

# June 2001: Lordship

by Aaron Greenway

When thinking about what I wanted to share in the June devotional, I had to really ask myself, “Aaron, what has God been teaching you this month?” God gave me my answer, that is, the need for me to hear His voice again, to be more submissive to His will. This can be a very difficult thing living in this society, a society that bombards us with every conceivable distraction.

We live in a society where kids shoot other kids and teachers in their schools. We see these things in the wake of Columbine and it has come to the point where many young college students are opting to enter other professions leaving these apparent anarchists to their own whims without any education or hope of a future ... at least, that is where it seems to be heading in this country. Another distraction is the our society’s obsession with sex. In fact, you cannot go anywhere without something always being in your face. It is on the television, the internet, the magazine racks. It is in advertising. It is on the movie screen. And our children see all this and think it is okay. I wonder if this is in anyway tied to the outlandish divorce rate? And what about selfishness and greed? The object: to get to where your going before someone else does. If necessary, run them over, climb on them to get to the top. This creates a very fast-paced society.

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I go to seminary, work a 40 hour per week job and have a music ministry on the side. It is very easy to take that fast paced, distraction-loaded mind set even into the Christian world where one does it is all for God and yet God is so conveniently left out. And then His name somehow gets stamped on so what we are doing appears credible and acceptable to other Christians. I believe God is trying to get our attention. Just recently, I told my roommate something kind of shocking. I told him that I have a hard time telling others that I love Jesus. The reason I gave him was this, that because love equaled obedience, the best that I could say was that I was learning how to love Jesus; because in all actuality, the person I love too much is myself. I love me too

much. I look out for me too much. I am affected by the mind set of my culture and society TOO MUCH. The fact is, I cannot serve myself and God at the same time.

Therefore, the goal and the objective in my relationship with God is to learn how to lay my will down and to ask God for a sensitivity toward Him. This is a conscious day-by-day thing. There is nothing magical about this. God wants our time and our love and our trust, and we need to make the decision as to whether He's going to get all of that. BUT, what do we do about all the noise and the distractions of our age? Can we overcome all that? Is that being realistic?

Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Did Jesus not have distractions in His day? The Sanhedrin was a distraction for sure! The Romans? Yep. But Jesus overcame the distractions and still went off to be alone with His Father. He knew the importance of being submissive, of not allowing things going on around Him to drag Him away from His source of strength.

I believe the Father wants to do something new in the hearts of His children. I believe that we could be on the verge of a revival if we would take the time to put aside ourselves and listen. As the late Leonard Ravenhill had said in his book *Why Revival Tarries*, "No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop window to display one's talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off." It is time to not allow our daily lives to dictate what reality is. Reality is a intimate relationship with our Savior. That is reality! We have somehow gotten it turned around the other way. We must put aside all the things that tie us up, hinder us, and put God at the center of our universe for who He is: LORD! (Hebrews 12:1-2). He deserves no less.

How can I become more fully consecrated? How can I keep myself from being swept away by my society? Remember, a cultural mind set will inevitably alter the purity of that person. If one allows himself to be distracted by worldly ideas, he will inevitably fall to it. It is just a matter of time. However, if one were to douse himself with kerosine everyday and light the match, that is, to die to his own will, how much more could God be glorified and work in his life.

My goal and my desire is to have a heart that is close to my Savior's, to hear His voice. All the things that I am doing on this planet for God do not mean anything if God Himself is not in it. Maybe we can take time out everyday to be filled with His presence in our lives through prayer and His Word. It is not easy, for sure. But, with the power of the Holy Spirit, it is possible.