<u>Fresh Oíl Releases</u>

<u>Hold Fast</u>

Recently, during worship, I saw a picture of an old-fashioned corset being laced up. The next scene was of a woman in a corset holding tightly onto a bedpost while the servant pulled the laces tightly shut. The Lord said, "Stand, hold fast and do not let go - I am pulling everything together".

As I was praying afterwards, He showed me that the stays in the corset are actually the individual words of rhema promises that He has given over the past season. They are all linked or joined together as one whole and their function is to support and uphold us as we wear this corset or belt of Truth. However, not until the Lord pulls everything together, using those laces, does that corset fulfill its function. We are entering the time of fulfillment, of manifestation of every Word of Truth we have been fed by the Spirit in our individual situations. Now, in the time when the Lord is bringing everything together to complete what He started, we are experiencing a time of great pressure, a time when the backward pull is so great that the most natural thing to do in the circumstances, is to let go - and yet, if we do, the whole process is aborted.

So this is the time to brace yourself, stand fast and, wearing that Belt of living creative Word, to hold on to Christ Who is our bed-post or, to put it more clearly, He is our Pillar of Rest, immoveable and unshakeable. If we try to hold on just to the promises, or corset/belt, we will go flying. So put your feet slightly apart, hold on and stand, my brothers and sisters. The pull on those laces may make you feel as if you are hardly able to breathe, as if your ribcage is being crushed, but it's actually pulling everything into place in preparation for God's presentation of the Bride of Christ to the waiting world. Whatever you do, don't let go - not matter the pressure within or without. There is nothing else God requires of you right now except to stand fast, hold your ground, HOLD ONTO CHRIST and trust Him as HE pulls everything together. You are completely unable to pull tight your own corset. This is God's department - not by might nor by power but by His Spirit working mightily. All He asks of you is to STAND and not to let go of Him until the process is complete. The end result will be worth it all!

The picture is similar to the experience of the baby as it traverses the birth canal. The pressure on the ribcage is so great; it has been likened to the experience of crucifixion. Remember, leaving the womb of preparation is only the first step to a successful birth. There is still the very narrow pressurized birth canal to travel down. It is a time of transition; a relatively short period compared to the preparation period but it is still a time where you are not where you used to be and not yet where you will be. It is darker in the birth-canal than in the womb and greater faith and trust is required as pressures which seem to be bone-crushing propel the baby towards the light of a new day. Disorientation is the overriding emotion that surfaces because nothing is as it was for so long and yet there is no going back. As God sets in motion the processes to fully birth His purposes in your life, trust Him, hold onto Him because He is the One who brings to the point of birth and without exception brings forth the manifestation of His spoken Word in the earth. TRUST HIM, Beloved. He has never been known to fail.

- Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Heb 10:23 So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.
- Rev 3:11 I am coming quickly (suddenly); hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown.