, not just waiting on Sunday morning to pick up my bible, but a woman who makes studying the word of God a daily happening in my life; A woman who is ready to go to another level in my prayer life; the woman who wants to see some power attached to her prayer because I earnestly seek the face of God...beyond praying for my food; the woman who says, I want to go to another level by getting rid of some of my bad habits like, lying, cheating, exaggerating, making excuses, gossiping, competing with other women, being lazy, being idle, who's always in somebody else's business trying to mask it as ministry; the woman who is ready to go to another level in friendship; the woman who has realized for some time now that the company she has kept has done little to draw her in closer relationship with the Lord, and who now feels an urge to surround herself with like minded women looking to live a life that is constantly growing in the Lord! Or how about the woman who says I have been a poor steward over my finances and I am now ready to go to another level by coming clean; I've been shopping for clothes that I don't need, hiding clothes in my trunk waiting for the opportune time to take them in the house so that my husband or other family members don't see them, hiding the fact that I have a credit card and or bank account that my husband doesn't know about; the woman who again wants to go to another level by being more responsible in every area of my life.

Ok, ladies.....now that you have identified you're specific area that you desire to go to another level..let me share with you what God shared with me on this idea of going to another level:

Immediately the Lord revealed to me that while I had cried out to Him that I wanted to go to another level, that going to another level had absolutely nothing to do with what I thought it meant.

Proverbs 4 in fact declares that in all of our getting we ought to get an understanding; the Lord therefore took me on a journey through Matthew 14:22-33 where Peter declared to the Lord that he wanted to go to another level in his faith by walking on water. These are the 4 points that God shared with me:

#1-Understanding that going to another level is not a process but a state of being:

Ok ladies, this point requires that I define some words:

First of all when we look at the definition of the word "**level**" according to Marian Websters dictionary, we find the word "level defined as: "a measurement of altitude of two points; in other words and for the context of which we are speaking, it is examining and taking note of where you are , verses where it is you claim you desire to be (those areas you identified above)

"A state of being" according to this same dictionary means that "**something actually exists**". So then when we talk about going to another level not being a process but a state of being, what we are saying is that we have taken note of where we are in comparison again o where we desire to be and have decided to exist in where we claim we want to be. In fact Jesus himself makes this a truth when he answered Peter's claim to want to go to another level in his faith by walking on water by simply telling Peter to "COME"..in other words do it! Peter, make walking on water your state of being..Peter exist in walking on water. Jesus didn' play the Mother may I game by telling Peter.."if you want to walk on water you must take 2 steps backwards an then 4 steps to the right and then 3 steps to the left, No, he told Peter to just "come"...again, Peter exist in what it is you claim you want to do!

You see for too long we have been wasting the Master's time with talking like we want to go to another level but have not been willing to exist in doing so. You see wives, we cannot talk about wanting to go to another level in our marriages where submission is concerned and then never be willing to submit...we must make submitting our state of being....We cannot talk about wanting to go to another level ladies in our prayer time and then not take the time, several times a day praying, we must instead make praying our state of being. We cannot talk about wanting to go to another level in studying and reading the word of God and never pick up our bibles until Sunday morning..no we must exist in studying the word of God on a regular basis.

Again, ladies, with wherever you claim and desire to be..be there...quit making excuses and just be there...quit waiting the master's time with these repetitious rituals of vow makings and EXIST in being where you want to be, understanding again that another level is not a process ladies, but it is your state of being! I think Brown from Madea says it best...."Don't talk about it...walk about it! EXIST in it!

#2 Understanding that when going to another level sinking is NOT an option:

The word "sink" defined is: "going to the bottom; to fall or drop to a lower place or level; to subside gradually; to disappear from view; to soak or become absorbed; to flow at a lower depth or level; to go downward in quality, state or condition." (Whew.....stay with me)

Now here it is Peter actually arriving at another level by making his state of being walking on water, now beginning to sink...What happened? Peter was already at another level when he began to walk on the water and then his lack of faith caused him to sink...that is to say Peter dropped to a lower place or level. Peter began to become soaked/absorbed in a lack of faith that he could maintain existing in walking on water because the winds and the waves of the water made him fearful. Peter, My Dear Sisters, became distracted! The waters around him frightened him. The winds began to blow causing him to feel insecure. Peter felt like the strong winds made it impossible for him any longer to make walking on the water his state of being. Peter was fearful and began to sink causing him to no longer be at another level but instead back at where he started.

Some of us too have been sinking like Peter; we have at times allowed ourselves to walk and exist in doing better in the areas mentioned earlier but our pride and feelings have gotten in the way, doubt and fear have crept in,, some of us have sunk into disobedience because things weren't going the way we wanted them to, we have sunk by allowing impatience to cause us to take matters into our own hands and have thus messed up, we have sunk into wicked behaviors because we have not liked the way we were being treated; we have sunk into jealousy because we could not handle someone having one up on us, we have sunk into laziness when it comes to taking care of our homes, because we feel like the others living in the house with us don't care and so why should we, we have sunk into cussing folk out because we thought it was the only way to express with boldness how we felt....Can I tell you my Dear Sisters, that these are all winds and waves of life that Satan has tried to create for you and I both to get us distracted and off track, just like the ones Peter faced out on the water. We cannot in fact expect that we can go to another level in anything and think that Satan is not going to seek us out trying to get us to sink by making us feel afraid, doubtful, like giving up, inadequate and or trying to get us to forfeit on our desire to go to another level. He still desires to steal from you all that you have worked so hard to do. He still desires to kill you physically and spiritually by getting you to believe his lies. He still ultimately wants to destroy you...but praise be unto God that "Greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world.". So let the winds and waves come, but we

must declare aloud that I might get shaken but I will not under any circumstances SINK because I am "existing at another level."

#3 Must get out of the box of your flesh's comfort zone: Some of us if we be honest are truly content with where we are because it's comfortable. Ladies we cannot continue to tell the lies that we are ready to go exist at another level and not be ready to push pass our flesh's comfort zone. You see Peter and the other disciples were comfortable with traveling the waters on the boat. It's all they knew in terms of getting across the water to dry land, so it's no surprise that they were freaked out when they saw Jesus coming to them on the water walking. They made the horrible mistake of assuming Jesus' form of transportation for meeting back up with them, thinking that Jesus would arrive on the other side the same way they did...a boat! Jesus however came to them in an unfamiliar way; in a way that their flesh would not be comfortable with. Jesus wanted to broaden their perspective of His power and ability. He wanted to challenge them beyond what they were comfortable with. Jesus wanted to ultimately challenge their faith. And can I tell you that there are some places we too can only get to by coming out of what's familiar or comfortable to us? How dare we try to and predict how God wants to come to us? How dare we try and wheel and deal with God on what to do with us and how to do with us! How dare we tell God "you can do what you want with me, as long as you let me remain comfortable?" How dare we remain in our comfort zone of laziness? How dare we remain in our comfort zone of being followers when we know clearly that God has called us to lead? How dare we remain comfortable in the fact that there is a calling on our lives that we have continued to run from and have refused to walk in? How dare we remain comfortable not studying God's word, not praying, not being better wives, not spending regular time with our children or not being diligent with our money? How dare we remain comfortable with fornicating, committing adultery, lying, cheating, gossiping, hating and so on and think that we can exist at being at another level? No! We must let God change our hearts by taking us from being comfortable to being challenged and stretched!

Now because God is not a God who will force himself on us; and who will not force you out of your comfort zone let me share with you what he will do....

After Peter, began to sink and cry out "Lord save me!" Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter, He then declared to Peter that he was of little faith and asked him why did he doubt. Did you notice however that Jesus didn't say..."Oh come on Peter keep trying; Come on Peter, I'll hold your hand until you are willing to move out of your comfort zone? Jesus could have even said, okay come everybody, all the disciples out of the boat now! Since you guys are trippin' about me walking on water, we are all going to walk on water so I can prove a point to all of you! We are all going to walk back to the other side on water!" No! instead He let Peter go back to where he was comfortable...the boat! Jesus, my Dear Sisters again will not force you to exist at another level...It is your choice and if you don't determine to exist at the level you claim you want to be then He will let you remain comfortable! He will put you back in the boat of your flesh's comfort zone and it will be no ones fault but your own!

#4 Must understand that in the end, going to another level is NOT about YOU!:

Interestingly enough the other disciples were watching from the boat Peter's encounter with Jesus. Without knowing it in advance they were serving as the witnesses to Peter's faith walk being challenged. Would Peter really walk on water is perhaps what they were mumbling to each other. They perhaps were say WOW!, Peter believes in the power of Jesus that much that he trust him to let him walk on water?" We do know that what they saw with Jesus alone was enough to make them bow down and worship Jesus. They witnessed two

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miracles being performed. Jesus who they had already see perform the miraculous but now Peter who was just a mere man like them walking on water too.....Could one of the disciples at that moment determine within themselves that if Peter was bold enough to exist at the level of faith to the point of trusting God to walk on water that they could too? Ladies the same is with us, someone is watching to see how we will respond to Jesus bidding us to go to another level. Someone is watching to see if we really mean what we say about wanting to go to another level. Someone has the ability to activating their faith by what they see from you!

If you truly desire to go to another level, then my SISTERS we can again no longer makes excuses, we must instead EXIST in it! Do It!

Stop now and say a prayer over the areas you admitted and stated you desire to go to another level in and then after you pray, determine to get out of your flesh's comfort zone an by faith make it your state of being!

Please know that I will be praying for each of you this year! Remember again.....SINKING IS NOT AN OPTION!

***Be Blessed,
Angela*** 🌹