

# Australind Vineyard Christian Fellowship

from the Pastor's heart  The Sword of the Spirit the Word of God



## The Remnant

The yield of cluster of grapes looked small for much toil. The abundance of harvest expected never really eventuated. It looked like someone had made a mistake and forecast a bumper harvest. The efforts made by so many over so many years seemed wasted. Yet, something about the remnant promised a bumper harvest to come. Strange as it may seem, the new wine in the cluster seemed juicier and more qualitative and spoke of things to come. It promised both quantity and quality that was to come out of this small remnant.

*Isa 65:8 Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes,*

*that I may not destroy them all.*

The journey of God's interaction with those whom He had wanted to save resulted in God choosing a people and naming them Israel. Yet, not everyone in Israel would be saved. **Rom 9:27** *Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:*

In order to save them God left a seed called a remnant. **Rom 9:29** *And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrha.* Then He systematically went about destroying the rest who were disobedient and sinful. He isolated the remaining (remnant) as a branch that He cut out from the original olive tree to graft in another group of people called the Gentiles whom He also wanted to save.

The holding pattern for Israel meant that God had removed His grace from them until the time of the Gentiles was to be fulfilled. After this time, He will save a remnant of the Jews and conclude Israel's journey as a people of God by joining them and the Gentile in Jesus as the one new man **Eph 2:12:19**

The lesson we must learn as Christians from the journey of Israel is, the pattern of God's dealings with Israel are an example of how He will deal with us, the Church. Therefore, if we are to survive we must heed the warning stated for us in the verses below. The Church at large has an assumption of grace (**which has become a Catholic practise of forgiveness or absolution given by men**) that is so prevalent in the Church today that many are not paying heed to the warnings. They locate sin under grace and continue to use it as a license to sin

**Rom 11:21** *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. **Rom 11:22** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

**1Co 10:11** *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **1Co 10:12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

When Elijah complained to God and said that he was all alone, God said that He had reserved seven thousand who had not bowed their knees to baal. It always amazes me as to why God hid this from Elijah while He got him to fulfil His plan and face the prophets of baal alone. The prophet comes on the scene at Mount Carmel alone to face many enemies and says this to God; **1Ki 18:36** *...I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.* How many of us are bold enough to face our enemies, situations, circumstances in life and certain people on this earth who hate us, who do not understand us (even in the Church) or who work against us and we still have the boldness to say to them the same words; 'I have done this at your word'?

Jesus went to the cross at the word of God. He did it at His word, 'Not my will be done but thine'. To carry out a task that will break the stranglehold of satan on a particular situation, one needs God's words to do it. Only, the methodology differs from person to person and situation to situation. No man goes out to war on his own and without weapons. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit that we need to fight the enemies and stand against popular opinion. This **may reduce your harvest to a remnant.** Yet, the trials of your faith will produce something more precious than gold and that is the remnant. When gold or silver is melted down (refined through fire just as we are in our trials), the scum is removed to produce pure metal. When that process is over, only the polished remnant remains and is pure. At this point true value is seen and wonders begin to take place.

We at Vineyard have become a remnant out of three situations. One was the challenge that I brought to AVCF to walk in the spirit and not to fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Constant preaching on these lines over months as instructed

