

Dear Friend,

Have you ever reached the point where you felt that if anyone asked you for one more thing, you would simply have to scream?

Financial needs, family needs, social pressures, demands on your time, robocalls, sales pitches—they all bombard us. Not to mention that repairs are needed on body, home and car. And on top of all that, you receive the proverbial “beg letters” telling you that if you don’t donate immediately, the ice caps will melt and people will die! You get the picture.

The last thing you need today is one more demand. So I feel led to write this letter to just say “Hi” and tell you that God loves you. He has things in store for you, eternal things that are so far beyond the troubles of this life that the apostle Paul says: “[They] are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

I hope the accompanying letter will lift and encourage you. As a matter of fact, I am praying right now that this note will put a smile on your face and, who knows, maybe even a chuckle of joy in your heart. The things of this life on earth are temporary but the things which Christ has won for us are eternal.

Today, let God’s Holy Spirit speak to your heart about things soon to come—for you. Be encouraged. You are secure in Jesus—and you are loved.

Yours, in His comfort,
Pastor Carter Conlon

HE WILL SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME

by Carter Conlon

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:12–15).

We will finally realize how small our thinking has been in comparison to what God is going to reveal to us.

Here we see Jesus telling His disciples, “I am going to win a victory for you. The Father will give me a tremendous inheritance when He raises Me from the dead. I will return to sit at His right hand, and everything that He gives me will belong to My people. The Spirit of God that I am sending to you will show you some of these things to come.”

Of course, you and I cannot see all these things right now, for there is no way we could fully understand them. According to the Bible, the

moment we leave this earth and appear in the presence of God, we will know as we are known. Mysteries will be resolved and questions will be answered. We will finally realize how small our thinking has been in comparison to what God is going to reveal to us, in us, and through us. What a day that is going to be!

But in the meantime, God has left us His Holy Spirit. As Jesus said, He guides us into all truth. When the Spirit of God comes into a person’s life, He starts to tell us that old things will pass away, and all things will become new. He begins to unlock the Scriptures to us. He shows us a plan and a purpose that God has for our life and the abundant supply God has already given us in Christ Jesus to fully achieve everything He has called us to do.

■ BEYOND THIS WORLD

As we saw in our opening scripture, the Spirit of God will also tell us about things to come that are beyond this present world. Paul said in Second Corinthians 4:18, “We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Consider Abraham, the father of faith, who was given an incredible promise of God. “I am going to

bless you; I am going to multiply you; I am going to do something so profound in your life that you will be a blessing to the whole world” (see Genesis 12:1–3). God then took him outside one night and said, “*Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them...So shall your descendants be*” (Genesis 15:5). The Holy Spirit was showing him things to come, not of this world but beyond. And now you and I know that because of Christ, through his lineage, we are the fulfillment of that promise.

If this world becomes our source of supply and provision—we may be shocked to find that one day, it can all be taken away.

So Abraham left home to journey to this place of promise, accompanied by his nephew, Lot. As part of the family, Lot would have been told of the profound blessing that was promised to come upon them—one that would touch the whole known world. They eventually came to a point where they had so many flocks and herds that they could not dwell in one place, for there was an insufficient supply of grass. And so Abraham said to Lot, “Look and choose where you want to go” (see Genesis 13:9).

Lot lifted up his eyes, but only so far. He had this doctrinal perspective that all the blessing of his life would be found in this world, and so he chose his city. He went to a place called Sodom and Gomorrah and raised his family there. However, one day an enemy came in, captured that place, and took him and his family away (see Genesis 14:8–12).

A day is coming when God is going to look down and say; “That’s enough! Son, go get Your Bride!”

■ IN A MOMENT OF TIME

If we lift our eyes only so high—if this world becomes our source of supply and provision—we may be shocked to find that one day, it can all be taken away. If your happiness is because you have a car or a house, or money in the bank and a retirement plan, be warned that a day might come when it is all gone. What do you think mattered to the people on the upper floors of the towers in the World Trade Center on 9/11 who had about an hour left to live? How high they had gotten on the financial chain? How many colleges their kids were accepted in? How many cars they had? How many countries they could visit?

The Bible declares that a day is coming when everything that can be shaken will be shaken, and only that which cannot be shaken might remain (see Hebrews 12:27). It also warns, “*Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven*” (Proverbs 23:5). In another place we read, “*The fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is*” (1 Corinthians 3:13).

I remember being in full-time ministry and coming home from preaching in Eastern Canada, only to find that our house had burned down to the ground. We had renovated this old farmhouse, added on to it, and modified it. It took twelve years to finally finish it and yet everything we had worked for was gone in one moment of time.

I have seen the Lord take away, and I have seen Him give back. In our case, we later lost our second house to toxic mold. Then we moved across the river to Hoboken, New Jersey, and were finally settled, but Hurricane Sandy came and wiped out the whole first floor. Now we live on a lake, and the bottom of our house is about five feet above the water level. I said to Pastor Teresa one day, “What possibly could go wrong now?”

Through these experiences, I have seen something beyond what this world has to offer. We still have a nice house, but I know it can be gone in an instant. In this lifetime, relationships end, loved ones die, jobs are lost. If our security is in any of these things, even though many of them do come from God, our confidence can be shaken. We must lift our eyes higher and see something beyond this life.

■ WHAT PAUL SAW

The Apostle Paul had such vision. He saw something coming in the future and that is why he could say, “*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (Romans 8:18).

Paul knew that this earthly body would eventually give way to a heavenly body. He testified that he was lifted to the third heaven where he saw things that were not lawful to speak about (see 2 Corinthians 12:2). There are no words in the human vocabulary to describe them. God in His mercy gave Paul an eternal vision so that he could endure the sufferings he was appointed to endure in this life.

Paul was stoned, beaten, and shipwrecked, and he finished the end of his life imprisoned with only a pen and parchment. Yet while in captivity, he wrote words to encourage others. For example,

he wrote these words to the Thessalonian church, who he knew was entering into persecution: *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18). Paul knew they were going to suffer, but he was reminding them that suffering is only temporary. A day is coming when God is going to look down and say, “That’s enough! Son, go get Your Bride!”

***Come what may
in this life—none of
it is worthy to be
compared with the
glory that shall be
revealed in us.***

■ WHAT JOHN SAW

Consider also the apostle John—the one who leaned on Jesus’ chest at the Last Supper. He described himself as the apostle whom Jesus loved. He served God all his life, and when he was about eighty years old, he was exiled to a prison on an isle called Patmos. From what I read about that prison, it was vile, cold, damp, dark, and despairing. John easily could have said, “God, is this how You treat those who love You? I serve You all my life, and this is where I end up?”

But the scripture says that on the Lord’s Day, John was in the Spirit. Remember that when the Holy Spirit

comes, He will show you things to come. Therefore John, though he was in prison, could write these words in Revelation 21: *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea”* (verse 1). In other words, “There is nothing more that separates us from God and from the freedom that He has for us for eternity.”

“I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away’” (Revelation 21:2–4). That is what is in store for us—no more death, sorrow, crying or pain!

***You will be able
to go to bed at night
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future awaits me!”***

■ THE GLORY TO COME

Perhaps you find yourself in a long season of suffering. Perhaps you live with varying degrees of pain—whether internal or physical—but, remember, it is all temporary. Come what may in this life—famine or disease, darkness or war, social disorder—none of it is worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. Heaven is our

home and an eternity with God is our future. We are going to praise Him day and night with the angels, and we will rule and reign with Christ forever!

If you need hope today, I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to show you things to come. Ask Him for a vision beyond your present circumstances. He will help you to see that your life is but a little vapor on the scale of eternity. He will speak comfort to your heart, and you will be able to go to bed at night saying, “Oh, what a future awaits me! Lord, what an eternity You have prepared for me!” You will truly understand that though weeping may endure for a night, there is a guarantee that joy will come in the morning!

Carter Conlon
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CELEBRATING VICTORIES TO COME

by Adewunmi Adetayo, Class of 2019

Through the surrendered life of one man, Reverend David Wilkerson, many have been transformed by the love of Jesus Christ at Summit International School of Ministry. In the words of our students, Summit has been 25 years of teaching truths, of being set free by God's love, of God keeping His promises, of encountering Jesus, of God restoring broken places, and the list goes on.

One of these students, Janie Wehrer, remembers celebrating with child-like faith and abandon at a Summit graduation ceremony she attended when she was nine years old. She did not know at the time that ten years later, she would walk across the Summit campus to receive her own diploma. Yet more important than the diploma, was the revelation of God's faithfulness.

In her devotional time, the Lord spoke to her heart and reminded her of that moment at nine years old. Though she did not know it then,

she was celebrating the victory and freedom God would produce in and through her life ten years later.

What a beautiful picture of our life in Christ. He calls us to celebrate the victory He has won for us before we even see it because we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Janie is one of many students who have been trained under men and women surrendered to God's purposes, transformed by the love of Jesus Christ, and equipped to become spiritually free and entirely useful in this generation for the glory of God.

Trained to live for the benefit of others, many of our graduates serve all over the world in internship and full-time positions, using their gifts and talents to enrich the body of Christ. Janie, among other talented alumni, will be serving in the internship program at Times Square Church.



CARTER CONLON

Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday 10AM | 1PM | 3PM | 6PM

Tuesday 7PM | Worldwide Prayer Meeting

Friday 7PM | The Gate
2nd & 4th Fridays (ages 18-29)

Live Webcast:

All our Sunday and Tuesday services can be watched live and replayed for seven days on our website.

tsc.nyc