

Led By God's Power

**A class on the revelation manifestations of holy spirit,
word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits,
“the eyes and ears of the church.”**

By

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and

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This is the third of a four-part Power of God Series.

The first and foundational series is “Living in God’s Power.” It presents the foundational truths of God’s Word and leads those who want to manifest the power of God into speaking in tongues.

Growing in God’s Power is the second in the series. It is a class on the Body of Christ, the Christian believers’ parts in it, and the worship manifestations of holy spirit. Those who want to manifest the power of God are lead into the manifestations of interpretation of tongues and prophecy.

Led By God’s Power is the third in the series and deals with the revelation manifestations of word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits.

The fourth and final series is Ministering With God’s Power. It deals with the power or impartation manifestations of faith, working of miracles, and gifts of healings.

This package of teaching is designed as tools to help believing believers know their heavenly Father better and walk into the simplicity of the operation of the manifestations of holy spirit, the power of God.

Led By God's Power
Hour 1: Why Are We Here?

Preview of *Why Are We Here?*

In *Why Are We Here?* we will see that to be *Led by God's Power* should be the goal of every believer. Growth in operating revelation manifestations is accelerated when we are moved with compassion for others. We must ask ourselves are we willing to help? If so, our lives will never be the same.

Introduction

Christian Family Fellowship continues to provide more Biblical Teaching Series that can be utilized as tools for learning and applying God's Word in our lives. *Led By God's Power* is the third of four in the "Power of God Series."

Living in God's Power is first in the "Power of God Series." The theme verse of *Living in God's Power* is:

I Corinthians 2:5:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

The wisdom and philosophies of men should not be the basis for our faith. It is sad, but that is usually the case. People tend to set their lives on man's wisdom and man's philosophies, but that is not what the Word of God says. Our faith should **BE** in the power of God. *Living in God's Power* lays out a foundational knowledge of God's Word for those who desire to learn and climaxes with men and women of all ages receiving the power of God into manifestation by speaking in tongues.

The second in the series is *Growing in God's Power* taught by Jon Nettle. The theme verse of *Growing in God's Power* is:

I Corinthians 14:12:

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

"Excel" means to be over and above, to excel in number and measure. *Growing in God's Power* is an intermediate series which picks up with "what to do" with the holy spirit after you have received it. It deals with growing, understanding, learning, and applying God's power.

This series focuses on the worship manifestations: speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy. It also helps people learn more about the body of Christ, how it is

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to function, what are we supposed to be doing, how do we as members of the body of Christ fit in, and how gift ministries should be in operation in home fellowships.

Now we continue with *Led by God's Power*, another quest for growing, understanding, learning and applying God's power in our lives. This series deals with advancing in the category of the revelation manifestations. The theme verse for *Led by God's Power* is:

Romans 8:14:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

This reminds me of II Corinthians 12:3, where it says, "no man can say that Jesus is Lord but (except) by the holy spirit." As sons of God we are supposed to be led by the spirit of God. We should know what is available, how to receive it, and what to do with it after we have it.

There are many examples throughout the Word of God that contain details about the revelation manifestations. These examples show: how they are received, how they are utilized, and certainly what the results of their function and operation are. We are always going to be led by something, or someone. As Christian believers we must choose to be *Led by God's Power*.

Led by God's Power

To be *Led by God's Power* should be the goal of every Christian believer, because as sons of God we are supposed to be led by the spirit. Jesus Christ is the living Word and our living example of how to walk in the power of God. He certainly was *Led by God's Power* throughout his life and ministry.

If we are ever going to walk in the steps of Jesus Christ and do the works that he did and greater,¹ we are going to have to operate all the manifestations of holy spirit. Jesus Christ operated everything God had given him, and he made even more available to us. We need to utilize everything He has given us. We will need to know how to receive it and what to do with it after we have it. This is part of the more than abundant life that Jesus came to make available.

John 10:10:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

When it comes to learning more about the spiritual things of God (especially the revelation and power or impartation manifestations), I believe it is necessary to ask ourselves, why do I want to learn about these manifestations? What is our motive? Is it for self only, and if so, then what is the purpose?

¹ John 14:12

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If your reasons are for self, only, then I believe you will end up with a head full of knowledge, and you will manifest little to none of the revelation manifestations. Even though God cares deeply for the individual, unless we are serving in the body of Christ we will have little or no need of God's help. The manifestations are "to profit withal." (I Corinthians 12:7)

In the Bible the word "compassion" is specifically used of God's pitying of His afflicted people. As long as there is an adversary there will be affliction. I believe compassion is an important key to receiving revelation from God.

Compassion is defined as: "A sympathetic consciousness of others' distress, together with, a desire to alleviate it."² If we are compassionate we not only are aware of others' distresses, but we will also have that burning desire to help, to do something about it, to alleviate or relieve their situation.

Our God is a compassionate God, and there are many records in God's Word that tell us of His compassion toward men. When we were born again we received God's spirit, and in that "package" was God's compassion. We need to manifest it like we do the love of God.

Psalm 145:8,9:

The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.
The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works.

Part of His works is you and I. Jesus Christ manifested God's compassion and the gospels contain numerous examples of His compassion being manifested towards God's people. The compassion of God will move us outside ourselves to serve and help others. Compassion changes our focus from "self" to "others," as we consider, "What can I do to help?"

When God sees your heart to help, God will be there with you to help. Often times we want to help, but do not know what to do. That is where God can come in. If one really steps forward and gets involved in this field of the revelation manifestations, then it will be life changing.

Matthew 14 describes Jesus' reaction to the horrible news of John the Baptist's death. John was not only a great prophet, but he was also Jesus' cousin. When Jesus heard of the execution of John, he departed by ship to a desert place, a place of solitude where he could have private time to grieve and be with his trusted disciples. Jesus was a man. He had feelings like you and I, and he did not feel like ministering to others. He just wanted time for himself to heal his heart.

Matthew 14:13,14:

When Jesus heard *of it*, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard *thereof*, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

² Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary

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And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

The world does not stop when tragedy happens in your life. The greatest way to heal up is to reach out and help. "Moved with compassion" means "to feel the bowels yearn; to have compassion; to pity." You have a deep, yearning, desire to relieve others of their pain or suffering. Compassionate people are givers, even at times when it is not most convenient. They are also the receivers of God's revelation manifestations, because God knows those who will hear His voice and act, even in difficult times.

Matthew 14:15-21:

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

But Jesus said unto them, **They need not depart; give ye them to eat.**

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

He said, Bring them hither to me.

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to *his* disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

These healings and miracles were the result of Jesus coming forth and looking upon the people with compassion. He was moved within to serve even at a personally difficult time in his life.

Matthew 14:23:

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

He was "moved with compassion **toward** them..." "Toward" indicates motion applied. Jesus did not just take one or two steps forward, but reached out and touched them; he healed them. He utilized the manifestations of word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles, and gifts of healing to minister healing and deliverance as well as meet the need for daily bread.

"Forgiveness" is another great key to maintaining the compassion, which opens the door to revelation. If we are not forgiving others, then we will not be conscious of the needs of others. We will only be focused on our own hurts, our own problems, and we will be blinded to the needs of others.

If you desire to be *Led by God's Power*, and you are carrying unforgiveness in your heart towards someone or something that happened, get rid of it!

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II Corinthians 2:5-7: [NIV]

If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent -- not to put it too severely.

The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him.

Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

An unforgiving spirit is a compassion killer.

II Corinthians 2:11:

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

The context of this verse is unforgiveness, not being forgiving of others. The result of this is that Satan makes prey of you, and you become disadvantaged. He steals your life, your compassion, and God's revelation gets shut down to you.

Look at the forgiveness Jesus, our example, had. He was nailed to a cross, beaten beyond recognition, humiliated before Israel, spit upon, and betrayed by one of his own. What was his reply? "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..."³ Stephen, also, cried out just before he was stoned, "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge..."⁴

Jesus and Stephen were both forgiving and compassionate to the very end of their lives. There was no screaming for justice and revenge, only words of forgiveness and concern for the lives of those that wronged them. How many times have we wronged others? How many times have we wronged God? When you put that in perspective, forgiving others becomes very easy.

Jesus Christ received more word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits than any man alive. Where did Jesus spend the bulk of his time? What triggered the need for his receiving revelation from God? He was involved in other people's lives and in service. He was on a mission from God. We are on a mission, too!

Luke 2:49:

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

John 9:4:

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

II Corinthians 5:20:

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

³ Luke 23:34

⁴ Acts 7:60

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Matthew 9:35:

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Jesus was among or with the people! Where are we? If you want a deeper relationship with God and Christ, get out there, among the people.

God is God, and He can talk to anyone He wants to. You do not have to be a graduate of any particular bible class or be a big leader in church. God looks on the heart of a man or woman, boy or girl. Your heart should be one of compassion and forgiveness, one that seeks God and desires to serve Him in the depths of your soul.

If we seek God... If we will read and study His Word... If we will pray to Him in our understanding, and expect to hear from Him... If we will be conscious of what is going on around us, then we will soon learn to recognize His still small voice. We will see what He wants us to see. We should meditate on His Word because it gets us used to thinking His thoughts. We want to learn to think the thoughts of God!

Matthew 9:36-38:

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

God's call to serve is a LIFETIME calling, full of blessings and reward. In Matthew 10:2 Jesus Christ said that "the harvest is truly plenteous but the laborers are few." That means the ones in the harvest need to work! The manifestations of holy spirit are tools for the harvest. The ground is plowed and fertile. The seed of God's Word gets planted. As the plants begin to grow and bloom, the manifestations cultivate the seed for growth and maturity. Finally it is harvest time, and God is rewarded with the fruits of His harvest. God looks for men and women with compassionate and faithful hearts, and He calls them to the labor of His harvest. As laborers we need these tools.

The **COMPASSION** of Jesus went far beyond just having empathy for others. It is a **SPIRITUAL QUALITY** that reflects the love of God. Compassion, like believing, is energized by love. Love moves people.

Galatians 5:6b:

... faith which worketh by love [*agapē*].

It takes compassion, being conscious of others distress with the desire to alleviate it, plus the believing action of faith to bring to pass signs, miracles, and wonders. Many times in the gospels a great miracle was preceded by these words: "and Jesus was moved with

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compassion.”⁵ It takes compassion plus the believing action of faith to bring to pass signs, miracles, and wonders.

Mark 1:40,41:

And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ we have the power and ability to heal and deliver others, **BUT** are we willing? Once you start – there will always be others. Do you have the desire and compassion to reach out to others? This is the question we need to ask ourselves in our quest for the spiritual things of God. Do I really want to be ***Led By God's Power***, and am I ready to do the responsibility God expects of me once I make the decision?

When Jesus reached out and touched the leper, he broke the cardinal rule of Judean culture, “Never touch a leper.” Jesus went even further than touching, because the word “touched” is *haptomai*, to apply one’s self to, embrace.⁶ Jesus hugged the leper. Are you ready to step outside of the norm, the popular, your cultural rules, if the word of wisdom tells you to?

Mark 1:42:

And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

The compassion Jesus felt for this man compelled him to take the believing action required. When Jesus reached out and hugged him and said, “I WILL!” it was done.

I Corinthians 2:11a:

...For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of a man which is in him?”

Only God knows what is in the heart of man, and He can reveal it via the spirit.

Luke 7:11-15:

And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

⁵ Matthew 9:36; 14:14; Mark 1:41; 6:34

⁶ A Critical Lexicon and Concordance, Bullinger and Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible.

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And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

John 14:12:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Having Christ in us means we have the same abilities, the same boldness, the same faith, the same love and the same compassion. In Mark 11 Jesus tells us to “have the faith of God.” If we have the faith of God a mountain is no problem.

Hebrews 3:7:

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

In Jeremiah 6:10 God says they did not hearken to His Word because they had “no delight in it.” We need to delight in God’s Word and in all that He has given us and made us in Christ. If we are going to grow in our knowledge of the revelation manifestations and prepare ourselves for the operation of these manifestations in our lives, then we need to delight in God’s Word. We do not ignore this revelation (God’s Word) and jump over to the other one (the manifestations).

One of the things we have been given is the compassion of God, and we need to walk in it and with it toward others. This is a good starting point. We need to think about why we are here. Compassion is an important key to the revelation and impartation manifestations.

Let us walk and live in Christ. Let us manifest the compassion of God, as Jesus did, and minister God’s deliverance to all people, by being *Led By God’s Power*.

Led By God's Power
Hour 2: The Revelation Manifestations

Preview of *The Revelation Manifestations*

In *The Revelation Manifestations* we will see the importance of getting to know and trust God. God communicates His will to us through His Word and the revelation manifestations. Knowing what they are not and what they are, is a good starting point in our adventure of being *Led by God's Power*.

To be led by the spirit of God and His power or to choose to allow ourselves to be led by anyone, we must first be able to trust them.

Proverbs 3:5,6:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge (to know as an acquaintance or friend), him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The better you know someone the easier it is to trust them.

How Do We Get to Know Someone?

We spend time with them.

We communicate with them.

We ask questions.

We listen or hear what they have to say.

**We do things together and include them
in our lives.**

How are we ever going to trust the words of God, if we do not trust the One giving it. We need to spend time and take time to know God. We need to communicate with Him, talk to Him, listen to the words of His Word. Jesus poured out his heart to God in prayer asking for guidance, sharing his concerns, and expressing his thankfulness. Jesus was led by the spirit of God. He wanted to do what God wanted done.

Luke 4:1:

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

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God told Jesus by way of the spirit to go into the wilderness... and Jesus went.

Romans 8:14:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Greek word translated “led” in Luke 4:1 is *agō*, and it means “to bring or lead.”

Luke 4:2:

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Jesus handled the devil's temptation with the revelation of God's Word. How should we handle his temptations? The same way, with God's Word. When the devil tempted Jesus with hunger he quoted Deuteronomy 8:3.

Deuteronomy 8:3:

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

When tempted with serving and worshipping other gods, he quoted Deuteronomy 6:13.

Deuteronomy 6:13:

Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

When tempted with tempting God, he quoted Deuteronomy 6:16.

Deuteronomy 6:16:

Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted *him* in Massah.

Next is the record of Simeon, a man that was led by the spirit of God. We will see that the revelation given to him was fulfilled.

Luke 2:25-30:

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation [to relieve the suffering] of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

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How long ago did he receive the revelation? We do not know. Nevertheless, it came to pass because God said so. How long he carried that revelation in his heart we do not know, but he never gave up on it. Simeon had spirit upon him and that is how God gave him word of knowledge and word of wisdom. When we are led by God's spirit, the timing will always be right and perfect to bring God's Word to pass. God is not a man that He should lie.⁷ If God gives a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom and we believe that word of knowledge and we act on that word of wisdom, then we will see the profit of those manifestations and their benefit.

The epistle of Galatians exhorts us to walk in the spirit of God.

Galatians 5:16:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

It does not say, do not fulfill the lust of the flesh and then walk by the spirit. We would never get around to walking by the spirit that way. As we learn to walk by the spirit of God we will be walking less by the flesh. We are learning to walk all over again. To tap into these manifestations and develop a relationship with God we are going to walk and think in a new way, according to the spirit.

Galatians 5:17,18:

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Revelation received and acted upon is always profitable. God has given unto every man the freedom of will to choose what we say and do. God likes honesty.

Romans 8:5-10:

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.⁸

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

The walk of righteousness is to walk in the spirit, and the walk in the spirit is to walk in righteousness.

⁷ Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18

⁸ Hebrews 11:6

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Carnal	Spiritual
Death	Life & Peace
Cannot Please God	Pleases God
Sin in the Body	Righteous, sin-free

Romans 8:11-15:

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh., Father. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Sons of God are to think spiritually and walk spiritually. To do this we need to focus on things that will help us to be led by the spirit of God. If we focus on the flesh and how we can change it, so we do not walk after the flesh, we will lose.

On What Should We Focus?

Spend time in the Word of God.
Pray more often and open your heart to God.
Speak in tongues.
Meditate on God's Word.
Fellowship with God.

Galatians 5:25:

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

There is no profit if we do not use what we have. Practice the presence of God. Expect Him to talk and communicate with you. Learn to hear His still small voice as Elijah the prophet learned to do.

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I Kings 19:11,12:

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice (a delicate, whispering, voice.)

Psalm 46:10a:

Be still, and know that I *am* God....

Learn to be still, learn to enjoy the quiet times. Christian believers need to become seasoned, spiritually mature men and women. This does not just happen on its own. It is a matter of decision, choice, and believing action. It is a deliberate growing process.

Hebrews 5:14:

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

We must learn to discern between good and evil—ALWAYS! The only sure way to discern between that which is good and that which is evil, is via God's Word and the revelation manifestations. The devil is the great counterfeiter, and the only way we are going to know is if God tells us.

Isaiah 5:20:

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Matthew 24:24:

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits reveal the false from the genuine and the good from the evil.

II Timothy 2:15:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Get rid of your fears that God will not talk to you or that you will not be able to do what He asks you to do. Sons of God need to be led by His spirit. God will not give you something to do that you are not able to do.

The Revelation Manifestations

With word of knowledge – God gives information. **With word of wisdom** – God gives guidance or direction. These two deal with the natural realm. **With discerning of spirits**

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– God gives information concerning the spiritual realm, and God gives direction and guidance concerning the spiritual realm.

The Written Word is revelation from God.

II Peter 1:21:

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Written Word is full of information and direction. In it we discover history; we find answers to questions in life and answers for everyday problems. The Written Word makes known God and His son, Jesus Christ. It makes known God's completed plan of salvation and redemption. It also gives prophecies of the future – the return of Christ and so much more.

The Revelation Manifestations give information and direction concerning present specific situations. The Revelation Manifestations pick up where the Written Word leaves off, but they will not contradict God's Word.

Word of Knowledge: What It Is Not

- ◆ It is not highly developed human or natural knowledge.
- ◆ It is not learned by the five senses.
- ◆ It is not psychology, psychiatry, or psychosomatics.
- ◆ It is not a guessing game, an educated diagnosis, or your imagination.
- ◆ It is not ESP or Fortune Telling.
- ◆ It is not inspirational or enthusiastic believing.
- ◆ It is not your analysis of a situation.
- ◆ It is not all of God's knowledge.
- ◆ It is not just for the clergy or church leadership, but is available to every born again believer.

Word of Knowledge: What It Is

**The manifestation of word of knowledge is:
Receiving knowledge or information directly
from God by way of the holy spirit.**

Word of Wisdom: What It Is Not:

- ◆ It is not spiritual insight or an inner awareness due to our study and knowledge of the Word of God.
- ◆ It is not wisdom acquired by the five senses.

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- ◆ It is not man's wisdom resulting from people's experiences.
- ◆ It is not the wisdom of the world. God calls that kind of wisdom, foolishness. (I Corinthians 1:20; James 3:15)
- ◆ It is not practical wisdom, but it is practical and profitable!
- ◆ It is not your analysis of what to do about a given situation, but it is guidance or instruction directly from God by way of the holy spirit.
- ◆ It is not just for clergy or church leadership, but is available to every born again believer.
- ◆ It is not all of God's Wisdom.
- ◆ It is not the gift of wisdom.
- ◆ It is not a guess or an idea.

Word of Wisdom: What It Is

The manifestation of word of wisdom is:

Receiving direction or guidance directly from God by way of the holy spirit.

It is important to understand that the manifestations of word of knowledge and word of wisdom deal with knowledge and wisdom concerning the natural realm while discerning of spirits is also "word of knowledge and word of wisdom" (i.e. information and guidance) but it concerns the spiritual realm.

Discerning of Spirits: What It Is Not:

- ◆ It is not a discernment or an acuteness in judgment.
- ◆ It is not learned by the five senses.
- ◆ It is not a guessing game, an educated diagnosis, your imagination, or something you dreamed up.
- ◆ It is not discerning the faults of others.
- ◆ It is not fortune telling.
- ◆ It is not spiritism, spiritualism, or any other "ism".
- ◆ It is not the casting out of devil spirits, that falls into the category of the impartation or power manifestations of Faith, the Working of Miracles, and Gifts of Healing.
- ◆ It is not just for the clergy or church leadership, but is available to every born again believer.

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Hour 2: The Revelation Manifestations

Discerning of Spirits: What It Is

The manifestation of discerning of spirits is:

Receiving information and direction or guidance directly from God by way of the holy spirit concerning the involvement of spirits in people or in specific situations.

God made sure Samuel knew WHO was talking to him, and that any information or direction he was receiving was coming directly from God. You receive revelation from God via one of these three manifestations. You will know it and you will see the profit if you respond to it. Do not worry about you missing God's revelation. If He wants to get it to you, you will get it.

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Hour 3: How Revelation is Received

Preview of *How Revelation Is Received*

In *How Revelation Is Received* we will see that revelation is revealed by God to the new, inner man that was created in righteousness and true holiness through the five “spiritual senses.” We see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what God wants us to, so that we will know what He wants us to know.

Of course we do not need to understand all the workings of something to use and enjoy it in our lives. I do not understand the intricacies of how computers work, but I can enjoy using one. However, when trouble arises or difficulties or frustration set in, I am glad there are people who do know how they work that can help me.

Review of Some of the Basics:

When we confessed Jesus as lord and believed in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead we were born again. We received the gift of holy spirit, and became three-fold beings of body, soul, and spirit. It is the spirit of God in us that makes it available for us to be *Led by God's Power*.

Because we have received holy spirit as a gift of God's grace we may use it at our discretion. There are nine ways in which we manifest the spirit: speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, prophesying, receiving word of knowledge and word of wisdom, discerning spirits, believing, working miracles and healing. These nine are all operated from the one gift of holy spirit we received when we were born again. They were designed to be used together, to bring profit to us individually and to the body of believers collectively.

In *Walking by the Spirit* we saw the conflict that arises between the old man of the flesh and the new man of the spirit. If the apostle Paul is any kind of example, every believer goes through this conflict as he matures spiritually in his walk. Walking by the spirit, being *Led by God's Power*, should become easier or more habitual with growth and maturity in our Christian walk.

God's children have two natures, which come from two different births. In the first birth our nature comes from Adam, and in the new birth from Christ, the last Adam (I Corinthians 15:45). The sin nature was innate in every person because all are

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descendants of Adam. The divine nature is within each believer because he is born-again of God.

Religion tries to mold and shape and reform the old nature to transform it into the new one. That is absolutely not available. There is nothing we can do to reform or develop our old man. It was crucified with Christ, and we were given a new man to replace it. God gave us holy spirit to do in us and for us, what we could not do in and for ourselves. There is nothing we can do to reform the old-man nature. We cannot educate it, polish it up, or whip it into shape. God simply replaced it. He gave us a new nature. Just as living the wrong way and succumbing to sin was inherent to the old nature. Doing the right thing and living righteously is inherent to the new nature.

The gift of God in Christ in us is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end and not an end in itself. The gift of holy spirit is what makes fellowship with God available. We have a connection so we can commune with Him and develop our relationship with our loving heavenly Father. God wants us to be conformed to the image of His son, and He gave us His gift so that it can happen. We should become more Christ-like day by day.

Many of the self-help gurus of our day talk about a personal power that you learn to tap into and use to accomplish your agenda for your life. Revelation is not for us to get our will done; it is to get God's will done. It is not a personal empowerment for one to use to get what he wants out of life. It is so God can get His will, His plan accomplished in our lives. God wants to personally guide us into His will with the revelation manifestations, and then empower us to accomplish it with the impartation manifestations. We get more guidance than we are aware of. We are led by the Spirit when we choose to respond to His guidance.

I recently received an email I wanted to share with you. It is entitled "Guidance."

G U I D A N C E

When I meditated on the word GUIDANCE, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement does not flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one realizes this and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word GUIDANCE. When I saw "G," I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i." "God, "U" and "I" dance!" God, you, and I dance. This statement is what guidance means to me. - Author Unknown

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The new man is the new nature created within us, which we are to put on in our minds. The new man is what God created in Christ in righteousness and true holiness. This new man is no longer Jew or Gentile; it is a new creation.

Ephesians 2:13-18:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off [That is the believers from the Gentile background] are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, who hath made both [Jew and Gentile] one [Body of Christ], and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us* [the Jew and Gentile];

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain [the Jew and Gentile] one new man, *so* making peace;

And that he might reconcile both [the Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off [Gentiles], and to them that were nigh [Jews].

For through him we both [the Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

This new creation was given to us as a gift of God's grace. You and I as those new creations are told in Ephesians 4:22 and Colossians 3:9 to put off the old man and put on the new man in our minds. We have the mind of Christ spiritually, and we must appropriate it. We must put it on by renewing our minds and accept what God has already done in us and for us spiritually.

This new creation allows for communication with our loving heavenly Father. The great principle is that the Spirit of God communicates to this new creation in us, (which is the gift of holy spirit); then the spirit communicates with our minds. As it registers in our minds it becomes available to use in the senses realm. As this information, direction, or spiritual understanding is believably acted upon it will produce the miracles and healing that would not have happened had God not energized the manifestations in the believing believer.

This new man functions similarly to how the old man functioned. The old man functioned by receiving information via the five senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. The new man functions by seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching—spiritually. A new man uses the new nature to receive the revelation from God. God unveils or reveals to our spirit, which in turn communicates to our mind.

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Ephesians 3:16:

That he [God] would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

Although the inner man is entire and complete, lacking nothing, it continues to be strengthened with use. Manifesting the spirit edifies or strengthens us in the inner man.

II Corinthians 4:16:

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

Although the man that can be seen changes for the worse, the inward man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness, is renewed and changes for the better as we operate manifestations and renew our mind.

Colossians 1:27:

To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Christ came into our lives, and he is an all-in-all inner man. He is eyes behind our eyes, ears behind our ears, the nose behind our nose, the taste buds behind our taste buds, the nervous system behind our nervous system, the heart behind our heart, the compassion behind our compassion, etc. Jesus Christ had the full measure of what was available, and he is in us. We have been filled with *plerōma* power, all the fullness of God.

Just as our natural nervous system receives and interprets stimuli and transmits impulses where it needs to, our “new creation nervous system” does the same. It is the five spiritual senses that are the registering apparatus, but it is “instantly” communicated to the mind of Christ where it is crystallized in a word or a discernment upon which we act.

The conflict comes between natural knowledge and spiritual knowledge. Between what we receive with our natural five senses and what we receive with our spiritual five senses. When Paul was speaking to the Athenians in Acts 17:28, he said that we were God’s offspring and in Him we live and move and have our being. It is God in Christ in us. God works through His creation in us, and we live and move and have our being in Him. It happens via the new creation, which was created in righteousness and true holiness.

The word “revelation” comes from the Greek *apokalupsis*, which literally refers to a physical action of uncovering, disclosing, or revealing. It is also used in the New Testament of the disclosure God makes to His people. This disclosure comes via one of the five spiritual senses of the new man and registers as an awareness or knowing in the mind of the believer.

Matthew 16:15-17:

He [Jesus] saith unto them [the twelve], But whom say ye that I am?
And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

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And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [*apokaluptō*] it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Peter did not receive this revelation from anyone. He did not receive it by flesh and blood, by the five natural senses. It was revealed to him by God through the spiritual five senses. Paul in Galatians 1 speaking of the gospel of the mystery he preached said, "I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by revelation." It came directly from God via His creation in Paul.

Hebrews 5:12-14:

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use [because of habit or practice; the NIV says - constant use; the NAS says - because of practice; the DBY says - on account of habit; the NJB says - trained by practice] have their senses [spiritual senses] exercised to discern both good and evil.

There are people who think they can do this with their natural five senses. They look at people and think they know everything about them. What problems they have, what spirits they have. That is baloney. If we could do that with our natural senses why would we need word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits.

Our spiritual senses work to inform us of both good and evil. Not every thought that comes to our minds is necessarily from God. As we habitually work with God we should become better at recognizing His voice and how He works within us to will and do of His good pleasure. The more you dance with the same partner, the better you get to know each other and the easier it becomes.

Seeing:

In II Kings 6, Elisha is breaking in and training a new servant. Gehazi, just left at the end of chapter 5 and Elisha is teaching this new servant about how the spirit works.

II Kings 6:17:

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

It was not his physical eyes; it was his spiritual eyes that needed to be opened. Do you think everyone in the vicinity saw those horses and chariots of fire? Elisha saw them, and he asked God to also show them to his servant. What the young man saw with his natural eyesight disturbed him, and what he saw with his spiritual eyesight delighted him.

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that is really the conflict that we endure. What we see with natural senses often contradicts the revelation from God, which we receive by way of the spiritual 5 senses.

Which picture do we trust? On which picture do we rely? Which picture is the basis for our action... What we see with the natural senses, or what we see with our spiritual senses?

Hearing:

Isaiah 22:14a:

And it was revealed [In LXX, *apokaluptō*] in mine ears by the LORD of hosts....

I Samuel 3:4,5:

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I.

And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

What he was hearing with his spiritual sense of hearing was so much like what he was used to hearing with his natural sense of hearing, he mistook the one for the other. This happened three times before Eli realized that it was God that was speaking to Samuel.

Smelling:

Mark 9:25:

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him [it], *Thou* dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

How did Jesus know it was a foul spirit? He smelled it. Not with his natural sense of smell, but with the new-man nose.

Revelation 18:2:

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Have you ever been to a pet store that has not been cleaned recently or a county fair that has not been kept clean? I guarantee that if you smell a foul spirit, you will not soon forget it.

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Tasting:

II Kings 4:38-40:

And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and *there was* a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.

And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred *them* into the pot of pottage: for they knew *them* not.

So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O *thou* man of God, *there is* death in the pot. And they could not eat *thereof*.

Job 6:30:

Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?

Touching/Feeling:

Mark 5:30:

And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue [*dunamis*; power, miracle] had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

Combinations:

Often revelation comes via a combination of the senses. Seeing and hearing frequently happen together as do taste and smell.

Acts 10:10-17a:

And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

And **saw** heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

And there came a **voice** to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

And the **voice spake** unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common.

This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Now while Peter doubted in himself what this **vision** which he **had seen** should mean...

He did not doubt or wonder if the vision came from God. Acts 10:17b-20:

... behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

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And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

While Peter thought on the **vision**, the Spirit **said** unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Peter would obediently do as God told him, and God would fill in more details as he walked and moved ahead.

Matthew 17:3-9:

And, behold, there **appeared** unto them [Peter, James, and John] Moses and Elias talking with him [Jesus].

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a **voice** out of the cloud, which **said**, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

And when the disciples **heard it**, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the **vision** to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

Numbers 24:3,4:

And he [Balaam] took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose **eyes** are open hath said:

He hath said, which **heard** the words of God, which **saw** the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

John 5:6:

When Jesus saw him lie, and **knew** that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

Sometimes our spiritual senses are so like our natural senses it is hard to distinguish between them. But revelation will result in a knowing, an assurance, that can only come from God. (I learned that assurance from tenacious adherence and reliance on the written Word.) The same rest and assurance is available when word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits is received.

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John 5:42:

But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

This was not just by their behavior. God was working in his heart. God showed him, how else would he know?

Although the spirit that they had upon them in the Old Testament was not an all-in-all inner man like we have today, it functioned in a similar fashion. Sometimes in order to distinguish between the differences in administrations we have used the terms “spirit in them” and “spirit upon them.” These terms are not meant to be descriptive of location, but rather of condition. (It was not like it is under the skin or outside of it.) We have spirit in us in an unreserved, unconditional inner man. The new creation born within us is everlasting and unchangeable. It cannot and will never be altered, lost, or corrupted in any manner. What was available before Pentecost was a spiritual connection that was conditional. It could be lost or taken away. It was not an all-in-all inner man. It was subject to stipulations or conditions. As long as those conditions were met the spirit remained, but when they were violated it could be removed. It was not lost the first time someone sinned, either. David after blowing it in the matter of Uriah and Bathsheba said:

Psalm 51:11:

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

That can never happen to us, but it was possible before Pentecost. Our spirit is seed born within us, and it cannot be lost.

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Numbers 11:24,25:

And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

Obviously this does not mean that they never stopped prophesying from this point on. "Cease" is the Hebrew word *yasaph* which occurs 213 times, and it is only translated "cease" this once. Just how likely do you think that it is a proper translation? Of the 213 times, it is translated most often "more" (70 times). The ASV says, "they did so no more." The next most frequent translation is "again" (54 times). The NIV says, "they did not do so again." The next two most frequent translations are: "add" 28 times and "increase" 16 times. In their commentary on the Old Testament Keil and Delitzsch translate it "they prophesied and did not add." (p. 697). Wilson also translates it "add" in his Old Testament Word Studies. (p 70). That is how it should be translated, "They prophesied and did not add." They did it right. They were given revelation, and they spoke as they were told to speak without adding to it. They did it right the first time. That is available. That is the standard God has set for it. We can operate correctly without adding our own sense-knowledge to the instruction or guidance from God.

Numbers 11:26-29:

But there remained two *of the* men in the camp, the name of the one *was* Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they *were* of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp.

And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, *one* of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, *and* that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

That is almost prophetic. After Pentecost that happened. In the Old Testament times not all of God's people had the spirit. The spirit was given for specific reasons like, to oversee, judge, work, to do specific tasks. God honored the seventy Moses chose, but He also included two extra that He did not want excluded. God makes sure no one gets missed.

I Chronicles 12:18:

Then the spirit came upon Amasai, *who was* chief of the captains, *and he said*, Thine *are we*, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace *be* unto thee, and peace *be* to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

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God gave Amasai word of knowledge and word of wisdom, and he spoke them to David. Amasai spoke by the spirit like David did as recorded in Mark 12:36. Speaking by revelation, referred to as prophecy frequently in the Old Testament, is not the same as the manifestation of prophecy by inspiration today, in the administration of grace.

Isaiah 42:1:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment [speak words of judgment by revelation] to the Gentiles.

The reason we can learn from the examples in the Old Testament and Gospels is that it worked in the same way, as an avenue of communication between God and His people.

Luke 2:25,26:

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel [Put by metonymy for the Messiah who would bring the consolation]: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed [That is not *apokaluptō*. It is *chrematizō* in the passive voice] unto him by [*hupo* with the genitive denoting the sole agent by which something is performed.] the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Chrematizō is used 9 times and is translated in the KJV "be warned of God" 3x, "call" 2x, "be admonished of God" once, "reveal" once, "speak" once, "be warned from God" once. It is used in two senses in the NT:

1. To warn; direct, instruct; reveal, or disclose and
2. To be called or to have the name of.

The first usage literally means to transact business or to manage affairs. (It comes from the root, *chrēma* meaning money, business, or riches.) Remember when Jesus said, I must be about my Father's business. This is how God does business. God's Word is the biggest revelation; it is set. To conduct business with and for God requires revelation. God is our business partner, and we are fellow laborers with Him. If He wants us to do His will, He has to let us know what it is in specific situations and that requires revelation.

Before I talk about that specifically, let me go on a bit of a tangent for a moment. People study for years to learn trades and business skills, but when it comes to spiritual matters the systems of the world promote the idea that spiritual things are accomplished without effort and hard work. They sort of come by osmosis or something. It is sort of transcendental or esoteric or something. It is the adversary's spiritual matters that transpire that way through possession and loss of control and personal accountability. Rightly dividing the Word and walking on it is the highest endeavor I know of. It takes the utmost of our resolve and determination to stay put in the awesome grace of God and labor together with Him. Walking by the spirit and being **Led by God's Power** is a learning process. It takes an accurate knowledge of God's Word and operating manifestations of holy spirit to grow and mature like we should.

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Take this situation for instance. God told Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Lord's Messiah. Now he could have reasoned that since Micah 5:2 said Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, I should go hangout there and visit every boy who is born. He would have only gotten word of knowledge, that may have been a way to do it. Word of knowledge and word of wisdom are companion manifestations, we frequently need both. Word of knowledge is information and word of wisdom is direction. The direction here was not to move to Bethlehem, it was (on this specific day) to go into the temple.

Luke 2:27-33:

And he [Simeon] came by [en] the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word [*rhēma*]: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

However, God had a different plan. He had something He wanted Simeon to do for Joseph and Mary. This must have blessed them so much. It said in Luke 2:25 that the Holy Ghost was upon Simeon. "Upon" does not indicate location. Rather, it indicates that it was not an "all-in-all" inner man. In I Peter "in" is used of the same reality.

I Peter 1:10-12:

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ [Note in Companion Bible] which was in [en] them did signify [of Christ], when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. [The question was not whether it was **in** them or **upon** them. It was both. It was **in** them **upon** a condition.] Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

The spirit they had functioned essentially like ours does, revealing things to them via the spiritual senses. However, it was not an "all-in-all" inner man of incorruptible seed. Their spirit did not provide new eternal life nature like we enjoy, but it functioned in the same manner regarding the revelation manifestations.

John 14:15-20:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

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Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth [*ginōskō*] him: but ye know [*ginōskō*] him; for he dwelleth **with** you [before Pentecost], and shall be **in** you [after Pentecost].

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

At that day ye shall know [*ginōskō*] that I *am in* my Father, and ye **in** me [That is our walk in Christ], and I **in** you [That is sonship, Christ in us.].

The twelve apostles had spirit “upon” them conditionally before Pentecost and unconditionally as incorruptible seed after Pentecost. They knew how it worked as far as revelation and impartation manifestations were concerned. They only needed further instruction on the inspirational or utterance manifestations, which Jesus gave them later in John 20 before his ascension. With the incorruptible seed came a responsibility to worship the Father in spirit and in truth and build ourselves up on our most holy faith.

Summary

We saw how revelation is revealed to the inner man via the five spiritual senses. We also saw that people had to learn how the spirit operated. Next hour we will look at examples of learning for our learning.

Hour 4: Examples of Learning, For Our Learning

Preview of *Examples of Learning, For Our Learning*

In *Examples of Learning For Our Learning* we will see that receiving revelation must be learned, and God wants to instruct us. Learning should be an exciting adventure. As we see Biblical accounts of others learning to operate the revelation manifestations, we will be encouraged and comforted knowing that the same God Who taught them can teach us also.

Operating the revelation manifestations is simple and exciting, and it is important that it not remain an elusive concept, like it was for Nicodemus (John 3:1-21). Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, one of the seventy rulers of Israel, and he came to Jesus under the cover of darkness with questions about spiritual matters. Jesus told him about the new birth that would be available in the future and about other spiritual matters. Nicodemus response was, "How can these things be?" Jesus' reply was, "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" Here was one of the masters, one of the teachers of Israel, one of the seventy who were supposed to be the rulers, and he did not know anything about receiving revelation. The original 70 did. (Remember we just read about them in Numbers 11.) They all had the spirit and prophesied.

God made it so simple that even a child can grasp it and do it. In fact, Samuel was a youth when he started learning. When the youth Samuel was learning he went to Eli, his teacher, for help. Even though Eli was having difficulty with his walk personally, he was still able to help the young Samuel because he had been successful in the past. He had walked with the Lord; he knew how to do it. However, he stopped walking because he did not want to go where God was leading. God will never violate our freewill. If and when we choose to go no further, what can God do?

Samuel was a young man and Nicodemus was an older gentleman, but they both needed to learn how to operate word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. Remember we are workers together with God in His family business. That is what walking by the spirit is all about. God wants us to do His will, so He has to let us know

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what it is. He did so in His Word, and when we need more details to fill in the specifics for the situation in which we are involved, He will give them to us.

Samuel's Example

I Samuel 3:1-10:

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was* no open vision.

And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;

That the LORD called Samuel [That is the first time.]: and he answered, Here *am I*.

And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am I*; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. [This is the second time.] And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am I*; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed [*galah* same as in Deuteronomy 29:29; LXX *apokaluptō*] unto him.)

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am I*; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. [He obeyed.]

The key was not repeating the words, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." The key is that we respond to God when He speaks to us—that we acknowledge Him and His participation in our family affair of living and moving and having our being in Him. God's call of, "Samuel, Samuel" got Samuel's attention; then Samuel responded. When we respond and let Him know we are ready and willing to proceed, He will disclose what he wants us to know. We are responsible to respond in some manner. Samuel initially responded to Eli. He had never heard the voice of God before and was not aware of how revelation was given. God knowing that, had the voice sound like Eli so the child would go to someone who would help him. Although it took Eli three times to catch on, he eventually got it, and instructed the child. It is important to let God know He has our attention. (Important for our benefit, not His.) When Samuel responds to God he gets the rest of the message.

I Samuel 3:11-14:

And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

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For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

God told Samuel about what was going to happen to Eli and his house, only after telling Eli first. God is not in the business of telling your sin to anybody else. If He has forgiven it, He has forgotten it. God will always tell you first, then, if you do not act on it, you may hear again from another source. That is important because spirits of divination will try to tell you things as if they are from God when they are not. They will try to program destruction into your life. This one simple key, will keep you free from their vicious attacks. [e.g. you will die, your children will die, etc.]

I Samuel 3:15-21:

And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I. And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It *is* the LORD: [He knew because God had already told him.] let him do what seemeth him good.

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan [far north] even to Beersheba [far south] knew that Samuel *was* established *to be* a prophet of the LORD.

And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed [*galah*; LXX *apokaluptō*] himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

Nicodemus' Example

Now Nicodemus got a much later start in life at operating manifestations, but he too had to learn.

John 3:1-7:

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews [one of the seventy]:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

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That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Jesus was speaking prophetically of what would happen after the day of Pentecost. We will see that specifically when we get to verse 8.

John 3:8:

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

This is the only scripture where the word *pneuma* is translated “wind.” It cannot mean “wind” for John 6:18 uses the word *anemos* for “wind” (*Anemos* is used in most of the other places “wind” occurs.) and it could have been used here also, but it was not. The reason *anemos* was not used is because “wind” was not intended. *Pneuma* was used because “God” was meant. The wind does not “list” or “will,” but God does. His will is definite and specific. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that the comings and goings of the wind can be followed, but this is not true of the *pneuma*.

Ecclesiastes 11:5:

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Ecclesiastes 1:6:

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.⁹

Job 1:19:

And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

In John 3:8 Jesus is teaching Nicodemus about both the Giver and His gift.

“the wind” — *pneuma*, **Spirit, i.e. God the Giver**

“bloweth” — *pneō*, **breatheth**; *Pneuma* comes from this root word *pneō*. It is the figure polyptoton, multiple forms from the same root. What does God breathe? II Timothy 3:16 — His Word.

“where” — *hopou*, **wherever** or wheresoever

“it listeth” — *thelō*, meaning to will, to have in mind, to intend, to be resolved or determined, to purpose, to desire, to wish, to love or like to do a thing, be fond of doing, to take delight in, have pleasure in; **He willeth**

⁹ You will find “paths of the sea” in Psalms 8:8.

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- “**and thou hearest**” — *akouō*, meaning to hear, to attend to, to consider what is or has been said, to understand, to perceive the sense of what is said, to find out, learn, to give ear to a teaching or a teacher, to comprehend, to understand; **and you hear**
- “**the sound**” — *phonē*, when used of inanimate things such as musical instruments: a sound or a tone or when used of animate things: a voice, the sound of uttered words, speech, language, tongue; **the voice**
- “**thereof**” — *autos*, his, her, its; **His**
- “**but**” — *alla*, strongest contrast; **but**
- “**canst not tell**” — *ou eidō*, to perceive by any of the senses, to notice, to discern, to discover, to turn the mind or the attention to anything, to ascertain what must be done about something, to inspect, to examine, to experience the force and meaning of something which has definite meaning, to know how, to be skilled in;
- “**whence**” (meaning in English “**from what place**”) — *pothen*, which is used in the Greek in three ways. 1) of place: from where, from what condition 2) of origin or source: from what author or giver 3) of cause: how is that?, how can that be? If it was dealing with wind one might think of place or origin, but it is not dealing with wind. God is everywhere present so it cannot be dealing with place. Obviously the origin of the voice is God. Therefore “whence” has to deal with the cause; **just how or why does God do that?** What causes God to give revelation. It comes at the most likely and unlikely times and places.¹⁰
- “**it cometh**” — used metaphorically of coming into being, arising, coming forth, showing itself, finding place or influence, being established, becoming known, coming (falling) into or unto; **it comes into being**
- “**and whither**” (meaning in English “**to what place**”) — *pou*, somewhere, about; usually of place, but not always.¹¹
- “**goeth**” — *hupagō*, to withdraw or go away, to lead under, bring under, depart
- “**so**” — *houto*, in this manner, thus, so
- “**is every one**” — *pas*; everyone, all things, everything collectively
- “**that is born**” — *gennaō*, to be born used of God making men his sons through faith in Christ’s work.
- “**of the Spirit**” — *pneuma*, speaking prophetically of the new birth which would be available after the Day of Pentecost. Remember Nicodemus’ question about going back into his mother’s womb? Jesus was trying to teach Nicodemus that you have to first get the connection, then you can hear from God.

John 3:8: [The Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition]

The Spirit breatheth where he will and thou hearest his voice [Good so far!]: but thou knowest not whence he cometh and whither he goeth. [It is not God coming and going. He is everywhere present.] So is every one that is born of the Spirit.

¹⁰ See *Walking By the Spirit*, hour 6.

¹¹ Sometimes *pou* carries the idea of “what is the reason for or basis of” (Romans 3:27; I Corinthians 15:55) or “what happens to” (I Corinthians 12:17,19; II Peter 3:4).

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John 3:8: [Young's Literal Translation]

the Spirit where he willesh doth blow, and his voice thou dost hear, but thou hast not known whence he [3rd person singular, should be "it"] cometh, and whither he [it] goeth; thus is every one who hath been born of the Spirit.

If it is not God coming and going, to what is it referring? Right, His voice, His words, the revelation. We need to watch and be ready all the time because we do not know when God is going to reveal His will to us. He speaks when He wants and how He wants. It comes at His discretion, not ours.

John 3:8: [A more literal translation according to usage]

The Spirit of God breathes His Word wherever He wills or desires to do so, and His voice thou hearest, but you do not understand how or why it [the word or voice, referring to the revelation] comes and goes [i.e. happens or does not happen]. That is exactly how it works for every one, without exception, that is born of the *pneuma* (i.e. the gift of holy spirit available after Pentecost).

Why does God give you a picture sometimes and other times you hear a voice? Why do you sometimes smell it and other times taste it? Why does it come at both the most likely and unlikely times and places? We will never know. God does what He wants whenever He wants. Why do you sometimes know which of the five senses it comes through and other times you do not? We do not always know how it gets there. Sometimes it is just so forceful or impacting that you cannot miss which sense it comes through, and other times you have no idea. That is all up to God, and He does what He wants.

John 3:9,10:

Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

God's people will hear God's voice. Jesus said in John 8:47 that "he that is of God heareth God's words." Do not be concerned or wonder about it. If God Almighty wants to talk to you, you will know it.

John 10:1-4:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, **he goeth before them**, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

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God does not drive, He leads. We are led, not driven. If servants before Pentecost could know His voice, how about you and I as His sons, today?

John 10:5,6:

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Sometimes learning to walk by the spirit cannot really be grasped until you start doing it. *Ginōskō*, learn by experience, comes to mind. It is available to get an experiential understanding, not just vague feelings. Revelation, in the Bible, is specific and detailed, not vague, enigmatic, or puzzling.

Paul and the Mystery

I Corinthians 2:1-3a:

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony [mystery] of God.

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness...

“Weakness” refers to our inability to plan out every little detail of life. We just cannot figure everything out sense knowledge-wise. Now, if I wanted to do my will, I could plan everything and rehearse everything, but we are not after doing our own will. We are after doing His will. Therefore we move at His direction, and that can be disconcerting at times. In those situations we just may feel weak.

I Corinthians 2:3b-9:

... and in fear [reverence], and in much trembling [obedience—like a dog on point.] And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: [a powerful spirit or spiritual power.]

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it* [the **mystery**], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, **the things [concerning the great mystery]** which God hath prepared for them that love him.

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That was written by Isaiah long ago (64:4). Paul quotes it and brings it into this context for a reason. I believe that this is so very true about your life and my life. We just have no idea as of yet, that God has in store for us. The great truths of the mystery of God have been revealed and we will continue to walk into an experiential understanding of them as we stay faithful and operate the manifestations of the spirit.

I Corinthians 2:10-16:

But God hath revealed [*apokaluptō*] **them** [the things concerning the great mystery] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things [concerning the great mystery], yea, the deep things [concerning the great mystery] of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? [No one knows the secret things of your heart, but you.] even so the things [concerning the great mystery] of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received [*lambanō*], not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things [concerning the great mystery] also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but [ellipsis: in the words] which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things [concerning the great mystery] with spiritual [words taught us by the Spirit and received by the spiritual senses of the new creation.].

But the natural man receiveth not the things [concerning the great mystery] of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. [He has no spiritual 5 senses, no new man that God can instruct. Therefore until he gets one, he will never know.]

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things [concerning the great mystery], yet he himself is judged of no man.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? [Who is so presumptuous as to think he can direct God or even run your life.] But we have the mind of Christ.

Is it Christ in us or not? He is eyes behind our eyes... ears behind our ears... mind behind our mind? He is truly an all in all inner man.

Daniel's Example

One night the king had a dream and wanted it interpreted. But, he did not want his astrologers to just make up an interpretation. So, he refuses to tell them the dream and insists that they tell it to him along with the interpretation of it. Because he is so concerned about it, he demands that they tell him or they will be killed.

Daniel 2:19-23a:

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

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And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee....

That is not the purpose of revelation. God does not exist to do our will, to answer our questions. Quite the contrary, we exist to do His. Revelation was not intended to put God at our beck and call. We are at His. For the most part “asking God” in the scriptures takes the form of prayer, which may or may not be answered in the manner we expect it to be. God is not the answer man who jumps when we say jump. Perhaps I ought to tone that down a bit. God is our Father and He has promised to supply all our need. That He does according to His timetable, not ours. We will never really understand when, why, or how it comes ahead of time, but when it comes we can be absolutely sure of it. We do not have to rely on vague feelings or hunches. If God wants us to know we can know that we know.

Daniel 2:23b:

... for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

Did Daniel have a need? He certainly did. The king said that he was going to kill all the wise men if they did not tell him his dream. Daniel was one of those wise men. If God did not tell him he would be killed. I am sure if we were in a situation like this, we too, would receive what we need to know also.

Daniel 2:24-30:

Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

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As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he [God] that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

God wanted the king to know so He told him. Daniel is just making God's intent and message clear to the king. Daniel is in reality carrying out God's will. God is not carrying out Daniel's. First Daniel tells the king the dream.

Daniel 2:31:

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

How would you like to guess about this? Would a vague feeling communicate this kind of information? Yet, people are willing to put up with that uncertainty. It does not work that way in the Word.

Daniel 2:32-45:

This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold.

And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

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And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; **the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.**

That is some pretty specific and detailed information. Revelation can be like that. Some people think of revelation as a vague feeling or undiscernable impression that they get of which they are never really sure if it is God or not. Some people may put up with God working with them like that, but that is not what He wants. He wants to communicate with detail, exactness, and precision. If He did talk to us like that, would we remember what He said? Revelation is certain and sure. It allows us to be certain and sure.

Daniel 2:46,47:

Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

God got the glory, and that is the way it should be. If we can live our lives and bring glory to God, I think we would be happy. Well we can, and as we are ***Led by God's Power*** we will.

Led by God's Power
Hour 5: There's More To Do

Preview of *There Is More To Do*

In *There Is More To Do* we will see that perseverance and faithfulness are necessary for us to finish the work God has called us to do. We should “push on” until we see God's Word and will in manifestation in our lives and in the lives of those to whom we minister and serve.

In the last couple hours we looked at “How Revelation Was Received.” We saw how God gives it to us via the new man, and it is received through the 5 spiritual senses. The Great Principle distills what we learned in the last couple hours into one concise statement of truth.

THE GREAT PRINCIPLE

God's Spirit teaches His creation in you which is now your spirit and your spirit teaches your mind. Then it becomes manifested in the senses realm as you act.

Revelation is so simple for us to receive. God speaks directly to our spirit, His gift of holy spirit in us. God is not a respecter of persons. If He has given revelation to anyone, he can give it to everyone. Remember the lesson Peter learned in Acts 10? When the sheet was let down, and three times he was instructed to eat. Peter said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” What a revelation. Even the Gentiles were allowed in. God will work in any heart that is willing to obey.

The biggest difficulty I see with revelation is the same as with the inspirational manifestations of tongues, interpretation, and prophecy. We neglect to act. We stand at the precipice and wait to be pushed over the edge, instead of acting boldly. Until we act it will not be manifested in the senses realm. God never controls. We are not channels or mediums. We do not get possessed. If you ever lose control, it is never God who takes it from you. We have to act by our freewill choice or nothing will be manifested in the senses realm.

God's Word is revelation, and it directs our actions. People have used the excuse of “I do not have revelation.” too often when people come to them for help. Yes, to impart a gift of healing or work a miracle takes revelation, but many times people hesitate out of fear.

Led by God's Power
Hour 5: There's More To Do

No one wants to look foolish or fail, but do not let those thoughts keep you from giving your whole heart to help God's people and bring God's will to pass.

When people come to be ministered to, they come asking for help. If they believed God would heal them they would be healed already. What they are saying is, "I believe, help thou mine unbelief." As we act, reaching out to help, we will receive revelation. When we believe that revelation it will inspire believing in those to whom we minister. Remember the account of Jesus in Mark nine with the man with the child who was pining away?

Mark 9:14-16:

And when he came to *his* disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to *him* saluted him.

And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

What alarmed Jesus was the belittling questions the scribes were asking his disciples. Upon his arrival, he knew something was not right, and he confronted the scribes about their questioning. This word for question is *suzēteō*, which is only used 10 times in the New Testament. It is also translated dispute or reason. Friberg says when it is used in a negative sense, it means dispute, debate, or argue. The Louw-Nida Lexicon says it means "to express forceful differences of opinion without necessarily having a presumed goal of seeking a solution." They were not helping; they were just making the situation worse. As we read the entire incident in the context you will see that the scribes were belittling the disciples, tempting them to doubt themselves and their ability to minister.

Jesus asks a question of the scribes, and the father with the need interrupts asking for Jesus' help.

Mark 9:17:

And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

He knew what the cause of his son's problem was, but he had not yet been able to believe for deliverance for him.

Mark 9:18-28:

And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

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And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but **if thou canst do any thing**, have compassion on **us**, and help **us**.

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, *Thou* dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

And *the spirit* cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

You better believe that the scribes had asked them the same question. No one likes to look foolish or incompetent, and the scribes had rubbed salt in their wounds. I would be asking why, too. If you do not ask... If you do not pursue finding out why... you usually languish in self doubt and self pity and belittle who you are and what you have in Christ.

Mark 9:29:

And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Do you remember Jesus praying for the father or his son? I do not. At least there is nothing recorded in the account. He just prayed to God to know what to do. Jesus asked questions until he found the problem. He saw the doubt; he heard the "if." He reached the father's heart. That is what the father needed to know. He needed someone to challenge him.

Obviously God answered his prayer because the child was delivered. How had Jesus taught them to pray? Remember the "Lord's Prayer?" "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come..." In the Greek it is a series of imperatives — commands. You take authority in the situation and pray as one who realizes his authority over the spirit realm. In Luke 10:19 Jesus will elaborate and say, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." This prayer thing is a big deal, and we will look into it more later on.

Fasting

"Fasting" is not simply going without food; it is what Isaiah 58 describes:

Isaiah 58:1-3:

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

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Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. Wherefore have we fasted, *say they*, and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your **fast** ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. [NIV "You do as you please and exploit all your workers."]

The fast is not doing what you please. It is doing what pleases God.

THE FAST - WHAT IT IS NOT:

Isaiah 58:4:

Behold, ye **fast** for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not **fast** as *ye do this* day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

They fasted for the wrong reasons, and motive is so very important when it comes to the things of God. They fasted to control people and even to control God. They may as well have been rubbing Aladdin's lamp.

Isaiah 58:5:

Is it such a **fast** that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? *is it* to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes *under him*? wilt thou call this a **fast**, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

What kind of God would want His people to act in that manner? What kind of God would want His people miserable?

THE FAST - WHAT IT IS:

Isaiah 58:6,7:

Is not this the **fast** that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? *Is it* not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

You must get involved with people. You must be willing to not be critical and judgmental, but to help.

Isaiah 58:8,9a:

[If you will do that] Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I *am*. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke....

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That is the bondage of trying to earn the deliverance by being “so good” that you deserve it. When people come for help, we should not heap more burdens upon them than they already have.

Isaiah 58:9b:
...the putting forth of the finger....

That refers to the judgmental, critical, and condemning attitudes that are often displayed. It refers to the assigning of blame and condemning people for their problems.

Isaiah 58:9b:
...and speaking vanity.

That is the running off of the mouth, words of blame, excuses as to why there is no deliverance. This happened because... Speaking vanity is speaking empty words, which bring no profit, no deliverance.

Isaiah 58:10:
And *if* thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness *be* as the noonday:

We need to be willing to open our heart to people. If you will commit to help, you will know what to do. If you are sitting in darkness with no revelation, draw out your soul to the needy, and your darkness shall become as high noon. As we make our business helping God's people, God will make His business leading us by His power.

Isaiah 58:11a:
And the LORD shall guide thee continually...

That is being *Led By God's Power*. That comes from the Word and the revelation manifestations. It is the Word first, then the revelation manifestations. We think the Word first, then as we become so adamantly sure of what God's will is then the revelation can kick in.

Isaiah 58:11:
And the LORD shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Sure, sometimes we feel like a dried up pump. If that is the case, prime that pump. Then once you start pumping, do not stop.

Isaiah 58:12-14:
And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. [We build people up, not tear them down.]

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If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words:

Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD [This is another key we will look at more later on.]; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

“Prayer and fasting” means “going to God with desire and doing whatever it takes to get the job done.” I am almost 100% sure that you will not know what is going to be required when you enter into a ministering situation. I am also an 100% sure that God will tell you what to do—give you revelation when it is your desire to get involved and help.

Mark 16:17-20:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents;¹² and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. [Now it does not say anything in those two verses about revelation, but that does not mean that we do not need it.]

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

If we are faithful to speak the Word, these signs will follow us, too. God's will is always to heal. He wants His children to live in the realm of the miraculous. He is willing and able to do exceeding, abundantly, above, all that we ask or think. What do we ask or think? When we do get up the courage to ask or think, what do we expect? Well, we ought to expect miracles, everyday...

The question frequently comes up, “How do I know when God is talking to me?” I think the answer is simple. If you are not sure, He did not. If God Almighty, the Maker of the heavens and the earth, wanted to talk to you, He would be able to impress upon you that it is He that is talking.

If you honestly want to know and have no ulterior motives or hidden agendas there will be no question as to whether God has spoken to you or not. He is big enough to make his Word clear to you. Perhaps as we are learning we may have our incidents like Samuel, but those unique situations should not keep happening.

¹² Like Paul did in Acts 28:3 not like these snake handling churches do today. If they handle snakes why not drink deadly things, too.

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Hebrews 3:7,8:

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: [This is repeated in verse 15.]

Do you want to hear His voice? Then do not harden your heart... Do not think you have all the answers... Do not presume to tell God what to do and when to do it... Do not put God in a box thinking this is the only way God works... Do not develop the "It is my WAY or the HIGHWAY!" attitude. If our hearts are not hardened, we will hear His voice. God wants to make His Word known.

Jeremiah 6:10:

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

God could not speak to them, because they would not listen. They had no delight to hear His voice. They did not want to be bothered with what God had to say. (We will spend more time on this later on, too.) If you want to believe and serve God, He will be sure to open doors for you. After all, we want to glorify Him and ascribe greatness to our God.

Elijah and the Still Small Voice

Last hour we looked at Samuel and Nicodemus and how they had to learn to receive revelation. Going to people for help is OK, but much of what we need to learn is how God works with us personally. God works with us each individually with the care and concern of a loving, heavenly Father.

He knows we are not perfect. He knows we are frail and often make mistakes. He will meet us where we are and take us where we need to go.

I Kings 19:1-4:

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, [That is an oath!] if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongeth* to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, **It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.**

That is not bravado. That is not melodrama. That is discouragement. After the stunning confrontation on Mount Carmel and God sending the rain, the people were still bamboozled by Jezebel, and Elijah was discouraged and ready to quit.

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I Kings 19:5,6:

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise *and* eat.

And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

If you have ever been really depressed, you know that sleeping like this seems to be the only comfort available... the only escape from the discouragement.

I Kings 19:7,8:

And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise *and* eat; because the journey *is* too great for thee.

And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

We see the angel of the Lord directing Elijah to continue on in his journey. It is obvious that God had a purpose for taking Elijah to Horeb, the mountain of God. This locale played a major part in the history of the children of Israel.

Mount Horeb (Also known as Mount Sinai.) is the place where the law was given to Moses. It was there that Jehovah made the covenant of the law with the people (Ex. 24), after which the people committed the first act of rebellion and idolatry in the matter of the golden calf (Ex. 32). It was there that God encouraged a weary Moses by hiding him in a cleft of the rock in order to get just a glimpse of His glory. Elijah was well aware of the significance of this place and its importance in the history of Israel.

He traveled for forty days, in comparison to the forty years of wandering imposed upon the unbelieving Israelites. It is almost as if God is taking him back to the beginning, the place where it all started. Israel, as a nation, was set apart from other nations by their scriptures, which contained the law, which was given to Moses. There were other nations with laws and codes of various kinds, but none of them received theirs directly from the mouth of God. This location, then, stood as a memorial to the covenant that God had made and the personal relationship He had with his special people, the family of Jacob.

When Elijah reached his destination, he found a cave and spent the night. Some expositors believe that this might be the very same "cleft of the rock" in which Moses was hid as he beheld the glory of God. That idea is not so far fetched, when we realize that Elijah is about to receive a similar experience. God is going to minister to him directly and personally. In his state of mind, he needs some encouragement. Was that great display from heaven enough to keep him fired up? Obviously not. On the surface, great displays of power and titillating experience seem to be sufficient to convince us of God's concern for us, but in the long run, a personal encounter is much more effective.

I Kings 19:9,10:

And he came thither unto a cave, and **lodged** there; and, behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and he [God] said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

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And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Elijah found his cave, and it was there that the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here?” The question was not one of rebuke. God did not want to upbraid him for being there, in fact, the Lord sent him there. He was asking Elijah if he knew why he had been brought there. God knew exactly why he was there, but He wanted to be sure that Elijah knew why he was there. Just as He brought Moses up to minister to him and show him His glory. Now, He brings Elijah up.

Elijah's response is clear: “I have been doing my best to convince these people to worship and serve you and you only. They have rejected you, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets. I am the only one left, and I just cannot do it by myself any more.” Sound familiar? If you are at all active in the work of the Lord, if you are at all dismayed by some of the things that are occurring in our nation and in the world today, then odds are that you have shared those very same feelings.

One of the adversary's best tactics is to isolate and control. I call it “the lone ranger syndrome.” Elijah could not see past his own circumstances and time in history. He had no idea that God had a purpose for his ministry beyond the demonstration of power on Mt. Carmel. Yes, the people of Israel did not respond the way he thought they should. Yes, Ahab and Jezebel's continued defiance was demoralizing. But God was not discouraged and neither should His prophet be.

I Kings 19:11,12a:

And he [God] said, **Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.** [What was God's Word? What was God's will?] And, behold, the LORD passed by [This is like what He did with Moses to show him His glory.], and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire...

It says the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. These were all designed by the god of this world to keep Elijah in the cave. They were designed to keep Elijah afraid and hiding out instead of going out to see the glory of the Lord pass by. If we want to see His glory we have to obey His voice.

I Kings 19:12b:

...and after the fire a **still small** voice.

Surely that phrase “a still small voice” has captured the hearts and imaginations of man since 1611 when it was written. Here are some other translations of it.

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NIV – “a gentle whisper”
NAS – “a sound of a gentle blowing”
NRS – “a sound of sheer silence”
DRA – “a whistling of a gentle air”
DBY – “a soft gentle voice”
BBE – “the sound of a soft breath”
LXE – “the voice of a gentle breeze”
NAB – “a tiny whispering sound”
NLT – “the sound of a gentle whisper”
NJB – “a light murmuring sound”
CEV - “a soft whisper” or as it says in a footnote “hardly a sound”
RCV – “psssst...”

The emphasis was on its “virtual imperceptibility” and “easy-to-overlook-ability” rather than on any specific content.

Pacing about the preacher’s study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, “I’ve begged God to say something to help me, preacher, why doesn’t God answer?”

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply, something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. “What did you say?” he asked. The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher’s chair.

“Sorry,” he said. “I still did not hear you.” With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. “God sometimes whispers,” he said, “So we will move closer to hear him.” This time the young man heard and he understood.

We all want God’s voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God often uses a still, small voice... the gentle whisper. Perhaps there’s a reason.

Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God’s whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer.

Better still, I find myself closer to God. And there is no better place to be ... Amen?

--Selected from [Net153 Inspirational Archives](#).

I Kings 19:13a:

And it was *so*, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave...

It was important for Elijah to obey what God had already told him before he would hear more from Him. So Elijah covered his face and went out to stand upon the mount before the Lord as he was instructed. When he went, he covered his face. Covering the face

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signified reverence. Orientals covered their face to show respect much like we uncover our heads or take off our hats. This is what Moses did in Exodus 3:6 when he saw the burning bush.

Then after he obeyed what he was already told, then God again speaks to him, repeating what He said before.

I Kings 19:13b,14:

...And, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Elijah still had not gotten it yet. God still had more for him to do. Like Moses in Exodus 33 and 34, Elijah was about to have a wonderful personal lesson in the goodness and glory of God. As Elijah stood at the mouth of the cave, a mighty wind came that literally tore the rocks apart. But God was not there. Then came a great earthquake, and a fire, both awe-inspiring displays of power. But God was not in them either. What followed the fire was a gentle whisper.

Although Elijah heard the still small voice, he did not discern the words or message yet. In spite of all the other noises, Elijah still heard God's still small voice. Above all the roar of the adversary Elijah still heard God's encouraging "Psssst!" Apparently God did not speak to him perceptibly until he walked out in response to that voice. So, he must have heard some sound that he could discern, although he could not discern what it was yet.

Did you notice there were two parts to that voice. In the first part, there was a sound, but he could not discern the words. Yet in spite of all the noise (the winds were howling, the earth was quaking, the rocks were falling, and the fire was burning), he heard a voice that he knew was God wanting to tell him something.

Some of us have experienced that in the natural realm. Maybe one of your children are quite far away, and you hear a sound. We hear the sound, we recognize the sound but we do not discern the voice.

Apparently, there are two stages to God's voice here. The first part he heard a still small voice that he knew beyond a doubt was God's voice. That still small voice was God getting Elijah's attention. That was fantastic, a gentle encouraging whisper from a loving Father. The wind was howling, the earth was quaking, the rocks were falling, the fires were burning, and he heard the sound of all that, but of all the sounds, he knew this one as the still small voice of God. He wrapped himself with a mantle and went out to the entrance of the cave in obedience to what God spoke in verse 11. As he stood there, then the voice was discernable. It said, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

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Hour 5: There's More To Do

Several times in the Book of Haggai God says, "Consider your ways!" People today are looking for earthquakes, they are looking for mighty shows of power and force, and God can certainly do that if He chooses. But that is not the way God normally communicates with His people. If we expect God to only work in one way according to our preconceived ideas, we may miss Him working all together.

Elijah heard from God in a personal way, and so do we who live in the age of grace. What was Elijah's response to the still small voice? He hid his face in his mantle. He respected that God Who was so willing to work with him. Let us face it: with the exception of the great victory on Mt. Carmel over the priests of Baal, Elijah's life had not been a bed of roses over the preceding years. First, he spent three and a half years as a fugitive, hiding out in a foreign country from an angry king. Then, after his great demonstration of the power of God, came the death threat from Jezebel. Now, even after being as faithful to God's calling as anyone could possibly be, he receives a lesson in getting off the PITY-POT.

It is an interesting phenomenon as we look at the voice of God. It is hard to think of Elijah as one who was hardhearted. But, when we consider his actions and his answer to God's question, it is clear that he did not have a clear understanding of "the big picture." "I have been faithful to no avail," he complains. "They have rejected you and now they want to kill me. I am the only one left who has not abandoned you!"

Elijah's eyes are still on the problem not the problem-solver. It seems Elijah had what we might call a martyr's complex: passion for the Lord mixed with pride and maybe a bit of self-righteousness thrown in. I am sure it seemed to him that he was the only one standing for the truth, but God was quick to remind him that there were at least 7000 people left in the northern kingdom who were as zealous and faithful and needed his help. The situation was not as bad as Elijah thought. He was not alone. God still had 7,000 who had not quit and followed Baal. Elijah had to change. He had to overcome his disappointment and discouragement and move ahead again. God still had more for him to do. What was God telling him? "It is not over yet—there is more for you to do!"

I Kings 19:15-18:

And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael *to be* king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint *to be* king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass, *that* him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

There is the real encouragement. Elijah you are not alone, I have 7,000 who still need your help. Elijah was commanded to go and anoint the instruments of judgment against Israel and provide for a prophet in his stead.

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Hour 5: There's More To Do

You can read in later chapters of the books of the Kings that God's commands were carried out perfectly and in His time. The king and queen met their deaths, and Elisha became a prophet who did even greater exploits than his predecessor. He carried on the tradition of speaking the word of God to the people, whether or not it was popular or pleasant.

I Kings 19:19-21:

So he [Elijah] departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

We need men like Elijah today. Not self righteous people who go around and find fault with everybody and everything, but individuals ***Led By God's Power*** to stand and not compromise what they know to be God's will for their lives, and who are not willing to be blended in to a wicked society. Like Elijah, we, too, may face discouragement, but just as surely as discouragement may come, we may also expect encouragement from our source, the Lord of Hosts.

Led By God's Power
Hour 6: The Eyes and Ears of the Church

Preview of *The Eyes and Ears of the Church*

In *The Eyes and Ears of the Church* we will see that God gives revelation to those who serve and help in the church. We will see and hear what God wants us to, as we do our utmost for His highest.

God says we are not to remain “children.”

Ephesians 4:14,15:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and the cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Deuteronomy 32:4b:

... a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

To grow up in Christ is to grow up in the spiritual things of God, so as to be led by the power of God. We need to grow up in the spiritual things of God. God does not give His revelation to lazy people. The Apostles and the believers in the Book of Acts were not lazy nor spiritually immature people.

**The Revelation Manifestations Are the Eyes & Ears
of the Christian Church.**

Revelation was given throughout the Book of Acts and the First Century Christian Church acted upon the things God told and showed them. The revelation manifestations are still available today for those who believe to receive revelation from God and desire to reach out and help others.

Acts 3:2-8:

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

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And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Why now would Peter address this man? Revelation! Peter said, "Look on us!" In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up and this miracle happened. Instantly he was healed.

If you have a relationship with God, you recognize His still small voice. That is where we want to get in our lives. When God gives you revelation then it is going to come to pass. We just need to do our part.

In Acts 4:32-35 it tells how the believers were of one heart and one accord and with great power the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It goes on to tell us that the believers that owned houses and lands (more than they needed) sold them and laid the money at the apostles feet.

In verses 36, 37 it tells about Barnabas, a Levite that owned land, who sold it and gave the money to the apostles.

Acts 5:1,2:

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

How did Peter know? Revelation from God.

Acts 5:4:

Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Peter confronted Ananias about his lie, he wanted him to know that he knew it and he was not fooling anyone, most of all God

I Corinthians 2:10,11a:

But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?

God did not care about his possession or even of its sale price, but once he decided to lie about it, God wanted him confronted about it. When you are dealing with God it always requires honesty.

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Acts 5:5:

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

In the following verses Peter confronts Ananias' wife, Sapphira. He gives her a chance to come clean, but she stays with her lie, and once she knew that God and Peter knew their lie, she drops dead also. Was it God's will for Ananias and Sapphira to drop dead? No. Did God and Peter take pleasure in this? No.

The revelation manifestations kept the church leadership informed about what was going on with the believers and what attacks of our enemy, the adversary, mounted.

As the church grew the apostles became aware that they needed help with taking care of the believers and church business.

Acts 6:3:

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:3: [Amplified Bible]

Therefore select out from among yourselves, brethren, seven men of good and attested character and repute, (favorably known and esteemed) full of the holy spirit and wisdom, whom we may assign to look after this business and duty.

These men needed to be: of honest report, trustworthy, of good character, favorably known by the believers, and well esteemed, full of the holy spirit (*plēthō*- filled to overflowing with wisdom), qualified to do the work of the ministry.

Acts 6:5:

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Stephen was full (*plērēs*), overflowing with faith and the holy spirit. Stephen manifested God's gift of holy spirit and overflowed with faith or super natural believing.

Acts 6:8:

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

They needed the eyes and the ears of the spirit to minister to God's people, to care for the church.

Acts 8:5-8:

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

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For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

How did many of these people get possessed with unclean spirits? It says in verse 9 that Simon had bewitched the people. His witchcraft had opened people up to unclean or devil spirit possession.

Wicca

Just on the surface you know that creed is not logical. It is like the term... "absolute freedom." There cannot be any absolute freedom because my freedom will sooner or later infringe upon someone else's. And if you do whatever you will you are going to end up harming someone else. The biggest one you will harm is going to be yourself.

We live in a free country and one of our freedoms is "religious freedom." All religions have the right to meet and practice their particular religion, and that includes "Wicca." But that does not make Wicca right nor does it make it good. Witchcraft is neither good nor right. God's Word condemns it!

Galatians 5:19-21:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Exodus 22:18:

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

I Samuel 28:3:

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

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Breaking the Spell – the Truth About Wicca

Before 16 year old Rebecca lights candles on a small alter in her bedroom each night she says a small prayer; “hail fair moon ruler of the night, guard me and mine until the light. Hail fair sun ruler of the day make the morn to light my way.

On Rebecca’s alter are four porcelain chalices representing the four elements: air, water, fire, and earth. Each chalice contains a rose petal; semi-precious stones, melted wax and dry leaves. These rest on a five-pointed star, and a frog symbolizing spirit and life sits on the point of the pentagram. Here in front of her alter, Rebecca performs her rituals and casts her spells. Rebecca is one of the growing numbers of teenage girls who practice “Wicca.”

The main hook is the enticement of sex and romance. How to seduce partners for sex. How to get the boy you want for a boyfriend and if he has a girlfriend, how to get rid of her. They mostly deal with sex and romance.

Simon was involved in witchcraft and he had bewitched the people of the city of Samaria. They saw the tricks of Simon but now they had witnessed the signs and wonders that Philip had done, and they had heard the Word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ and were born again. Simon “opened the door” for the spirits, and Philip “showed them the door.”

The problem that Philip had in Samaria was that the people accepted Christ, but they had not manifested the holy spirit of God. They had not spoken in tongues.

Acts 8:14-17:

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received [*dechomai*; to receive subjectively the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Peter and John laid hands on them to receive revelation as to why they had not manifested, and they got the answer. They ministered to the people and removed the cause and the people manifested. The Word of God can heal and deliver people by them just hearing and believing God’s Word, **BUT** sometimes people still have some serious problems that they need help with. They need hands on ministering.

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These problems do not have the right to be there any longer. They may have had the right to access before the person was born again, but now that they are born again the rights are gone. Sickness and disease have no rights, either.

Christ gave us back the dominion that Adam lost.

Healing – “by his stripes we are healed” – sickness and disease has **no right** to our body.

Curses – “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...”

Philip continues to be led by the spirit.

Acts 8:26-30a:

The angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

In Acts 21:8 the scripture refers to “Philip the Evangelist.” Philip continued to grow spiritually and operate a ministry of an evangelist.

Acts 9:10-12:

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Both Saul and Ananias received revelation by way of a vision. Ananias followed through with the revelation given him, and the result was Saul became the great Apostle Paul who received revelation of the seven church epistles and the three Pastoral Epistles plus Hebrews. Paul brought the Word of God unto the Gentiles.

By revelation Paul was sent along with Barnabas

Acts 13:1-3:

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

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As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

How did they know which ones to choose? God, revelation!

Acts 13:5-12:

And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister.
And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus:
Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.
But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.
Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,
And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?
And now, behold, the hand of the Lord *is* upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.
Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Without the “eyes and ears” of the church they would not have known how to handle this guy. But, God equips us to preach the gospel and minister to people.

Paul perceived that a crippled man had faith to be healed.

Acts 14:8-10:

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:
The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,
Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Here Paul is in the middle of a teaching session, and God gives him revelation about this crippled man. Paul did not wait till he was done teaching. He responded to the revelation God gave him and the man was healed immediately.

Paul received revelation as he traveled. God gave him revelation concerning where he should go.

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Acts 16:6,7:

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

Paul received a vision of a man of Macedonia crying for help (Acts 16:9ff).

Paul received revelation to cast out a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16-18).

Paul received revelation in a vision to stay in Corinth (Acts 18:9,10).

Acts 18:9,10:

Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

Acts 14:27:

And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

The revelation manifestations are still the eyes and ears of the church for those that believe and see what God wants them to see and hear and do what God wants them to do.

God gave revelation to help His leadership and His people. When people acted upon what God told them, there was great profit. If there has ever been a time in history when the people of God need His revelation for profit it is now. If ever there has been a time in history that Jesus Christ needs to be preached it is now.

This is our generation and time to GO, STAND, and SPEAK. So, minister; expect God to work with you. If we dare rise up to this challenge we need to hear from God via the manifestations.

We are learning the how and why men received revelation. They had the desire to live and do the will of God. First and foremost, that you love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. They expected His help as they stepped out on His Word. They built a unique fellowship with Him. They believed the Word of God and expected signs, miracles, and wonders to happen when they spoke with authority in the name of Jesus Christ.

Led By God's Power
Hour 7: The Story of Joseph

Preview of *The Story of Joseph*

In *The Story of Joseph* we will see how revelation is such a vital part of life. We will see how word of knowledge and word of wisdom are companion manifestations and work together to bring God's will to pass. They will allow us to be in the place God wants us to be.

This record is so full of life. They received revelation in the highways and byways of life, too.

Genesis 37:2,3:

These *are* the generations of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

Bilhah was a servant girl of Rachel's (the wife of Jacob), and she bore two sons to Jacob, Dan and Naphtali. Rachael bore two sons to Jacob, Joseph & Benjamin. Zilpah was the handmaid of Leah (Jacob's first wife) and she bore two sons to Jacob, Gad and Asher. Leah bore six children to Jacob, five sons; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Sebulun and a daughter, Dinah. All totaled, Jacob had 12 sons and one daughter. God changed Jacob's name to Israel in Genesis 32:28

Genesis 37:4:

And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably [at peace or in friendship with another] unto him.

Joseph's brothers had jealous hatred in their hearts toward him. They were not on friendly speaking terms. Joseph was their father's favorite plus he was a spy for him and gave him reports of the good things they did as well as bad.

Genesis 37:5-8:

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

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And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

The word hatred means to be cold or loveless. Joseph had received revelation from God by way of a dream. This word of knowledge was that his brethren would become subject unto him. Was there a word of wisdom here? No.

Here is a great truth concerning word of knowledge... Keep it to yourself unless word of wisdom tells you otherwise. Word of knowledge is information God gives you for your knowledge, if He wants you to tell others, He will tell you via word of wisdom.

Genesis 37:9,10:

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

This was a repeat about his brother, but now there is added information. Again Joseph does not keep the word of knowledge to himself. He tells his father and his brethren about this dream.

Genesis 37:11:

And his brethren envied him; [they were inflamed, red-hot with anger] but his father observed [weighed in his mind] the saying.

Excessive inflamed anger cannot be maintained and allowed to remain, or it can become an open door for unclean spirits to enter. As the story of Joseph unveils, Jacob sends Joseph out to check on his brothers who are feeding the flocks. When Joseph's brothers saw him afar off they began plotting how to get rid of Joseph. They mocked him and referred to him as the Master Dreamer. They said, "Let us kill him. We will throw him in a pit and say a beast killed and devoured him."

However, the oldest son Reuben talked them out of killing Joseph and told them to just put him into the pit for now. But when Reuben got back to the pit, Joseph was gone. He had been sold by his brothers to the Ishmeelites for 20 pieces of silver. 30 pieces was the lowest going rate for a slave, Joseph was only worth 20.

The Ishmeelites were the descendants of Ishmael the son of Abraham by Hagar the maid of Sarah. Hagar was an Egyptian bond slave. Also, the Midianites were descendants of Abraham's son, Midian. He was from Abraham's second wife, Keturah. Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac and to the rest of his sons he gave gifts and sent them away. (Genesis 25: 5-6)

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The Ishmeelites sold Joseph to an Egyptian captain by the name of Potiphar. Meanwhile Joseph's brothers soaked his coat of many colors in blood so they could tell their father that Joseph was dead, killed and devoured by the beast.

Despite Joseph's situation God continued to watch over him.

Genesis 39:1-6:

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand.

And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was *a goodly person*, and well favoured.

God had given Joseph revelation about the future and He watched over him. He could have been killed. He watched over Joseph because that revelation had to come to pass. Now we will see if Joseph has matured, gotten a little wiser, smarter.

Genesis 39:7-11:

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

And it came to pass about this time, that *Joseph* went into the house to do his business; and *there was* none of the men of the house there within.

Joseph did not need revelation to stay out of this situation. He already knew this gal was trouble. Proverbs is full of instruction for the unlearned and inexperienced. Many times believers put themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

If you ever were going to do something stupid or something that looked like it was going to be stupid, then you better have revelation from God telling you to do it.

UNDERSTAND?

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So if you read the rest of this section, Potiphar's wife grabs Joseph while they were in the house alone. Joseph leaves his garment. She got mad and screamed rape and Joseph ends up in prison.

So far Joseph is 3 for 3 in the department of NOT being wise in his words and actions:

1. Told his brothers the revelation God gave him.
2. Told his father and brothers about the 2nd revelation.
3. Went into a house alone that was occupied by a woman hot after his buns.

The first two got him sold as a slave. The third one got him thrown in prison. Nevertheless, God watched over him.

Genesis 39:21-23:

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*.

The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

Even though he was in prison, he was having the best journey that he could have. God continued to watch over Joseph and the revelation that He gave to him and caused Joseph to prosper.

Genesis 40:1-3:

And it came to pass after these things, *that* the butler of the king of Egypt and *his* baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt.

And Pharaoh was wroth against two *of* his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph *was* bound.

And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which *were* bound in the prison.

In one night they both have a dream. Now this was not Joseph's dream; it was their dream. His desire to help caused him to ask questions.

Genesis 40:6,7:

And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they *were* sad.

And he asked Pharaoh's officers that *were* with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye *so* sadly to day?

There is a great key here in ministering and working with people. When it comes to revelation to minister to someone, it is a good idea to ask questions. Asking questions is

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a very important key, especially when dealing with people that have unclean spirits. They may not know and you may not even know it at first. During the course of the dialog, God can begin to reveal things to you to help you to minister and bring deliverance to that individual.

Ministering to people is more than walking up and then just forgetting about them.

Genesis 40:8,9:

And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and *there is* no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, *Do* not interpretations *belong* to God? tell me *them*, I pray you.

And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine *was* before me;

Joseph came unto them and saw their dejection. Then he engaged in asking questions. He did not sit around and wait for green light from God or wait for revelation to know what their problem was.

HE ASKED QUESTIONS first, then God gave him the revelation he needed. ASKING QUESTIONS is ministering to them. What does the doctor do when you go to him or her for help? People, if someone comes to you for help and you have no immediate revelation from God, ask them questions and find out what you can and then allow God to work within you to do of His good will and pleasure.

Genesis 40:10-15:

And in the vine *were* three branches: and it *was* as though it budded, *and* her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:

And Pharaoh's cup *was* in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand

And Joseph said unto him, This *is* the interpretation of it: The three branches *are* three days:

Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler. (word of knowledge, tells him what is going to happen)

But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon. (word of wisdom)

God revealed the dream of the butler to Joseph and gave the butler the interpretation of his dream, and he also tells him to remember him. He goes on to tell the interpretation of the baker which was not going to be good news. Sure enough all happened just as Joseph said. However, the butler did not remember Joseph to the Pharaoh and two more years pass.

Now do you think that Joseph is wondering about his two dreams that he had when he was 17 years old?

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Genesis 41:1-9:

And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the *other* kine upon the brink of the river.

And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.

And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank (plump) and good.

And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted (diseased) with the east wind sprung up after them.

And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, *it was* a dream.

And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but *there was* none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

Then the butler tells Pharaoh about the dream that he had and that there was a young Hebrew, servant to the captain of the prison, who interpreted his dream. The butler finally comes through for Joseph.

Genesis 41:14-16:

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved *himself*, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and *there is* none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, *that* thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, *It is* not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Genesis 41:28-32:

This *is* the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God *is* about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it *shall be* very grievous.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; *it is* because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

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This was the word of knowledge Joseph received from God and reported to Pharaoh. NOW what would you tell Pharaoh to do about the problem he was going to be facing in seven more years? How much would you save back towards the famine that was coming? What would you do? Here comes the word of wisdom.

Genesis 41:33-36:

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Let Pharaoh do *this*, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

God's Word of Wisdom said:

- ◆ Appoint someone with oversight and wisdom to be overseer of the land of Egypt. One in charge.
- ◆ Let the overseer administer with a staff of officers of his choosing.
- ◆ Save 20% or one fifth of the plenty for the seven years of famine.
- ◆ Gather and store the food in the cities for protection and accountability.

The goal: that the people of Egypt would not perish and be lost in the famine. This is a pretty detailed report. God can give you as much detail as you need.

Genesis 41:37-43:

And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is* none so discreet and wise as thou *art*:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him *ruler* over all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh recognized that Joseph was tapped into God. He knew how to receive revelation from God. The Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name: Zaphnathpaaneah. Which means "God speaks, and He lives." Joseph ruled over Egypt with Pharaoh being the only one above him.

Genesis 41:53-57:

And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Led By God's Power
Hour 7: The Story of Joseph

And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy *corn*; because that the famine was *so* sore in all lands.

In chapter 42 the first dream of Joseph comes to pass.

Genesis 42:1-6,9a:

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?

And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.

And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

And the sons of Israel came to buy *corn* among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

And Joseph *was* the governor over the land, *and* he *it was* that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him *with* their faces to the earth...

And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them...

Genesis 42-44 gives details of how Joseph did not reveal his identity and put his brothers through the wringer. He acted as though his brothers were spies, he even put Simeon in jail for a short time. Finally in Genesis 45 Joseph could not contain himself any longer and made himself known to his brothers.

Genesis 45:3-13:

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I *am* Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither *be* earing nor harvest.

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

Led By God's Power
Hour 7: The Story of Joseph

And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

And there will I nourish thee; for yet *there are* five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that *it is* my mouth that speaketh unto you.

And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

Joseph realized God's plan to save Israel and that his life was an important key to God's plan. (Jesus Christ had to believe who he was too.) It took him a number of years to understand the truth behind his dream. It was for Joseph's knowledge, but it was for the future survival of Israel.

Genesis 45:24-28:

So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.

And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

And told him, saying, Joseph *is* yet alive, and he *is* governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived:

And Israel said, *It is* enough; Joseph my son *is* yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

Then God gives Jacob revelation, word of knowledge, word of wisdom.

Genesis 46:2-4:

And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here *am* I.

And he said, I *am* God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:

I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up *again*: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

Jacob packs up his family and goes to Egypt. He is 130 years old. In Genesis 47:11 Joseph placed his father and brethren in the best land in Goshen, Rameses and Joseph nourished the family of Israel.

Genesis 47:14-20:

And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

Led By God's Power
Hour 7: The Story of Joseph

And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth.

And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.

And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread *in exchange* for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.

When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide *it* from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:

Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give *us* seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.

And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.

After the famine was over Joseph gave the people seed for the land, and he made a law that the Pharaoh should receive 20% of their yield and that they could keep 80% for themselves. Jacob lived seventeen more years in Egypt and died at the age of 147. Jacob called in all his sons and prophesied over each one of them (Genesis 49). Joseph lived 110 years. After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph thought he would take revenge for what they had done unto him, but Joseph said, "Fear not; for I am in the place of God."

I am where God has placed me!

Do you believe you are where God placed you?

Led By God's Power
Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

Preview of *More Biblical Illustrations*

In *More Biblical Illustrations* we will see that God has given revelation to His people to convince them that they can do what He has called them to do. In one account after another we will see God revealing word of knowledge and word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits to His people, so that they can be about His business.

Moses

These are men and women who received revelation and they had to deal with their feelings just like we do. Here is an example of Moses:

Exodus 3:2-4:

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am I*.

If God wants to initiate communication with you, He will find a way to get your attention. But, you must respond as Moses did. He said, "Here am I." The communication began between God and Moses and the revelation was given concerning the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:7,8:

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

These were the people that were occupying the land. Even if they had been there for 400 years, it was not theirs. All land belongs to God. God owns it, and He can give it to whomever He wants, because He made it.

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

Exodus 3:9-11:

Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

There you have it, the revelation of God's will, coming from God out of a bush. Moses was looking at himself but what was going to get it done? God!

Numbers 12:3:

(Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

God looked on Moses' heart. Moses was humble. God can work with a humble heart. God knows that a person with a humble heart will have compassion for others too.

I believe this is a very normal response. Moses knows himself, and he has to be stunned that Almighty God would ask him to be the one to bring Israel out of Egypt. God's response: "Certainly I will be with thee." Never forget that. God will be with you as you endeavor to help and minister to people.

Then Moses said when I go to Israel they are going to say, "God, Who?" Then God tells Moses what to say. This conversation goes back and forth. Moses said, "The king of Egypt is not going to let them go just because I say so." God tells him, "Yes he will, I know he will." Then Moses finally says, "I cannot do it, because I cannot speak." "I am not a public speaker. Surely there must be someone else."

Three of the greatest fears people have are:

1. Fear of dying.
2. Fear of public speaking.
3. Fear of failing.

Exodus 4:15,16:

And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

Moses would receive revelation from God. Then Moses would tell Aaron what to say, and Aaron would speak it forth. Moses had God's spirit upon him.

Numbers 11:16,17:

And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them;

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which *is* upon thee, and will put *it* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear *it* not thyself alone.

Exodus 7:6-8:

And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they.
And Moses *was* fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.
And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

After a while Moses did do his own speaking. If you read the entire record of Moses bringing Israel out of Egypt and its captivity you will read over and over again, "And the Lord said unto Moses." God continued to give Moses revelation, and Israel was delivered out of Egypt.

Jeremiah had a similar problem because he was a youth. He looked at his own inadequacies and could not see himself doing what God wanted him to do. So what is new? Nothing.

God qualifies you to do what He asks you to do. God looks on the heart... at the meekness one has... at the faithfulness He knows you have to do His will. That is why we must look at the Christ in us. We must also see others the same way. We need to believe in one another like God believes in us.

The devil uses those three fears to stop people from walking out on the promises of God and the will of God. God has already given us a book of revelation, the Bible, to act upon and live. God always wants to be more involved with us as we are involved with Him.

Jesus

Jesus received revelation from God as he preached, taught and ministered anywhere and everywhere.

Luke 6:6-8:

And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.
And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.
But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

The man acted on the revelation that Jesus gave to him. Jesus confronted the hardness of their hearts, and he told the man to stretch forth thine hand and it was restored whole as the other.

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

Luke 11:14-18:

And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.

But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

And others, tempting *him*, sought of him a sign from heaven.

But he, **knowing their thoughts**, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house *divided* against a house falleth.

If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand?

Just because someone cannot speak, it does not mean that he is possessed. That is not always the case.

Luke 5:3,4:

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

How did Jesus know? Word of knowledge and word of wisdom.

Luke 8:49-51:

While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's *house*, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

How did Jesus know who should be let in and who not to? Jesus also handled the ones on the outside that were scorners. He shut them out, and then he raised the girl up from the dead and presented her to her parents.

Another time Jesus was ministering to a man with the palsy and there were others around.

Matthew 9:3,4:

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth.

And Jesus **knowing their thoughts** said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

How did Jesus know? Word of knowledge.

Matthew 17:24-27:

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute *money* came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?
Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.
Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

How did Jesus know what to do? Word of wisdom.

Matthew 22:15-18:

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in *his* talk.

And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any *man*: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, *ye hypocrites*?

They wanted to get Jesus to do something against Caesar. They set a trap, but Jesus knew how they worked. God showed him.

Matthew 22:19-21:

Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

And he saith unto them, Whose *is* this image and superscription?

They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

They did not know how to respond to this so they went their way.

Word of knowledge: They are trying to trap you.

Word of wisdom: Ask whose image is on the coin? Tell them to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's. This is the real problem they had.

Here Jesus is giving his disciples instruction via revelation.

Luke 19:30,31:

Saying, Go ye into the village over against *you*; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring *him hither*.

And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose *him*? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.

And they that were sent went their way, and **found even as he had said unto them**.

And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

And they said, **The Lord hath need of him.**

God will give you as detailed information as you need or as little as you need. Many times it is little, because we do not need as much as we think we need.

Here Jesus is telling his apostles what is going to happen, but Peter has to get his two cents in.

Matthew 26:33-35,69-75:

Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended.

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. (Jesus spoke forth revelation.)

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.

Likewise also said all the disciples...

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

The revelation given by Jesus and shared with Peter and the disciples came to pass.

There are only five or six times in the Word where revelation, once it was given, changed, and that was only because people or situations changed. These are handled in the "Walking by the Spirit" class.

- ◆ There is one in Numbers dealing with Balaam.
- ◆ Samuel told Saul his kingdom was done, but he got another chance.
- ◆ Isaiah told Hezekiah that he was going to die then he got 15 more years. (I Kings 20: 1-6,19)
- ◆ Elijah's revelation to Ahab was delayed until after his death. (I Kings 21:17-29)
- ◆ Paul's voyage to Rome. (Acts 27: 9,10, 21-25)

There are many other places in the gospels Jesus received revelation.

- ◆ John 1:47-50 when Jesus saw Nathaniel...
- ◆ John 4:17-19,39 when Jesus spoke with the woman at the well...
- ◆ John 13:1 when Jesus knew his hour was come...
- ◆ John 13:11 when Jesus knew who would betray him....

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Hour 8: More Biblical Illustrations

John received revelation from God, and it is written in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:1-3:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

In Acts 15:13-23 James received word of wisdom to settle (at least for the time being) the dispute in Jerusalem over circumcision.

James 3:17,18:

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

The revelation manifestations of word of knowledge and word of wisdom are profitable to all in the body of Christ. Christianity is the way of a father with his children. Let us believe the Word of God daily. Let us not be afraid to engage in helping others. Expect your heavenly Father to communicate with you. Whenever He has need of us to do His will, we should expect to hear from Him. When we have need of Him for specific knowledge and direction, expect it.

These men and women in the Word of God were as we are, flesh and blood. They had fears, doubts, worries and so on and yet they did mighty things for God and His people. Their love for God and belief in Him carried them over the top of their doubts, worries and fears. They learned not to focus on their own flesh, but focus on God and what He has done and what He is able to do.

All the manifestations work together to produce the kind of fellowship and working relationship that God desires with us.

The revelation manifestations are a direct and immediate communication system with our heavenly Father. Learn to receive it, and learn that still small voice of God. Expect the unexpected and then respond with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Led by God's Power
Hour 9: Ten Helpful Habits

Preview of *Ten Helpful Habits*

In *Ten Helpful Habits* we will see important habit patterns that men who received revelation had developed. When we have a prevailing tendency to respond habitually in these ways, being *Led By God's Power* will be easier. We will be freed from difficulty or impediment, as they assist or aid us in our quest to be about our Father's business.

In the *Walking By the Spirit* Series I discussed and encouraged people to develop three fundamental habits:

- 1. Meekness to God and His Word**
- 2. Speaking in Tongues**
- 3. Spending time with God in His Word**

These are important habit patterns, without which walking by the spirit would be quite difficult. Developing those three simple qualities of life would set us up for success and prepare us for our adventure of walking by the spirit. As I prepared for this series, I saw some more things that correlate with being *Led By God's Power*.

Here in *Led By God's Power*, I would like to share with you ten helpful habits that correlate with being *Led By God's Power*:

- 1. Delight in Doing His Will.**
- 2. Pray Without Ceasing.**
- 3. Confer Not with Flesh and Blood.**
- 4. Do Not Be in a Hurry. Wait on the Lord.**
- 5. Recognize that Perfection Is in the Lord. (Do Not Be Critical.)**
- 6. Obey without Knowing the Whole Story.**
- 7. Keep Your Heart Tender and Pure.**
- 8. Walk the Written Word.**
- 9. Maintain Humility and Your Quiet Seas.**
- 10. Recognize that Every Ministering Situation Is Unique.**

There is an interdependence or relationship between things that correlate. Although exactly what that interdependence or relationship is, may not be specifically known. They are usually found together. They bear reciprocal or mutual relationship. They may be necessary for one another or just simply accompany each other.

We are creatures of habit. Early on in life we allocate most of the routine things of life to habit and thereby save so much time in deliberation (e.g. brushing teeth, tying shoes).

Led by God's Power
Hour 9: Ten Helpful Habits

For many of us “habits” are associated with destructive behaviors. The difficulty usually associated with changing behaviors or habits attest to the force and strength they exert on our lives. I know we may have only considered habits as associated with our old man, but I would like you to consider for a moment that the natural inclination for behaviors to pattern and reinforce themselves is not limited to the old man.

Surely, if we were able to economize effort and deliberation into habitual actions before being born-again, we can still use the same process now that we are. I think we may find that just as responses in thinking patterns and behavior proceeding from the flesh may become fortified and strengthened with repetition, thinking patterns and behavior proceeding from the spirit can also become fortified and strengthened with repetition. Habits may be good or bad depending on their effect on our accomplishing our goals and maintaining our fellowship with God. We can form godly habits corresponding to our new man as easily as we did with our old.

When we have a prevailing tendency to respond habitually in these ways, being ***Led By God's Power*** will be easier. We will be freed from difficulty or impediment, as they assist or aid us in our quest to be about our Father's business.

It is always our choice to respond to the Word of God with heartfelt, freewill, believing obedience. The essence of this believing obedience is expressed succinctly in Psalms 40:8, which says, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.” Delight in doing God's will is the bedrock of our obedience. There is no allegiance, no loyalty, no fidelity we put above our devotion to God. We want to please Him above all; therefore we hide God's Word within our heart (Psalms 119:11). God is never seen as an interruption or intrusion into the life of one who delights to do His will. The pleasure of His company is desired and sought after, and His will is acknowledged by delightful, believing obedience from the heart.

We can see this delightful obedience in the record of Mary and her response to Gabriel. Mary was simply going about her day when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and delivered a message that had been anticipated by God's believing people since God first spoke of the promised seed in Genesis 3:15.

Luke 1:31:

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

In Luke 1:28-37, Gabriel addressed her three times: greeting her, promising the birth of the Messiah, and guaranteeing that God was able to bring His Word to pass.

Luke 1:37:

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Led by God's Power
Hour 9: Ten Helpful Habits

A better translation of this verse is “For with God not anything spoken [*rhēma*] shall be void of power.” Of course, this can be applied to all of God’s Word, but it was used specifically in this context to assure Mary that nothing Gabriel had spoken to her was impossible. God backed up every syllable of the message and was able to bring every word to pass.

Upon receiving this assurance, Mary’s response in Luke 1:38 was: “... be it unto me according to thy word [*rhēma*].” This is the same Greek word used in verse 37 referring to the declaration spoken by the angel. Mary wanted what the angel said to come to pass. The Greek texts put this in an infrequent optative mood, which expresses desire. It was as if Mary was saying, “Oh yes, I really desire that it happens just like you said it would.” She wanted to see God’s Word and will come to pass. After the angel departed from her, Mary arose and went with haste to see her cousin Elisabeth. Gabriel had told Mary that Elisabeth had also conceived a son. Mary wanted to see how God’s Word had come to pass for her beloved cousin who was called barren. What a wonderful blessing it must have been for Mary to see Elisabeth with child and to hear the encouraging, uplifting words her cousin spoke to her, knowing Elisabeth had no previous knowledge of her pregnancy.

Luke 1:44,45:

[Elisabeth said] For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

And blessed is she that believed [past tense, referring to the conception]: for there shall be [future tense, referring to the birth] a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

This emphatic declaration by Elisabeth corroborated all that Gabriel had told Mary previously. It assured her that she had obediently believed and that there would be a performance of those things, which were told her. Mary had delighted in and done God’s will.

Similarly, in Luke 2, the shepherds were going about their business, abiding in the field and keeping watch over their flock by night, when the angel of the Lord stood by them and exclaimed good tidings of great joy: “For unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). They would find him in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. The shepherds, delighting to do God’s will, immediately acted on the angel’s declaration.

Luke 2:15-18:

[They said] ...Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing [*rhēma*, referring to the specific words spoken by the angel] which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying [*rhēma*, again referring to the declaration of the angel] which was told them concerning this child.

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And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The shepherds responded with believing action and had the privilege to see, firsthand, the words spoken by the angel come to pass. Out of all the people in Judah, God sent his angel to these humble, receptive shepherds because He knew they would believe and obey. They also spoke the declaration of the angel everywhere they went. They left their sheep in the field and went about their Father's business as the angel had instructed them. Their swift action of believing obedience allowed them to find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. Their response to share the good tidings of great joy with everyone they encountered was their acknowledgment of God's gracious favor upon their lives. They delighted to do God's will, also.

Mary's response to the shepherds' enthusiastic declaration was to keep "all these things [*rhēma*, again referring to the particular words spoken by the angel which the shepherds made known everywhere], and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). What Mary kept and hid in her heart was the Word. Earlier it had been the words of Elisabeth that had ministered and meant so much to her. Now it was the shepherds' declaration (made known to them by the angels) that Mary rested upon. These were all words from God that she kept like a treasure and hid in her heart.

However, not everyone treasures the Word and delights in fulfilling it. Jeremiah confronted some such people. God asks to whom shall He speak.

Jeremiah 6:10:¹³

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

They did not want it, so why would He give it to them? If He tells us not to cast our pearls¹⁴ before swine, why would He? God could not speak unto them, because they would not listen. They had no delight to hear His voice. They did not want to be bothered with what God had to say. God forbid that we ever fall into that snare.

Mary's example and the shepherds' example show that they never viewed God as an intrusion or interruption into their lives or neatly scheduled plans. When God spoke to them they responded immediately with haste. Their delight was to do God's will as was evident because they revered God's Word and responded with believing obedience. What a legacy God's Word sets before us. We, like these humble servants, can desire and seek after the pleasure of His company. We can delight to do God's will.

[See also Psalm 1; 37:4,23; 94:19; 112:1; 119:16,24,35,47,70,77,92, 143,174; Isaiah 58:14; Romans 7:22.]

¹³ This is the first of more than three dozen times in Jeremiah where the people did not listen to God's Word (i.e., they disobeyed). The Bible Knowledge Commentary page 1138.

¹⁴ Matthew 7:6

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Many of the men in scripture who walked dynamically with God had a vibrant prayer life. We do not pray in order to receive revelation, but revelation often occurs as a result of opening and pouring our heart out to God. Answers to prayer many times come in the form of revelation. When things are important or heavy on our hearts prayer is a hallowed response. When Jesus chose twelve to be apostles he spent the entire night before in prayer.

Luke 6:12-16:

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

Matthew and Thomas, James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

And Judas *the brother* of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

How did the Lord choose twelve from the multitudes who followed him? It had to be a monumental and momentous decision. After all, these disciples would form the pillars of the church after his ascension. If God gave him the names by revelation, why did Jesus spend an entire night before selecting the twelve, in prayer? Perhaps the Father had revealed them to him during his prayer time the night before.

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he departed by ship into a desert place to be alone (Matthew 14:13). John was not only a kinsman, but he had been a beloved friend, as well as a respected prophet of God and Jesus grieved deeply over John's death. Immediately after that apparently short time of communion with God, Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, healing their sick (14:14). That same day, Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000 from five loaves and two fishes. Try to imagine what a busy, full, heavy day it was for him.

What do you think he did after he sent the crowds away and constrained the disciples to proceed to the other side of the sea without him? It says, "He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone" (14:23). Once again, Jesus rushed back to the Father. He knew the only place to recuperate was in his Father's presence. While there in prayer, he saw the disciples having trouble and went unto them walking on the sea.

Jesus was fully aware of the works he came to do on earth. They had all been outlined in Scripture. He would heal the sick and afflicted, open the eyes of the blind, comfort the brokenhearted, open prison doors, set captives free, satisfy the hunger and thirst of multitudes. Even though these works had been laid out before him, he always sought his Father's direction moment by moment. When he explained the healing of the father's son to his disciples who had not been able to help, he said, "This kind cometh not out, but

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by prayer and fasting.” He did whatever it took to bring deliverance to God’s people, and we can walk in his steps.

Sometimes Jesus healed “all that were sick” (Matthew 8:16), and at other times, he did not heal anyone because of people’s unbelief (Matthew 13:58). How did Jesus know when to heal and when not to? He heard the voice of his Father, giving him word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. We know Christ had this kind of exchange with his Father because he told his disciples, “All things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:15). He also told the religious leaders, “(I have) told you the truth, which I have heard of God” (John 8:40). Jesus’ heart was set on seeking the Father daily. He gave God precious quality time in the Word and in prayer, listening to His voice, and ministering to His people. Yes, he was taught and directed by his Father every day, can we expect the same?

Remember Cornelius, the centurion? God’s testimony of him was that he was “a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:2). He was one busy man. Cornelius had 100 soldiers under his immediate command. Yet he prayed in every spare moment. Then one day, while in prayer, the Lord spoke to him. An angel appeared, calling Cornelius by name. The centurion recognized it as the voice of God. He answered, “What is it, Lord?” (10:4). The Lord spoke directly to Cornelius, telling him to find the apostle Peter. He gave him detailed instructions, including names, an address, even the words to say. Meanwhile, Peter was praying on a housetop when “there came a voice to him” (10:13). Again, the Holy Spirit gave detailed instructions: “Peter, you are about to hear some men at the door. Go with them, for I have sent them” (see 10:19-20).

James 5:17 and 18 address the prayer life of Elijah.

James 5:17,18:

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

When we look at his life in I Kings 17 and following and see the way he operated word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits we understand the synopsis that God gives of him in James 4 much better.

These men all had fervent prayer lives. They spoke to God, and He spoke back. They knew to Whom they were praying. Their prayer lives grew out of their relationship with God. The power of prayer is not in the words we pray, the place we pray, the way we pray, how loud we pray, or how long we pray, but in the One to Whom we pray.¹⁵ It is the clearness of our picture of a lovingly, gracious, and merciful heavenly Father Who is more willing to answer than we are to ask. So much of our prayer with our understanding

¹⁵ Anne Murchison, Living Breathing Prayer , <http://www.annemurchison.com/praying.htm>

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is a repetition of the Word. In Psalm 119 in every verse after the third verse the Psalmist directs his heart to God.

Ephesians 6:18 speaks of “praying always.”¹⁶ To those who are performance-oriented that may seem a bit demanding. However, prayer is not to be repetitious and boring. It is not designed to be a legalistic exercise or a competitive sport, but rather a time of communion with our loving heavenly Father. Prayer does not require bowed heads and folded hands, but those things are OK. “Praying always” does not mean at the exclusion of all less or how could we then do the other things God asks? Prayer without ceasing is a lifestyle that seeks His will above all and directs our hearts to full-sharing with Him.

We do not earn revelation by working so hard at prayer. All revelation is grace. What prayer does is fortify our heart in delight to do His will. Our prayer lives are to be conditioned by His Word as we seek the Father’s will to bring His Word to pass. When our hearts are so intent on doing His will, He will surely guide us into its fulfillment.

Confer Not With Flesh and Blood.

It is more simple to be *Led By God's Power* when one is not in the habit of getting someone’s OK first. Paul walked and talked with God. He responded to God’s direction in his life immediately and decisively. He learned to walk according to the spirit, not according to the flesh. He did not walk according to his five senses because he did not want to be fooled by them.¹⁷ Do not look to the senses to confirm or refute what God tells you, they will only try to deceive you.

Galatians 1:11-16:

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

But when **it pleased God**, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred [*prosanatithemi*] not with flesh and blood.¹⁸

Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

¹⁶ See also Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:16; Daniel 6:10; Luke 18:1-7; 21:36 Acts 6:4; 10:2; 12:5; Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; I Thessalonians 1:9; 2:13; 5:17; II Timothy 1:3.

¹⁷ See *Walking By the Spirit* pages 45-64.

¹⁸ Matthew 16:17; 26:41; Acts 26:19; II Corinthians 5:16

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But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.
Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.
Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;
And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:
But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth
the faith which once he destroyed.
And they glorified God in me.

Of course, Paul was not against teachers. Neither was he abandoning the safety of a multitude of counselors. He was just intent on following God's personal curriculum for His life. When God gives you specific direction, do not seek the opinion of others; act boldly and decisively. Paul knew a lot of God's Word. But when he came face to face with the Lord Jesus he had to reevaluate what he was taught. His hearts cry became "that I might know him and the power of his resurrection." Paul did eventually spend time with the other apostles and prophets sharing with one another and learning from one another. In fact, Paul said every believer needs to be taught of the Lord: "If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus" (4:21).

Galatians 2:1-6:

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.

And I went up by revelation, and communicated [*anatithemi*] unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed *to be somewhat* **in conference added** [*prosanatithemi*] nothing to me:

We will always be tempted to look at flesh and blood to confirm what God has told us. However, we should not question God's information and direction. It is hard enough to not rationalize our actions by falling subject to our five senses. It is important that we not rely on flesh and blood, for our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

However, God may confirm His revelation to us, and we hear from Him another way. Remember when Paul went to Jerusalem? All along the way God had others confirm His will by telling Paul not to go. John tells the story of how God told him, "It is time for you to teach My Word." And how a little-old-lady confirmed it when he was contemplating it. The natural tendency when we do not think we can do something or

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when we do not want to do something, is to seek advice from someone who will agree with us. Remember if God said it that settles it. You do not need anyone's permission or blessing. We want to develop the habit of relying on the Christ in us and not confer with flesh and blood before following God's guidance.

Do Not Be in a Hurry. Wait on the Lord.

If you want to be *Led By God's Power* you cannot always be in a hurry. Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." God does not drive us He leads us. God does not push us around or compel us to do things. If people are being "pushed around," it is the god of this world and not the True God doing the "pushing."

When we are not clear on what God wants, there is protection in waiting. The flesh is usually in a hurry and wants instant gratification. It has little patience. Its focus is on "what I want" and not on "what God wants."

Psalm 27:14:

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 37:9:

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that **wait upon the LORD**, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 37:34:

Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land:
when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see *it*.

Proverbs 20:22:

Say not thou, I will recompense evil; *but wait on the LORD*, and he shall save thee.

Ahab did not want to wait on God in II Kings 6:33 when he decided to kill Elisha. When the flesh is denied it will grow impatient and expose itself. It will suddenly become ugly and demanding, railing at us and condemning us. When that happens, we know it is not the voice of God. Waiting on the Lord exposes selfish and prideful desires. Servants should desire to carry out their master's will not their own.

Psalm 123:2:

Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* unto the hand of their masters, *and* as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes **wait upon the LORD** our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

Eliaphaz is the first miserable comforter to speak to Job. He uses his experience to justify everything that follows. He thinks it is God working in him, but he is very mistaken. Miserable comforters speak presumptuously.

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Job 4:12-21:

Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little [Many translations have “whisper.”] thereof. [He thought it was the True God whispering in his ear. How wrong he was.]

In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men,
Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake.

Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:

It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image *was* before mine eyes, *there was* silence, and I heard a voice, *saying*,

Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?

Of course not! That is one way the adversary uses the Word against us. He starts with an obvious truth to get us agreeing, and then, goes off on some tangent. If we follow it all the way through, we will end up saying, “Good is evil, and evil is good.”

Job 4:18-21:

Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:
[Which ones? Not all of them just the third who fell from heaven.]

How much less *in* them that dwell in houses of clay, [people, human beings]
whose foundation *is* in the dust, *which* are crushed before [sooner than] the moth?
[The implication is that God considers us an annoyance and our time on earth as but that of an insect.]

They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding *it*. [God knows the very hair of our heads. Is He unconcerned about us?]

Doth not their excellency *which is* in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.

The spirit encouraged Eliphaz to be suspicious of Job. How could anyone think they are right or righteous? Do you see the critical and condemning nature of the declaration this spirit made to Eliphaz? That is not the voice of God. When spirits speak, they will betray themselves.

Later on in Job, Elihu finally speaks up, impelled by spirits, also.

Job 32:18:

For I am full of matter, [He was full of it, alright!] the spirit within me constraineth me.

God does constrain, but He does not cause us to explode like verse 19 describes. There are times when Jesus got angry, but he never lost control. He always knew what he was doing. He made deliberate decisions of will. If we ever lose control, then it is not God working in us. That is when we need to wait.

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Job 32:19:

Behold, my belly *is* as wine *which* hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles ["like those with familiar spirits"].

"Bottles" in Job 32:19 is the Hebrew, *ob* [0178]. It occurs 17 times in the Old Testament. This is the only time it is not translated "familiar spirit." Young's concordance lists *ob* in Job 32:19 as a separate word, a homonym, spelled the same, but with a different meaning. Strong's concordance, BDB, and the New Englishman's concordance lists it as the same word with a different usage or meaning. The TWOT handles them as one word, but suggests that they may be homonyms because of the disparity in the meaning.

It seems to me it is a play on words. It is a double-entendre, a term with two meanings. Elihu says one thing and the truth of the matter is in the alternate rendering of the homonym. When new wine was made, if it was placed in the new wineskins before fermentation was complete, it would burst the skins. On the surface Elihu seems to be comparing himself to a new wineskin about to burst. The LXX translates it "as a brazier's laboring bellows" or "bulging as a blacksmith's bellows." Those who operated familiar spirits were called in the LXX "ventriloquists" or "them that speak from the belly." The truth of the matter is revealed in the rendering of the original word, not the homonym. It would read:

"Behold my belly is as wine that has not been opened, it is ready to burst out [i.e. with words] like new bottles, just like those operating familiar spirits."

Job 32:20:

I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.

This is not given as a validation for such behavior. The Bible does not condone this. We are not after our personal gain or benefit, but His. When we work with people for the true God, we are not after our own refreshing, but theirs. That is not how the true God works.

Devil spirits and the flesh drive people, but God leads people. If we are driven to do anything (as Elihu was here), we need to be sure it is God Who is so insistent. People driven by spirits only find comfort when they give in to the spirit's will or desire. The spirit agitates them until they act on its desires. The only relief the people receive comes when they give in to the spirits demands.

Esau dealt with a spirit of murder, which was instigating the death of Jacob. Rebekah knew Esau would only find comfort by acting on the spirit's prompting.

Genesis 27:41,42:

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

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And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, *purposing* to kill thee.

When people are driven by spirits, the only comfort they get is when they consider what the spirit tells them to do. We should never be pushed around. God made us responsible for our lives, and we are to do what we know we need to do.

There is a payoff when it comes to devil spirit action and influence. We are workers together with God, and we must not move independently of His direction. We do much on our own according to His Word and will, but when we engage spiritually in bringing deliverance to someone, we must proceed as He directs.

Psalm 130:5:

I **wait for the LORD**, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Isaiah 40:31:

But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

This waiting should be a strengthening process.

We cannot demand revelation from God. We do not squeeze it out of Him by giving, by praying, or by any other good work. We walk on the Word and do the best we can, if we need more information, God will see that we get what we need. (See also Psalms 69:3; Hosea 12:6; and Micah 7:7.) He is not a genie in a bottle, at our beck and call, as it pleases us.

In Jeremiah 42 a remnant of God's people came to Jeremiah seeking a word of direction from the Lord. So the prophet went to prayer. Then, "It came to pass after ten days, that the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah" (Jeremiah 42:7). On the tenth day, God finally spoke to Jeremiah. The prophet had waited patiently until he knew he was hearing God's voice. It is as important to know when we do not have revelation, as it is to know when we have it. Although technically, it is one and the same. If you know one, you automatically know the other.

When the Shunamite woman came to Elisha after the death of her son, Elisha said, "Let her alone; for her soul *is* vexed within her: and the LORD hath **hid it from** me, and hath not told me." If he does not tell you, you just wait until he does. Elisha quickly found out what the problem was when she told him herself.

Even Daniel under the threat of death, received from God the king's dream and its interpretation, but it did not come the instant he asked. Timing is very important, and we must be willing to wait on His timetable.

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Hour 10: Ten Helpful Habits, Continued

Preview of *Ten Helpful Habits, Continued*

In *Ten Helpful Habits, Continued* we will see more specific habits that will facilitate being *Led By God's Power*. Recognizing that perfection is in the Lord, obeying without knowing the whole story, keeping our hearts tender and pure, walking the written Word, maintaining our humility, and recognizing that every situation is unique will do so much to encourage us in the operation of the revelation manifestations.

Recognize That Perfection Is in the Lord.

God speaks today, and it is possible to hear His voice. I am just not sure that ANY OF US are going to hear it with PERFECT ACCURACY OF HEARING OR UNDERSTANDING 100% OF THE TIME.

I Corinthians 13 tells us that we “know in part--and we PROPHECY in part--but when that which is perfect is come--then that which is in PART will be done away with.” Until then--the BEST we have is PART... And anyway you slice PART, you do not have 100%... not until he who is perfection himself gets here.

We simply rest in the truth that if we need to know something, God can get through to us... in or out of fellowship it does not matter. We have a perfect Word of God and a perfect God Who wrote it. However, that is no guarantee that we will have a perfect understanding of either. We are still fallible people and we should walk knowing that perfection is in the Lord.

I Corinthians 2:1-6:

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I was with you in **weakness**, and in **fear**, and in much **trembling**.

And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

How can Paul say in verse 3 he was with them in “weakness” and then in verse 4 say his preaching was “in demonstration of the spirit and of power?” They must not be mutually

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exclusive. Just what is the “weakness” he is talking about? But, before we look into that let us first investigate “fear” and “trembling” from verse 3.

“Fear” and “trembling” are used in the oriental culture of reverence and obedience.¹⁹ We come before God with fear and trembling. Not because we are afraid, but because we honor and revere Him. As we revere Him, our obedience is spontaneous, voluntary, and without constraint. We cannot legislate obedience, because it needs to come from a willing heart. When we reverence God, obedience develops without external influence or force. We obey so unselfconsciously, so unaffected or unprompted by compulsion that it almost seems the natural thing to do.

Jesus said, “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” As long as we live in these earthly bodies we will be weak. The weakness Paul refers to comes from being human and not knowing all the answers. Paul did not know exactly what he was going to face when he went to Corinth, and that can breed a sense of weakness. If we had perfect understanding of God and His will all the time we would not be weak. However, as long as we are in these bodies of flesh and blood we will have that sense of weakness, because we are not perfect. We cannot plan out every detail to the Nth degree.

II Corinthians 12:7-10:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in **weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

It was a messenger of Satan who troubled Paul. Satan instigated people to obstruct Paul. Paul received great revelation, and yet, things did not go “perfectly” for him. The thorns in the flesh were not removed despite Paul's repeated prayer. Rather, God's answer was, “My grace is sufficient for thee....” That truth has never changed. His grace is still sufficient.

Paul took solace in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: knowing that when he was weak, then he would be strong. Revelation did not always keep him out of the situations, but he was kept while in them. Like the old preacher said regarding Daniel in the lions' den. “God did not keep Daniel **FROM** the den, but He kept him while he was **IN** the den.

The phrase “out of weakness was made strong” is the figure of speech oxymoron. An oxymoron is a figure in which what is said at first glance appears to be foolish, yet when

¹⁹ See Pillai, K.C., *The Orientalisms of the Bible*, Chapter 5 Fear and Trembling.

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we consider it in depth we find it exceeding wise. Some things are so rich that language falls short in expressing the truth. Since language falls short God resorts to oxymoron to try to describe it, so we can understand it. God's grace allowed Paul to be strong in situations in which he was without strength. When Paul felt "weak," he realized at those points that God would make him strong. Paul took on life's challenges "head-on." Paul's strength was made perfect in his being challenged to handle the situation. There is nothing that humbles one more than looking one of life's biggest challenges in the eye and taking it on. When we know we cannot handle it by ourselves, we are much more likely to rely on God's grace to pull us through.

God's grace is always sufficient and we can be more than conquerors in every situation. Our strength does not come from being perfect, but from knowing our weaknesses and limitations. How annoying are the "super-spiritual" who always say, "God told me this -- God told me that -- God told me this other." They seem to think that their every thought is revelation from God. No one should be that presumptuous. God does speak to us, but He does not chatter away, day in and day out, the way some people claim He does. We are not the center of the universe. We are fallible and we will make mistakes, but when we stumble we get back up and keep walking, realizing that perfection is in the Lord. God does not expect us to be perfect, and He is willing to work with us anyway. What a loving God we have.

Obey Without Knowing the Whole Story.

When you learn to act on what you are told when you are told, it makes being *Led By God's Power* much simpler. We only have to take one step at a time. Being *Led By God's Power* requires obedience both to His written Word and His revelation manifestations. When it comes to revelation, oftentimes God tells us only what we need to know now. We just have to take one step at a time. When we faithfully carry out His first instructions, He gives us further direction. Obedience is the response that keeps our dialog going. What a great habit to develop.

I Samuel 15:22,23:

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

Saul got into trouble because he let the people push him. His fear of the people stopped him from obeying the Lord. Do not delay obedience or let anything stop you from doing what God tells you. Paul asked in Galatians 3:1, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not **obey** the truth?" There is never a good enough reason to not obey the voice of the Lord.

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Jesus addressed a parable to the chief priests and elders of the people (Matthew 21:23) who refused to recognize his authority and obey his teachings. Their refusal to obey kept them from the kingdom of God he was preaching.

Matthew 21:28-31:

But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go*, sir: and went not.

Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first.

Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

As David Stevens said, "Obedience, pure and simple, opens up a pathway for the work of God." The work of God is conducted by those who obey His voice. No man is excused from obedience by his position or function. The chief priests and elders of the people are as responsible as anyone else... everyone has to obey. Romans 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you..." No one is exempt; we all have to obey. In the Greek mystery religions, the initiated one had special knowledge or special privileges not afforded to others. It is not how it works in the Body of Christ.

Philip obeyed without knowing all the "whys" and "wherefores."

Acts 8:26-35:

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

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You will see the same kind of obedience in the account of Peter going to the household of Cornelius. He did not know everything before he left. He just kept walking and it was revealed to him as he went along. Sometimes I think that is very gracious of God to do it that way. First, because we do not have to remember every detail. Second, because if we really knew all that was entailed perhaps we would not start the journey. Just remember the Word of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot keep us. Simply take one step at a time. God delights in our obedience. Obedience, pure and simple, opens up a pathway for the work of God.

Keep Your Heart Tender and Pure.

When we keep our hearts pure and tender we are more predisposed to be *Led By God's Power*. It is important that we keep our hearts tender toward God. A tender and a pure heart is "good soil" in which the Lord of the harvest loves to work. Freewill obedience comes from a tender and pure heart and is always available. We should never act grudgingly or of a necessity. If we want to hear His voice we must keep our hearts pure and tender.

Hebrews 3:7,8,15:

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, [The voice of the Lord is heard both through the Word taught or read²⁰ and through revelation.²¹]

Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

If we want to hear God's voice we must not harden our hearts to it. God will not violate our free will. Willingness and obedience is very important.

Zechariah 7:11-13:

But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Yea, they made their hearts *as* an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

It is not literally that God did not hear their cry. He heard it. It was that He had already answered their cry, but they refused to receive it. There was no use to say it again for they had hardened their hearts against it. Their obstinacy and rejection of the Word of the Lord was a freewill decision and these were the consequences.

²⁰ Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 13:18; 28:1,2,15,45; 30:8,10

²¹ I Samuel 15:19-22; I Kings 20:36; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 7:31-34

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Leaders in the church are particularly charged to keep their hearts pure. It is one of the themes of the Pastoral Epistles.

I Timothy 1:5:

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:

I Timothy 3:9:

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

I Timothy 5:22:

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

II Timothy 1:3:

I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Paul did not do anything he was ashamed of. He knew nothing of which he was guilty. We keep our conscience pure. When we break fellowship we get back in fellowship. When we are wrong, we say, "I am sorry." to God and the people we need to.

II Timothy 2:22:

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

We do not want to be stiff-necked or hardhearted. To be ***Led By God's Power*** we should maintain a heart that is pure and tender.

The Word of God is the only standard for godly living. Its presence in our hearts functions like a lie-detector against the devil. Filtering what comes to our minds through His wonderful matchless Word can keep us from being deceived.

We learn to recognize God's voice because it flows with His written Word—not just the letter of it, but the "spirit" of it, also. Will it ever be condemning or disparaging? I do not think so. Being ***Led By God's Power*** helps us figure out what scriptures apply to what situations. Many times revelation will come in the form of scripture.

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Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It is during our time spent with God in His Word when we begin to learn how God speaks to our hearts. God's Word expressly declares God's will and lights our path so we can walk with Him. There is no substitute for being diligent to present ourselves approved unto God as workmen who need not to be ashamed as we rightly divide the Word of truth. When we know what the Word says, we know what God wants us to do. When we know what the Word says, we will be less likely to be surprised at His direction via the revelation manifestations.

Do you remember the old TVs with the fine tuning adjustment that surrounded the knob that changed the channels? God's Word gets us on the right channel, and the manifestations provide the "fine tuning" we need to tune "the signal" of God's will into focused, concrete reality in specific situations.

For example, God's Word declares God's will that we prosper and be in health. We confess that promise from the Word of God expecting to manifest health and prosperity. However, when sickness occurs or financial decisions need to be made, sometimes we need further information—specific details, to bring God's will to pass. Sometimes the laying on of hands with the revelation and impartation manifestations provides specific direction and deliverance so we receive the wholeness God promised in His Word. Sometimes we need more information about making a purchase or an investment. We do the best we can to get as much information as we can so we can make an intelligent, informed decision, but God can provide further information that is impossible for us to know by our five senses. Then we can make the right decision and prosper as He directs.

There is no way to get around the importance of spending time with God in His Word. If we do not know His Word, we will never know His will and being *Led By God's Power* will only happen in our dreams.

Maintain Humility and Your Quiet Seas.

As we stay humble we will be more disposed to being *Led By God's Power*. We must control ourselves and not let ourselves be run around by circumstances and situations. Remember the greatest cargoes of life come in over quiet seas. I received a quote via email the other day that I really liked. "Stop telling God how big your storm is, and start telling your storm how big your God is."

Meekness is the disposition of mind to accept God's Word and ways without arguing or stubbornly resisting. Meekness is demonstrated by the eagerness and willingness to act on someone's suggestion or direction. God loves meekness because it allows Him to work effectually in one's life. The greatest example of meekness was the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:25-30). He always did his Father's will (John 8:29). He knew God was true (John 8:26), and did not argue with God or resist His will in any way. It says of

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Moses in Numbers 12:3, “Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.” If you know anything about either Jesus Christ or Moses you know the strength of character and resolve these men had. Meekness is not weakness. Although a modern synonym may be “timid” or “spineless,” that is not the Biblical definition.

Psalms 25:9:

The meek will he guide [WOW] in judgment: and the meek will he teach [WOK] his way.

Meekness is a predisposition to act on instruction. It is based on the acknowledgment of a personal need for instruction, and a recognition of the authority and prowess of the instructor. It is also demonstrated by the eagerness to apply the instruction. It is being coachable or trainable. Without it, one will receive little if anything from God.

James 1:21,22:

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness [That will keep one from being meek.], and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

But [moreover] be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

We are not meek if we are not doers of the Word. Meekness means we are willing to act on God's Word. Habits of meekness can be built and encouraged by recognizing God's majesty and seeking out His Word and will in all matters with which we are concerned. Meekness will not only facilitate our relationship with God, but it will make our relationships within the family of God much easier, also (Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:2,3).

Psalms 32:8,9:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not as the horse, *or* as the mule, *which* have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

Proverbs 16:18:

Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

If we get to thinking that we do not make mistakes anymore, we are in trouble. If we get to thinking that we are so tapped into God that we do not need help or instruction from anyone, our foot is on a banana peel.

Proverbs 29:23:

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

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I Peter 5:5-10:

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

Recognize That Every Situation Is Different.

When we recognize that every situation is unique, we will be more likely to be ***Led By God's Power*** and not rely on our own understanding. Revelation is specifically for the situation at hand. Just because similar activities or situations are repeated, the guidance for one may not be the same as the next. (Luke 9:1-6 versus Luke 22:35-38) Each situation must be handled independently. God is big enough to tell you each time. You do not accumulate revelation and apply it to similar situations in the future. We walk today, and we walk tomorrow. God will work in us to will and to do of his good pleasure and provide what we need, when we need it.

Revelation is for the situation you are involved with at the time. If similar situations arise in the future God can give you word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits again, should you need it. One does not save revelation from one situation to use on another in the future. Jesus healed many blind men as recorded in the Gospels. However, he never seemed to do it the same way twice. God gave him specifics for each situation, and he believed to bring the gifts of healings to pass according to what God revealed to him each time.

Every problem is not a nail, and we should not approach each situation with a hammer. God's tool box has quite an assortment of equipment at our disposal. Remember walking by the spirit is not formulas, but family life.

Scott J. Shickler tells the following story of an old man in the doctors office (Words of Wisdom, Kidsway Inc. Cited in Bits & Pieces).

An old man seated in the doctor's waiting room, when called in to see the doctor, slowly got up, and, grasping his cane and hunching over, slowly made his way into the examining room. After only a few minutes, the man emerged from the room, walking completely upright! A patient who had watched him hobble into the room all hunched over, stared in amazement. "That must be a miracle doctor

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in there!” he exclaimed. “What treatment did he give you? What’s his secret?” The old man looked at him and said, “Well, the doctor looked me up and down, analyzed the situation, and gave me a cane that was four inches longer than the one I had been using.”

How often do we give everyone the same length cane? That is no more appropriate than giving everyone the same answer for every problem. Life is not that simple. People come with various backgrounds and belief systems, and the causes of problems can be compound and complex. Although “pat answers” and “specific regimens” are easily given, they rarely bring the deliverance God desires. Jesus walked, saying and doing whatever God inspired. We would do well to follow in his footsteps and treat every situation as a unique opportunity to believe God.

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Hour 11: Samuel and Saul

Preview of *Samuel and Saul*

In *Samuel and Saul* we will see how necessary revelation is in taking care of God's people. We will see how important humility and tenderheartedness is in carrying out responsibilities before God. Operating manifestations can make us new and different men and women who can walk without fear. Obedience to the Word of God is paramount for anyone wanting to be *Led By God's Power*.

Samuel anointed Saul as king over Israel, and initially Saul responded meekly and did the right thing, ruling well. However, it was not long before Saul's pride, his fear of the people, and his bad decision-making got him in trouble. When God tells Samuel that Saul has failed and his kingdom will not continue, it grieved Samuel so, that he cried all night long. Although Saul pleaded with Samuel for forgiveness, Samuel knew it was not genuine. God finally tells Samuel to stop mourning and anoint another king, and that is when David comes on the scene.

The story of King Saul is in I Samuel and it has some pointed lessons from which we can learn. Early on, Saul was humble and had many of the attitudes and habits we looked at before. However, Saul did not maintain those attitudes and habits, and before long he goes from walking by the spirit to shrinking in fear.

I Samuel 8:1-5:

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba.

And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

And said unto him, **Behold**, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

The quality and caliber of the man who leads, makes quite a difference. Under Samuel things were fine, but his sons could not continue the pattern he had set. They did not walk with the Lord like he did. However, the people wanted to reject the whole system. They thought that if they could only be like the rest of the nations they would be fine. Little did they know.

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I Samuel 8:6a:

But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us....

Samuel knew that God had promised his people a king. When Israel prophesied over Judah he told him the king would come through his seed.²² However, because of his indiscretion with Tamar, the king that was promised had to be delayed for ten generations. (All of this is covered in depth in the Ruth Teaching Series.) Instead of waiting for the king in God's time, they press Samuel to make them one now. That did not sit right with Samuel. He was aware of what God had told them in Deuteronomy before entering the Land of Promise.²³

Deuteronomy 17:14-20:

When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that *are* about me;

Thou shalt in any wise set *him* king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: *one* from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which *is* not thy brother.

But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of *that which is* before the priests the Levites:

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, *to* the right hand, or *to* the left: to the end that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

It was important that the king keep a humble heart and not let himself be lifted up above his brethren. The Word was for the benefit of all and no one is excluded from doing it, not even a king.

I Samuel 8:6b-20:

And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

²² Genesis 49:10

²³ See also Genesis 17:6,16; 35:11; Numbers 24:17.

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Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.

And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear [plow] his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers.

And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even* the best *of them*, and give *them* to his servants.

And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

They wanted somebody in flesh and blood in whom they could trust. They wanted a king to fight their battles. The godly kings, like Hezekiah, all wanted God to. When Hezekiah spoke to comfort and reassure the people when Jerusalem was under seize he said:

II Chronicles 32:8:

With him [Sennacherib] *is* an arm of flesh; but with us *is* the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested [That is what sustained them.] themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

God had already proven His prowess in fighting for His people when He brought them into the Promised Land. However, the people wanted a man. They did not want God working with them directly they wanted a man of flesh and blood in which to put their trust, instead.

Joshua 23:2,3,8-10:

And Joshua called for all Israel, *and* for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old *and* stricken in age:

And ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God *is* he that hath fought for you...

But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

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For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but *as for you*, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he *it is* that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

However, the people persisted, and even after hearing what the consequences of what such a decision would be, they still opted for it.

I Samuel 8:21,22:

And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

That is the second time God told him to do it. So it was established. It would not be changed and would shortly come to pass.

I Samuel 9:1-7:

Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name *was* Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

And he had a son, whose name *was* Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: **and *there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he***: from his shoulders and upward *he was* higher than any of the people.

And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found *them* not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and *there they were* not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found *them* not.

And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that *was* with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave *caring* for the asses, and take thought for us.

And he said unto him, **Behold** now, *there is* in this city a man of God, and *he is* an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.

Then said Saul to his servant, But, **behold**, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and *there is* not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

In Eastern culture one was to take a gift when visiting a man of God, a king, a woman with a newborn, and a sick person. This is the custom that engendered the Proverb, "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men." (Proverbs 18:16)

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I Samuel 9:8-11:

And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for *he that is now called* a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God *was*.

And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

In Eastern culture one could ask a woman for a drink, for directions, and where you could find a man of God. To do any more was indecorous.

I Samuel 9:12-13:

And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, *he is* before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for *there is* a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:

As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; *and* afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

This point of Eastern culture was known to everyone. The reverence and respect for the Man of God was commonly shown in this way. This is important and will come up later when Saul disregards this important aspect of their cultural courtesy.

I Samuel 9:14-25:

And they went up into the city: *and* when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him *to be* captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee [Old English; I desire of you.], where the seer's house *is*.

And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I *am* the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that *is* in thine heart.

And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom *is* all the desire of Israel? *Is it* not on thee, and on all thy father's house? And Saul answered and said, *Am* not I a Benjamite, of the

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smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour [dinning room], and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which *were* about thirty persons.

And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

And the cook took up the shoulder [one of the finest cuts, indicative of strength], and *that* which *was* upon it, and set *it* before Saul. And *Samuel* said, Behold that which is left! set *it* before thee, *and* eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day. And when they were come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

This is where Samuel begins to teach Saul what he would need to know to rule in a godly manner. This must have included how to operate the manifestations that were available to him. This would have been part of the fulfillment of his promise in verse 19 to tell him all his heart. The rest would happen in verse 27 and following.

I Samuel 9:26,27:

And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day [dawn], that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. *And* as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.²⁴

The Word of God is the will of God. He is not referring to a verse of the Torah, but rather to revelation he had received about what to do concerning Saul. It is the Word of God that reveals and makes known God unto us. It would probably help to remind ourselves of God's commentary on Samuel's life and ministry recorded in chapter three.

I Samuel 3:19-21:

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was* established *to be* a prophet of the LORD.

And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

God revealed himself to Samuel by the Word of the Lord, and He would do the same for Saul.

²⁴ This is the first occurrence of the Word of God in the KJV. The Word of the Lord was first used in Genesis 15:1.

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I Samuel 10:1-6:

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because the LORD hath anointed thee *to be* captain over his inheritance?

When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, **lo**, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

And they will salute thee, and give thee two *loaves* of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where *is* the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

What a wonderful phrase to indicate the change in quality of life he would enjoy. He would be a most humble man doing the will of the Lord from the heart. Having the spirit and operating manifestations makes the change.

I Samuel 10:7-9:

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, *that* thou do as occasion serve thee; for God *is* with thee.

And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, *and* to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

And it was *so*, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

God did not violate his freewill. Saul was meek, and he desired the change. He wanted to lead and do it right. He wanted to be the kind of man that would be a good king. He wanted to be the kind of man that would follow God and do what he is told.

I Samuel 10:10-27:

And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What *is* this *that* is come unto the son of Kish? *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

And one of the same place answered and said, But who *is* their father? [“Father” used of “teacher.”] Therefore it became a proverb, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

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And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place. And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that *they were* no where, we came to Samuel. And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you. And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not. And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, *and* of them that oppressed you: And ye have this day rejected your God, **who himself** saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands. And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found. Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff. And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

The adversary was already working against Saul. These men of Belial could have been known by their fruit. However, Saul did nothing about their defiance. Most people knew this was not right. Later they ask Samuel about putting them to death.

I Samuel 11:1-7:

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make a *covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.

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And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

And, **behold**, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

Saul was walking without fear. He aligned himself with Samuel, the man of God, and was obviously not afraid of the people when he challenged them to join him in battle. The people responded and they came out and supported him in the fear of the Lord.

I Samuel 11:8-13:

And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

And it was *so* on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

The people went to Samuel like they were accustomed to doing, but Saul “butts in” and makes this decision without consulting Samuel. He was the man in charge now, and he had the final say. These men that the people wanted to put to death were the men of Belial from 10:27 who had refused to acknowledge his leadership before.

I Samuel 15:14,15:

Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

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Chapter twelve is a great section where Samuel confronts the people. He declares his honesty and integrity and challenges anyone to charge him with any form of wrong-doing or indiscretion. That is the quality of life a leader should have. He reminds them they were wrong to demand a king, but said that he would continue to pray for them. He still remembers the revelation that he spoke concerning the king.

I Samuel 13:1-23:

Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that *was* in Geba, and the Philistines heard *of it*. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.

When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

And *some of* the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed* [10:8]: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [Remember 9:13, he knew to wait.]

And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: **I forced myself** therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.²⁵

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

²⁵ I Samuel 12:14,15,24,25

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And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people *that were* present with him, about six hundred men.

[That is about 2400 deserters! Only one in five remained.]

And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people *that were* present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way *that leadeth to* Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:

And another company turned the way *to* Bethhoron: and another company turned *to* the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make *them* swords or spears:

But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.

Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that *were* with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

Chapter 14 is another great chapter. While everyone is hiding in fear, Jonathon and his armorbearer attack and win a stunning battle. However, he tastes some honey not knowing that Saul had charged everyone not to eat. One thing leads to another and Saul decides to kill Jonathon because he ate when he should not, but the people intercede and do not let him accomplish what he purposed. When a leader makes a rash, unsound decision, the people have to stand up and let him know. They refused to allow him to kill Jonathan and rightly so. Again to save time we will skip to chapter 15.

I Samuel 15:1-11a:

Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.²⁶

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember *that* which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid *wait* for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the

²⁶ Remember 13:8-14? Saul is going to get another opportunity to prove himself. However, he still does not do so well.

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children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah *until* thou comest to Shur, that *is* over against Egypt.

And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,
It repenteth me...

This does not mean that God changed His mind and was sorry that He ever anointed Saul king. God told His people ahead of time what it would be like. He knew the result before He did it. We will handle this at length more toward the end of the class. You know this has to be figurative because verse 29 says that God will not lie or repent.

1Samuel 15:11b-13:

... that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

This is the first point of Saul's rationalization. **He denies that he has done anything wrong.**

1 Samuel 15:14,15:

And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

And Saul said, **They** have brought them from the Amalekites: for **the people** spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

These are the next two points of Saul's rationalization. **He belittles the error attributing it to others. He also justifies his disobedience because he did it for a good reason. There is no good reason for disobedience.**

1 Samuel 15:16-21:

Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

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And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?
And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

This is the fourth point of Saul's rationalization. **He tries to shift the blame to the people.**

I Samuel 15:22-24:

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices [or any other outward manifestation or activity], as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion [against God and His Word] *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: **because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.**

This is the fifth point of Saul's rationalization. **He admits guilt, but still gives excuses.** "I was afraid of the people." He gave in to the peer pressure. He gave heed to what the people said instead of what God said. Of what should he have been afraid? You never have anything to fear when you do God's will.

I Samuel 15:25-29:

Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

And also the Strength of Israel [God] will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.

Samuel so loved Saul. He probably would have given in, had God not told him a second time that the kingdom was taken from Saul. We are people and sometimes things get hard because we get so emotionally involved. However, when it comes to the Word of God, we can never afford to compromise. God always has the best for His people. Saul

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could have still lived a productive and fruitful life had he not refused to follow what Samuel had to say.

I Samuel 15:30,31:

Then he said, I have sinned: *yet honour me* now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

It was all a show done before the people. God allowed Samuel to do this although everyone knew this was all a cover. They took the action, but their heart was not in it. Had Samuel not consented, who knows what Saul would have done? In I Samuel 16:2 Samuel is concerned for his life if he were to anoint another king.

I Samuel 15:32-16:1:

Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

In situations like this, without revelation, one would not know what to do. However, when you have revelation, you know exactly what to do. Look at how hard it was for Samuel because of his love for Saul. But no matter how hard or distasteful the revelation may seem, we obey. We always carry it out because God has our best in mind. God has the best in mind for Israel, and that is David, a man after His own heart.

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Hour 12: Nehemiah

Preview of Nehemiah

In Nehemiah we will see a record of a man who against overwhelming odds still succeeded because he loved enough and cared enough about God's people to believe God and to take action. We will see the importance of holding the Word of God in one's heart, of having a consistent prayer life, of fellowshiping with God, and of trusting and believing in the living God.

Historical background of the times of Nehemiah:

Israel was split into two Kingdoms after King Solomon had died. The northern Kingdom was made up of ten tribes. The southern kingdom was made up of Judah and Benjamin. This kingdom was also known as the kingdom of Judah. Later the Assyrians over ran the 10 northern tribes and they became scattered. Jesus referred to them as "the lost sheep of Israel."

Throughout the years that followed there were many different kings, and most did evil in God's sight. Finally, in the days of the prophets Jeremiah and Habakkuk, the kingdom of Judah or Israel really went off the deep end because they did not respond to the prophets and their warnings. They succumbed to the prophecy of Jeremiah, which told of the destruction of Jerusalem and a 70-year captivity that Israel was going to endure.

The Chaldeans of Babylon came down from the north and destroyed the city of Jerusalem, stole from the temple, leveled it, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. They captured the people and dragged them off to Babylon leaving just a remnant behind.

Psalms 79:1-3,8,9:

O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

The dead bodies of thy servants have they given *to be* meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.

Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and *there was* none to bury *them*....

O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

Psalms 137:1-6:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

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We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.
For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us *required of us* mirth, *saying*, Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion.
How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget *her cunning*.
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

The book of Nehemiah is a record of a man who against overwhelming odds still succeeded because he dared to believe God and take action. These are the kinds of men and women that receive “revelation” from God. God will help them succeed in their work.

Nehemiah started out being a cupbearer for the king of Persia, then became Nehemiah the rebuilder, and finally, Nehemiah the governor of Judah. Nehemiah means “Appointed by Jehovah, or Comforter of Jehovah.

Nehemiah 1:1,2:

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, (the ninth month in the Hebrew calendar) in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,
That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Nehemiah's brethren from Jerusalem came, and Nehemiah “asked.” He cared enough and loved enough to ask. “What happened to those that are still there, my brethren?” If you want to receive revelation from God, love big and care big about others. What did Nehemiah ask? How are my brethren (the remnant in Jerusalem, those that were not taken captive to Babylon) doing? How is Jerusalem our beloved city and temple? The nation of Israel was broken and the remnant was just hanging on.

Nehemiah 1:3:

And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

The remnant is in great affliction (broken and in much ill). The wall of Jerusalem is broken down and there is no protection for Israel. And the gates have been burned. The gates were the entrances to the city, but also the gates were where the elders met, where a lot of judgments were made, was gone.

Nehemiah 1:4:

And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

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He sat down. It hit his heart. These were his people and he was off in a strange land. He wept and mourned. He fasted and prayed. He went to God and poured out his heart and he sought answers. He asked, "What can I do?" He wanted to make a difference, to do something. This is what all of us should do. We do not necessarily have to build a broken down temple and travel a bunch of miles to get there. We need to ask these questions: "What can I do, for my family, my neighbors, my community, to glorify you God?"

Nehemiah had God's Word in his mind and in his heart. Somebody instilled the love for God in his heart and taught him the Word. Nehemiah would face Jerusalem everyday when he prayed, as did Daniel and others that were in captivity. (Daniel 6:10, Psalms 55:17) We need to have the Word of God in our minds and hearts, or we are not really prepared to receive revelation from God. Build the Word into your life.

Nehemiah knew the scriptures, and he knew the history of God's relationship with Israel. He knew why Israel was in the position of being captive to Persia. Nehemiah also knew of God's mercy and His grace and His willingness to forgive if Israel would confess their wrong and cry out to Him and ask for forgiveness.

Deuteronomy 4:27-31:

And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

But **if** from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find *him*, **if** thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, *even* in the latter days, **if** thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

(For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

Nehemiah 1:5,6:

And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

Nehemiah got God's attention with this prayer.

Nehemiah 1:7-11:

We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Led By God's Power
Hour 12: Nehemiah

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

But *if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Nehemiah prayed the Word. He knew the way back. He wanted to do something, and he just poured out his heart day and night.

The cupbearer of a king tasted anything the king was to drink, first, to make sure it was safe for the king. Because of this relationship the cupbearer often became the king's confidant, and therefore would have political influence with the king. The cupbearer usually enjoyed royal trust and favor.

In Nehemiah's prayer he:

- ◆ Asks for God to hear him and see his heart of sincerity.
- ◆ He honors God in prayer.
- ◆ He reminds God of His covenant and mercy to Israel.
- ◆ He acknowledges and confesses the sins of his fathers and his own.
- ◆ He asks God to remember His words to Israel about gathering Israel from the uttermost and bring them back to the place He had set for them, Jerusalem.
- ◆ He asks God to prosper him.
- ◆ He closes out again asking God to hear his prayer.

Key elements in receiving revelation from God:

- ◆ Loving and caring enough about others.
- ◆ Holding the Word of God in your mind and heart.
- ◆ Prayer! Placing your focus on God and asking Him to get involved in your life and the challenges you face.

An active prayer life keeps our fellowship with Him alive and connected. Nehemiah was a man of prayer and the prayers of Nehemiah often were short.

Nehemiah 4:4,5:

Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:

And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked *thee* to anger before the builders.

Led By God's Power
Hour 12: Nehemiah

Nehemiah 5:19

Think upon me, my God, for good, *according* to all that I have done for this people.

Here Nehemiah is asking God to think about the good works he had done for His people. Nehemiah was the governor now and has yet to require of the people what is due him, because he did not want to lay more burdens on them. He is asking God to think about it.

Nehemiah 6:9b:

... Now therefore, *O God*, strengthen my hands.

An active prayer life is just involving God in your life. Sometimes you just feel happy and you just thank God. Sanballat sent an accusing letter to him to try to weaken him and make him afraid.

Nehemiah 6:14:

My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

Nehemiah went to God every time he was challenged in this mission to rebuild the wall of the city.

Nehemiah 13:14:

Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

Nehemiah had gone back to Persia and he left some people in charge. The rulers he left in charge gave Tobiah a chamber in the courts of the house of God. Nehemiah came back and threw out Tobiah's stuff and cleaned house, and he asks God to remember his good deeds and not wipe them out because of what these guys did.

Nehemiah 13:22b:

Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

The nobles were allowing merchants and sellers to do business on the Sabbath inside the city of Jerusalem when Nehemiah said no to this before he left for Persia.

Nehemiah 13:29:

Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

The priests and Levites were allowing the Jews to marry unbelievers. (Moabites)

Nehemiah 13:31b:

... Remember me, O my God, for good.

Led By God's Power **Hour 12: Nehemiah**

For the most part, revelation is given to those that fellowship with God and are endeavoring to do His work. Prayer gets God involved in your life. Prayer gets your mind to think and God can work with engaged, thinking minds. A consistent prayer life prepares us spiritually to recognize revelation from God.

Colossians 4:12b:

... a servant of Christ, always labouring fervently for you in prayers.

Luke 18:1:

... that men ought always to pray....

After Nehemiah got the news of what was happening in Jerusalem in chapter 1:1-4 four months pass before 2:1 arrives.

Nehemiah 2:1,2:

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that wine was* before him: and I took up the wine, and gave *it* unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime* sad in his presence.

Wherefore the king said unto me, Why *is* thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick? this *is* nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

Antaxerxes is a name or title applied to many kings. It means "a great man." When in the presence of the king you were not allowed to show sadness. You were supposed to be happy and act happy. You could be imprisoned or even executed for being otherwise. Nehemiah had been patient since finding out about the situation in Jerusalem and now suddenly he shows his sad face to the king.

How did Nehemiah know that after 4 months, NOW was the time to make his move with the king? You want to pick a date? Pick the right time? Wrong date + wrong time could = head wrong gone!

Nehemiah 2:3:

And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

Nehemiah puts his heart and life on the line. Nehemiah had stepped out of the boat and was walking on water doing the will of God.

Nehemiah 2:4:

Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah has not been to the sight. What does he ask for? How is Nehemiah going to know unless God tells him? Nehemiah prayed and God gave the revelation.

Led By God's Power
Hour 12: Nehemiah

Nehemiah 2:5-7a:

And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Moreover I said unto the king...

He asked for letters to be given to the governors beyond the river so they would have a legal pass to Judah. He asked for a letter to the keeper of the king's forest requesting timber beams that would be needed for the rebuilding of the wall gates and the houses of the temple and Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 2:7b,9,11,12:

... The king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me...

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters.

Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me....

So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

Nehemiah kept his mouth shut about the revelation. In the story of Joseph he could not keep his mouth shut about the dreams. Nehemiah goes out at night and inspects the damages and guess what? God was with him!

Nehemiah 2:16-18:

And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build.

So they strengthened their hands for *this* good *work*.

God's purpose, guidance, and prosperity were with Nehemiah, and the fruit of this was evident to the folks. Good common sense, thinking through the details and revelation from God is a great balance for you labouring together with God and Him working within you to do of His good will and pleasure.

Proverbs 16:9:

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

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How does God direct our steps? By the revelation of the written Word or spoken or shown to your spirit.

Nehemiah 2:19,20:

But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Whenever you endeavor to rally do the things of God, there will be laughers, scorners and things to overcome. We as believing Christians, born again sons of God, we have to allow God to be fully involved in our lives. Then we become achievers and over comers. God will give us the revelation we need. He will supply our need. While others stand frozen in fear and look on, we, God's believers, move on with the things of God. Do not ever allow frozen spectators to run your life or influence your performance.

God and Nehemiah had the plan, and Nehemiah and people of Judah Israel worked the plan. They each did their part and worked together. That is the way the body of Christ is suppose to work. Look at all the "and next to them" and the "after him repaired" there are in Chapter 3.

Nehemiah 3:1,2,4,5,7-10,12,17,18:

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri. . .

And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz.

And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel.

And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.

And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord. . .

And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.

Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of *one of* the apothecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall.

And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.

And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah. . .

And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

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After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.

After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah.

Nehemiah went to God for everything. He did not stew about obstacles; he did not allow himself to be frozen with fear. He went to God and believed that He was able to give him direction, wisdom, strength, or whatever he needed.

When their lives were threatened, Nehemiah went to God in prayer and Nehemiah would suddenly have the perfect plan to protect themselves and the threat was gone.

Nehemiah 4:15:

And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

Every time he went to God, He would handle it. Nehemiah had them working together as family. You will know if you have a spy come in because they will stand out like a red flag. The family will watch their back better, too.

How did Nehemiah know of the enemies plan? God informed him. God brought their counsel to naught. God will bring our enemy to naught also if we have this kind of Nehemiah relationship. God had this book written so that we would not only know the history but also the man. It took one person.

The next problem that arose was the believers that had wealth were taking advantage of those less fortunate. They were giving them food but were taking their lands, vineyards and houses. Kind of like Joseph in Egypt. But he did not do that to his family when they showed up. They were even to the point of slavery. So, Nehemiah confronted them with the Word of God and those that responded, changed. The result was that they restored everything back to the people. Nehemiah was then promoted to governor of Judah.

Sanballat and his boys continued to try an obstruct Nehemiah. He wrote a different letter to Nehemiah asking to meet with him. Nehemiah said, "No thanks. To meet with you would be a waste of time." After that, Nehemiah was in the house of Shemaiah, one of the prophets.

Nehemiah 6:10,11,41:

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who *is there*, that, *being as I am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

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God continued to watch over Nehemiah. God told him that Shemaiah was setting a trap. Shemaiah was on their payroll.

Nehemiah continued to direct the work on the wall.

Nehemiah 6:15,16:

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.

And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

In the 32nd year of Artaxerxes, which was 12 years since Nehemiah left Persia, he returned to the king of Babylon. And after certain days, 1 ½ to 2 years, Nehemiah obtained leave of the king and came back to Jerusalem. That is when he found all this stuff was going on. Tobiah was receiving the portions that the Levites and porters were supposed to have received and they had to flee to the fields.

The rulers of Judah also had profaned the Sabbath. They did not follow instructions. Nehemiah contended Judah left and right. He cursed them, smote them, plucked off their hair and made them swear to God to never give their daughters unto the unbelievers' sons nor take the unbeliever daughters unto their sons.

When Nehemiah started, Jerusalem was in rubble and the people in disarray. He put his life on the line for Israel and here they were all screwed up again.

Nevertheless, throughout the story of Nehemiah we see:

- ◆ A man who loved enough and cared enough about God's people to believe God and to take action.
- ◆ A man who knew the Word of God.
- ◆ A man who had consistent prayer life.
- ◆ A man that fellowshiped with God always.
- ◆ A man that trusted and believed in the living God.

We saw where God did not fail him. Nehemiah was given everything he needed to do the job, including and especially, revelation, direction, and guidance. Nehemiah finished the good job for God. He rebuilt the wall and the city. The temple was restored and so was the nation, Israel. God works with them that will work with Him. God speaks to those who love enough and care enough to listen. Does this describe you?

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Hour 13: The Two Kingdoms

Preview of *The Two Kingdoms*

In *The Two Kingdoms* we will see that there are two spiritual kingdoms, and that it is important to know what comprises each of them. When we know what the two kingdoms are and what our part is in the kingdom of God, we will be more effective in standing with the True God and opposing evil.

In the category of discerning of spirits we must understand there are two spiritual kingdoms.

The Kingdom of God

**God (who is the Holy Spirit)
Jesus Christ His Son (seated at His right hand)
His Angels
His Children
Sons by Adoption in the Old Testament
Who are written in the book of life.**

God is over all!

Colossians 1:16:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

God is the only creator.

Acts 17:24a:

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth,

God has always existed. No one created Him.

Psalms 86:10:

For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone.

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Romans 11:36a:

For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things

God is Lord and King over His kingdom, and there is no end to His kingdom.

God created angels to be a part of His kingdom. They were created for His purposes. Angels are sometimes called “spirits” because they are “spirit beings.”

Hebrews 1:7,14:

And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. [This is a quote from Psalm 104:4.]

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

God sent His angels to minister to them that shall be heirs for salvation. We do not pray to angels. They are God's. He decides when to send them.

Psalm 103:20:

Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Angels are mighty in strength and do God's commandments. There are as many as He needs.

Matthew 26:53:

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Jesus said that he could pray to his Father and he would presently give him MORE than 12 legions of angels. There are 6,000 soldiers in a Roman legion (plus another 120 cavalry per legion) for a total of 73,440 angels.

Hebrews 12:22:

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Judges 13:17,18:

And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What *is* thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?

And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it *is* secret?

The names of God's angels are secret unless God reveals them in His Word. The only angels of God that I know of are named, Lucifer, Gabriel, and Michael. Each of these angels were in charge of a third of God's angels. Gabriel, one of God's chief angels, was God's chief messenger.

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Daniel 8:15,16:

And it came to pass, when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of Ulai*, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* to understand the vision.

God had sent Gabriel to deliver His message to Daniel, and this message would reveal the meaning and give Daniel an understanding of the vision. Daniel did not request God to send an angel to him, he sought the understanding of the vision from God.

Daniel 9:21,22:

Yea, whiles I *was* speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touch-ed me about the time of the evening oblation.

And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

There are several places in the Word of God that records the angel Gabriel delivering God's messages.

Luke 1:11-13,19:

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John...

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Gabriel delivered a message to Mary about the future birth of Jesus.

Luke 1:26-28:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Michael is another chief angel named in the Bible. Michael and his third of the angels do battle for God and His people.

Jude 9a:

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil

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Archangel means "Chief, Glorious One or Prince."

Daniel 10:13:

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel 10:18-21:

Then there came again and touched me *one* like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace *be* unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and *there is* none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

The children of God are also part of the Kingdom of God. His children, the children of God, are those that are born again.

I Peter 1:21,23:

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God....

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The children of God are children by birth. They are born again of God's spirit, born into His family and household. They become part of His kingdom. They have been redeemed, justified, and have been made righteous. Children of God have believed and confessed Romans 10:9,10.

Romans 10:9,10:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I Corinthians 6:9a:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

If the unrighteous do not inherit the Kingdom, then the righteous DO inherit the Kingdom of God.

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II Corinthians 5:21:

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When Christ returns, the children of God will be changed. If they have already died, then they will be raised incorruptible with the same type of body Jesus Christ has. If they are alive, a flesh and blood mortal, then they must put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:52-54:

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Isaiah 25:8a:

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces

Death has no victory over the born again for they have eternal life.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

That is future. We can actively do things for God while we are here.

1 John 3:2:

Beloved, now are we the sons of God,

God, Jesus Christ, His angels, and His children all make up the kingdom of God and there is great power in God's kingdom.

I Corinthians 4:20:

For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.

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I Corinthians 15:50:

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;

God's kingdom is spiritual. It is not of flesh and blood.

John 3:3,5:

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Romans 9:8a:

...They that are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God.

Galatians 4:29:

But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

Flesh is always going to war against the spirit.

Romans 8:16,17a:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

Romans 8:21:

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The manifestations of holy spirit testify that we are the children of God and that we are part of God's kingdom. We need to know as much as we can about the kingdom we are a part of.

It is important that we know and understand both kingdoms; The one we are a part of, the one true God and Kingdom of God and the other one that is our enemy, the devil and his kingdom.

I John 3:1,2;

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We need to know who we are, and remember who we are. We need to know that our future is to be as he is when he appears. Discerning of spirits involves word of

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knowledge and word of wisdom regarding both kingdoms, because both are spiritual. We need to know if God is working in a situation or if it is from the other kingdom.

The Devil's Kingdom

The Devil's Kingdom is made up of:

- ◆ The Devil (a spirit being), Lucifer the Archangel that rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven.
- ◆ Devil spirits-the third of the angels that followed Lucifer's rebellion against God.

Jesus had just cast out devil spirits and he was being accused.

Luke 11:15-20:

But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

And others, tempting *him*, sought of him a sign from heaven.

But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house *divided* against a house falleth.

If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub.

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? therefore shall they be your judges.

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

Here we have both kingdoms mentioned in these verses of scripture, Satan's kingdom and God's kingdom. Lucifer, the third Archangel named in the Bible was highly exalted by God before his rebellion. Lucifer means "the shining one."

Ezekiel 28:14,15:

Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Iniquity is unrighteous judgments and dealings.

God had made Lucifer beautiful and set him up as one of his chief princes. Lucifer was #2 in heaven but he was not content. He wanted to be #1. He wanted to sit on the throne. He wanted the worship of God's creation. Iniquity was found in him. How did it get there? By free will choice. He chose his own will above or over God's will. God is all good. Lucifer had been exposed to all of God's goodness, and yet he chose another way, because of pride and his desire, his selfish ambition.

Led By God's Power
Hour 13: The Two Kingdoms

Ezekiel 28:16-19:

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

Lucifer got all caught up with himself, his own beauty and splendor and forgot from whence it came. He became full of himself and it corrupted his wisdom.

Isaiah 14:12:

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Revelation 22:16:

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

Isaiah 14:13,14:

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Five times Lucifer says, "I will." It was not God's will be done, but Lucifer's will be done. Lucifer had his say. Now we will see what God has to say.

Isaiah 14:15-19:

Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying, Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *and as* the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

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God said, "Lucifer you are out of here." He evicted him. One day all the nations of people that you troubled will never again be bothered by you for you are going to become as though you never existed. God originally created Lucifer to shine in heaven, "the bright and morning star." But, he wanted more and that does not fly. There is only one God, and that one position is occupied.

Revelation 12:7-9:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

This was the first war. Even though God cast the devil out of heaven, this war will not be completed until Christ returns with his saints, and the devil and death will be destroyed.

Revelation 17:14:

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:11,13:

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:19,20:

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10,14,15:

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

That will be the end of all wars, but until then there will always be wars. War upon war throughout history and that will not change until the final one is finished.

Led By God's Power
Hour 13: The Two Kingdoms

Ecclesiastes 3:1:

To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:8:

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

God gave Moses instructions on war.

Deuteronomy 20:10,11:

When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, *that* all the people *that is* found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.

There is a reality in this world, one that every honest thinking person must realize, there is EVIL in this world! It came when the evil one came.

Evil as defined in Webster's Dictionary is "wicked, wickedness, disastrous & ill omened, what is morally wrong, what hinders the realization of good." Synonyms of this word are: calamity, sin, ungodliness, and viciousness. Evil is everything that God is not. You cannot negotiate with evil because it cares only for its own purposes. There are some people that do not understand or refuse to believe that there are truly evil people in the world and their will be done. That is all they care about.

Look at what God told Israel to do about the cities that did not want peace.

Deuteronomy 20:12-18:

And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:

And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:

But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, *even* all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities *which are* very far off from thee, which *are* not of the cities of these nations.

But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee *for* an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

But thou shalt utterly destroy them; *namely*, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.

The problem with Israel was that they were not obedient.

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Hour 13: The Two Kingdoms

God knows EVIL exists and you cannot appease it. If you try to appease evil, it only grows stronger. We cannot appease evil in our lives either. We cannot rationalize away evil things in our lives. When you start to rationalize you lose, and you know it. An example is Europe trying to appease Hitler.

Evil exists because the Devil exists.

God is all good and the devil all evil.

Led By God's Power
Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

Preview of *The Two Kingdoms, Continued*

In *The Two Kingdoms, Continued* we will see the importance of knowing our enemy and recognizing his activities. As we realize our power in the kingdom of God we can defeat the works of the adversary. We have power in the name of Jesus Christ and we should use it to bring deliverance to God's people and glory to God.

We are still talking about the devil's kingdom. It is good to know your enemy and recognize evil a lot faster.

Ezekiel 28:13-19:

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

There is one ruler over God's kingdom, and one ruler over the devil's kingdom.

Genesis 3:4,5:

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Adam had dominion over the earth. The devil says, if you do all this, then you will be what you already are.

The devil is always after the worship of men, and he uses pleasures and pressures to try and achieve this goal. Jesus Christ did not fall for that temptation when he went out in the wilderness.

Luke 4:7:

If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

II Thessalonians 2:3,4,8:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Another motive of the devil is to “hinder the purposes of God.” Many times he endeavors to destroy the believer line. He knew Genesis 3:15, God’s promise of the Promise Seed.

The birth of Jesus Christ, the life of Jesus Christ, the ministry of Jesus Christ, the death of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the ascension of Jesus Christ ended all the devil’s chances. Before the ministry of Jesus Christ the devil was concealed and his snares, but Jesus ripped off the covers and revealed his evil. Before Jesus Christ did this, God always got the blame for everything, good or bad. Jesus exposed his snares and his workings.

Jesus sent out the 70, and when they returned they gave their report.

Luke 10:17-20:

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

The first time you demonstrate power over the devil's spirits, it can be an intoxicating high. Jesus warned them about getting all caught up with your new, found demonstration of God's power over the enemy. Keep everything in perspective, and if you really want to rejoice, rejoice that your name is written in heaven.

The devil is ruler of his kingdom. He is commander and chief, and he has a chain of command. The Greek word for devil is *Diabolos*. This deals directly with mankind, his devil spirits and specific situations.

John 8:44a:
Ye are of *your* father the devil.

I Peter 5:8:
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The Greek word for Satan is *Satanas*. As Satan the devil is the great Accuser and he tries to cause people problems by indirect influence through other people, situations or circumstances.

Luke 22:3:
Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Satan worked his way into Judas' heart. He was one of Jesus' twelve apostles.

Satan is like the cue ball on the pool table. When you play pool, you rack up the balls, then put the cue ball down and hit it as hard as you can and smack those balls. As it hits, the ball hits one, then another and if you hit them right one or two will drop in. This is what he does; he gets things moving. He who controls the cue ball, wins the match. Satan looks at all the little ways that he can move.

Under the devil's authority in his kingdom are his devil spirits, and there are those within that realm that rule over other devil spirits. Like in the military, he has his chain of command.

Revelation 16:14:
For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

"Devils" is the Greek word *daimōn*. They are not the Commander and Chief, the devil, but they are the top Generals that give orders to the lesser ruling spirits, and buck privates.

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

Matthew 9:33a:

And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake:

“Devil” is the Greek word *diamonion*. The *diamonion* are the lesser ranked spirits and are ruled by *diabolos*, the Devil or the *daimōn*, his officers.

Matthew 17:18:

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

There is another Greek word for “being possessed” by a devil spirit, and it is *daimonizomai*.

Matthew 9:32:

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

These devil spirits within the devil’s kingdom have many different names and functions. Here are a few of them.

Spirit of fear:

II Timothy 1:7:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Fear really opens you up for the next one:

Spirit of bondage:

Romans 8:15:

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Even though you know things are wrong, you are afraid to make the change. It will keep you bound, hold you. The fear will be magnified. Fear and bondage work together and they keep people controlled. When you are controlled it is awfully difficult to walk in light of the spirit of God.

Spirit of divination:

Acts 16:16:

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

This is the spirit in the “fortune teller.”

Haughty spirit:

Proverbs 16:18:

Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Spirit of pride and arrogance.

Dumb spirit – Mark 9:17,18

Familiar spirit – I Samuel 28:5-9

Lying spirit, seducing spirit, charming spirit, spirit of strife, spirit of lust, spirit of suicide, spirit of drugs & alcohol, spirits that cause sickness, disease or crippling spirits.

Luke 13:10-13:

And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*.

And when Jesus saw her, he called *her to him*, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

And he laid *his* hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

All the sexual spirits (sodomy, nymphomaniac, sadistic, the ones that go after children, homo & lesbian). Those spirits almost took out the tribe of Benjamin. (Judges 19-21)

The devil's kingdom is evil, and its product is evil. He has the machinery to cause evil in individuals, in families, in communities, in nations and the world.

Also part of the Devil's kingdom, are his children. The children of the devil are those that have chosen the devil to be their father by following his evil and doing his deeds.

John 8:33,37-45:

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

John 8:44:

Ye area of your father the devil...

John 10:14:

I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

II Corinthians 4:4a:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,

Children of the devil are different from the children of God because the devil cannot create. When people believe and confess Romans 10:9 & 10 God creates His spirit within the believer. We are born again of incorruptible seed (I Peter 1:23, John 3:5) The devil cannot create, but in his children, he is able to blind their minds. He is able to put a permanent door-stop in their minds that allow his devil spirits to enter or leave at will. They will always be blind in their minds to the truth. These people will never hear the Word of God and believe therefore they are eternally doomed. That is the unforgivable sin. They will do the will of their father, the devil, for the rest of their life and will cease to exist once Christ returns with his saints and their father the devil is destroyed. You can never win these people.

Once the believer is aware of who he or she is in Christ and understands that they have power over the devil and his spirits, as we read in Luke 10:17, they are able to help themselves and others. Jesus cautions them not to get so excited.

We are to carry out the full gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes preaching and teaching the gospel. There is a balance. God is a God of balance.

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

Jesus did not go on a devil spirit hunt. If you are walking they will find you. What did he do? He dealt with them when they were there. It is good to know how they got there in the first place, so they do not find their way back.

We are to carry out the full gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes preaching and teaching the Gospel, ministering healing to people and casting out devil spirits. There is a balance. God is a God of balance.

The manifestation of discerning of spirits is receiving information and direction directly from God by way of the spirit concerning the involvement of spirits in people or in specific situations. It is a key to getting your questions answered when you are dealing with people. Use good common sense and ask questions. Find out what you can.

II Timothy 2:24-26:

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,
In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ was our complete triumph over the devil, our adversary. Our sins were forgiven, blotted out, and nailed to the cross. The devil lost his power over us and we are to live together with Christ.

Colossians 2:15:

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

If it is God, in Christ, in us, and the devil is under his feet, whose feet is he under now?²⁷
We have so much power and so much ability. We have to know it and believe it.

People in the world see the evil in the world, but for the most part, do not understand its source. They just see it being manifested in men and women and nations. That is because the devil has a history of concealing his source. You are a Bible believing Christian who already knows the Word of God. We know where the evil comes from and who orchestrates it to steal, kill and destroy.

The devil and his kingdom are parasites. They live off the goodness of God. Everything God does, he tries to counterfeit, to deceive and cover his will. The less people know about the devil and his kingdom and how he functions the more valuable his counterfeit is. The devil's kingdom is just one big counterfeit. God's kingdom is all good and

²⁷ Romans 16:20

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Hour 14: The Two Kingdoms, Continued

powerful. The kingdom of God has no beginning and it has no ending. The kingdom of the devil has a beginning and it has an ending.

Revelation 20:14,15:

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Until this happens you and I will have to deal with the devil and his kingdom. God has not left us sitting ducks. He has fortified us through His son and the manifestations of the holy spirit. We have the authority of his name.

Philippians 2:10:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

We have the legal right to use his name. We have the authority. That is why it is our responsibility to learn what God has given us through Christ and how to use what we have been given so that we might be victorious and bring deliverance.

Jesus Christ's ministry was a ministry of deliverance for all and it continues. Now it is God, in Christ in us. We are to do the works that he did.

This Power of God series is a tool for learning and applying what we learned.

Discerning of spirits is something every believing Christian needs to learn about and needs to apply. We need to be functioning. If you see something strange, ask God what is going on.

This body of Christ has power. We have things to do, places to go, people to see. To meet people to deliver with the power of God's Word and the power of the holy spirit.

(I John 4:4)

Led By God's Power
Hour 15: The Man of the Gadarenes

Preview of *The Man of the Gadarenes*

In *The Man of the Gadarenes* we will see Jesus deliver a man possessed by devil spirits. The truth of God's Word guarantees victory over all the power of the enemy. Despite how the adversary tries to cloak his activities with darkness, our God will show us the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches of secret places so we can walk confidently as His sons in this day and time.

Remember that discerning of spirits handles in the spiritual realm what word of knowledge and word of wisdom handle in the natural realm. It covers both the information and the direction, the knowledge of their presence or influence and what to do about it.

Here in Luke 8 we will be reading about the deliverance of the man of the Gadarenes.

Luke 8:26,27:

And they [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils [*daimonion*] long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs.

Devil spirits drive people to extremes, but you cannot assume because people are peculiar or eccentric or extreme that it is due to devil spirits. In this case it was, but Jesus operated discerning of spirits in order to know. Neither can you assume that if people do not wear clothes or do not live in a home that they have devils. Maybe they will, and maybe they will not. The only way you will know is by operating discerning of spirits.

The word “devils” in verse 27 is the Greek word *daimonion*. It is a diminutive of *daimōn*, meaning literally “little devil.” The Greek word family has six different and related words. The root word is *daimōn*. The entry on *daimōn* in Kittel's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament is 20 pages long.

1142 *daimōn* (noun)

⌘ from *daiō* (to distribute fortunes); TDNT - 2:1,137;

⌘ AV - devils 4, devil 1; 5

⌘ 1) a god, a goddess 1a) an inferior deity, whether good or bad
2) in the NT, an evil spirit

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1139 *daimonizomai* (verb)

- ✘ middle voice from 1142; TDNT - 2:19,137;
- ✘ AV - possessed with devils 4, possessed with the devil 3, of the devils 2, vexed with a devil 1, possessed with a devil 1, have a devil 1; **13**
- ✘ 1) to be under the power of a demon.
- ✘ In the NT, these are persons, afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.) whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly the possessed were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

1140 *daimonion* from 1141 (neuter noun)

- ✘ neuter of a derivative of 1142; TDNT - 2:1,137;
- ✘ AV - devil 59, god 1; **60**
- ✘ 1) the divine power, deity, divinity
- 2) a spirit, a being inferior to God, superior to men
- 3) evil spirits or the messengers and ministers of the devil

1141 *daimoniōdēs* adjective

- ✘ from 1140 and 1142; TDNT - 2:20,137;
- ✘ AV - devilish 1; **1**
- ✘ 1) resembling or proceeding from an evil spirit, demon-like

1174 *deisidaimonesteros* (adjective) ✘ the compound of a derivative of the base of 1169 *deilos*; fearful (3x) and 1142 *daimōn*

- ✘ AV - too superstitious 1; **1**
- ✘ 1) in a good sense-reverencing god or the gods, pious, religious
- 2) in a bad sense, superstitious

Luke 8:28:

When he [the man with the devil spirits] saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him [Jesus], and with a loud voice said, "What have I [the spirit] to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of God most high? I [the spirit] beseech thee, torment me not."

Devil spirits torment the people they captivate. This Greek word for "torment" occurs twelve times in New Testament. Having devil spirits is not fun. Some people want to get them and develop the powers that come along with them, but it is never good.

The devil spirit recognized the authority of Jesus. In Acts 16:16-19 the devil spirit also recognized the authority of Paul and described him as a servant of the most high God. When we walk confidently in the spirit, they will also recognize us in the same way. They know the One True God and those who work for him.

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James 2:19:

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils [pl] also believe [pl], and tremble [pl].

The devils know Who the one True God is. They know It is not *Diabolos*, the one for whom they are working. In James 2:19 the plural of *diamonion* takes a plural verb. There are also times when the plural of *diamonion* takes a singular verb. When a plural verb is used, it refers to all of the spirits taking the action. When a singular verb is used, it refers to the evil spirit realm collectively, as one unit.

Luke 8:29:

(For he [Jesus] had commanded [was commanding; (it can take a period of time)] the unclean spirit [*pneuma*] to come out of the man. For oftentimes it [the spirit] had caught him [the man]: [In the Aramaic this phrase is translated: “for a long time had passed since he [the man] was first held captive by him [the spirit].”] and he [the man so held captive] was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he [the man so held captive] brake the bands [Extraordinary strength can occur when devil spirits are involved.], and was driven of the devil [*daimōn*] into the wilderness.)

Here we find another way devil spirits are mentioned. A devil spirit is also referred to as a *pneuma* in the Word. The emphasis when *pneuma* is used is on the fact that they are not flesh and blood. When *daimōn* is used, it emphasizes their character or nature. It is usually modified with “unclean or foul, *akathartos*” or “evil, *ponēros*.” Another way in which they are referred is “angels.” (See I Corinthians 6:3; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6; and Revelation 9:11.)

Devil spirits are expelled by a word of command issued in the name of Jesus Christ with the power of God. It is not done the way you may have seen it on TV on “Charmed” or “Buffy.” It is not by invocation of a superior but essentially similar spirit (like an exorcism, as in Acts 19:13-17.), nor by the use of material media (crosses, garlic, etc.), nor by spells or incantations (vain repetitions).

Some people refer to these confrontations as “power encounters.” They view them as the power of a walking son of God versus the power of the devil spirit. However, I prefer to think of them as “truth encounters.” It is really a matter of truth. The truth of the Word we speak versus the lies of the devil they promote. Which do you think will prevail? Why? It really has nothing to do with how powerful we are or they are. It all revolves around the truth of the Word. They are subject to us. We do not even need to raise our voice or be upset. We just need resolve.

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Luke 8:30:

And Jesus asked him [*daimōn*], saying, What is thy name? And he [*daimōn*] said, Legion: because many devils [*daimonion*] were entered into him [the man].

Often times it is necessary to speak to the devils when casting them out. Doing it at other times can be very tormenting to the people held captive.

Luke 8:31:

And they [*daimonion*] besought him [*daimōn*] that he [*daimōn*] would not command them [*daimonion*] to go out into the deep.

The deep is the Greek *abussos*, the abyss. This is the first of nine uses. They did not want to be sent back to Abaddon or Apollyon the king of the bottomless pit for reassignment.

Luke 8:32-36:

And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they [*daimonion*] besought him [*daimōn*] that he [*daimōn*] would suffer them [*daimonion*] to enter into them [the pigs]. And he [*daimōn*] suffered [allowed] them [*daimonion*].

Then went the devils [*daimonion*] out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. [They wanted to get their last licks in, and cause as much trouble for Jesus as they could.]

When they that fed *them* saw what was done, they fled, and went and told *it* in the city and in the country.

Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils [*daimonion*] [pl.] were departed [sing.], sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind [*sōphroneō*]: and they were afraid.

They also which saw *it* told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils [*daimonizomai*] was healed.

“Possessed” may not be the best term to use. To many, “possession” implies “ownership.” However, although people belong to God as a purchased possession, some may be temporarily captivated, or driven, by devil spirits. Some people prefer to simply borrow the Greek *daimonizomai* and use “demonized” in English. Used this way, “demonized” means under the control or influence of a demon. “Possessed” is OK as long as you understand that you can possess something without owning it, without having the legal right to do so. I do not like the term “demon” because I was taught that it is a softer word, not as harsh as “devil spirit.” I also do not like to use it because in some circles there is a difference between “demon” and “devil spirit.” Some teach that “devil spirits” are the fallen angels of Jude 6 and that “demons” are the spirits of wicked dead. They use “demon” to promote that the dead are alive, so I do not like to use the term. I like “captivated.” That is what the Aramaic used in Luke 8:29, and that is how II Timothy 2:26 describes it.

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II Timothy 2:26:

And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken **captive** by him at his will.

Luke 8:37-38:

Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

Now the man out of whom the devils [*daimonion*] were departed besought him [Jesus] that he [the delivered man] might be with him [Jesus]: but Jesus sent him away, saying,

Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.

“Shew” comes from a Greek word meaning “to lead or carry a narration through to the end” or “set forth, recount, relate in full, describe at length. I have found that, recounting one’s deliverance may be a very necessary part of keeping them from returning. People need to be bold and willing to talk about how God has delivered them. That helps them to remember and keep themselves clean, and often it is an important part of them keeping their deliverance.

Luke 8:39:

And he went his way, and published [*kerussō*] throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

When the cause was removed the man was healed. The casting out of a devil spirit is a miracle and we will handle it at length in *Ministering With God's Power*. (Mark 9:38,39)

Acts 19:11,12:

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Like it says here, these were special miracles. This was not the typical or normal way it occurred, but when you get the revelation and act on it, there is no limit to what you can accomplish. God’s Word never comes back void. These special miracles were done by the hands, the help, or the agency of Paul. He received the revelation, and he directed the dispersion. People did not steal his clothes and go around using them to heal people. He did not cut his apron into little strips and put them in an all-mailing for people to use.

Why would people need Paul’s handkerchief when they have Christ in them? For some reason the temperature of believing or the climate of community believing was such that that was what people needed to believe. Everyone born again of God’s spirit could have ministered healing in the same manner that Paul did. This was very specific revelation and it produced miracles and healings like it was supposed to.

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Acts 19:13,14:

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

(And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so.)

These were “religious people” trying to counterfeit Paul’s ministry using “devil spirit power.” This was done presumptuously without revelation. The religious upper echelon will always be envious of the proper operation of the power of God. They often use their sense-knowledge credentials to make others feel unqualified to do what they do.

Acts 19:15-17:

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know [Aramaic eshtaphal; same as Colossians 2:10], and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

[This does not happen to believers operating manifestations properly.]

And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

There is a genuine, and there is a counterfeit. When we walk with God as sons knowing whose we are and whom we serve.

Acts 27:22:

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

We never have any reason to be frightened concerning the devil spirit realm. The power of God we operated so far exceeds that which the adversary’s realm uses, it can hardly be compared.

Acts 5:12-21a:

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch.

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

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There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees [These were the ultra-liberals]) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

And when they heard *that*, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught...

When we “go, stand, and speak” the Word, doors to minister will open. Again we see the religious leaders jealousy of the operation of the power of God. It is the preaching of the Word rightly divided that opens the doors to ministering with the power of God. Many times the Word taught hot cleaned people out. I have seen people come off heroin cold turkey and never have any side effects. I have seen people so angry they could kill me, break out in tears after hearing the Word taught. However, there are also times when deliverance requires the specific removal of devil spirit causes before deliverance is ever realized. We do whatever it takes, and operating discerning of spirits is what tells us what we need to do.

Acts 8:4-8:

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

The devil had a stronghold in Samaria. He lost it because men operated the full gospel. Simon, like the others were born-again under the ministry of Philip, the evangelist. Peter and John confronted Simon on his motives and helped him get and stay clean spiritually. Philip needed the help, and he asked for and received it. We need to do the same today when we need it.

Acts 17:16-23:

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter

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forth of strange gods [*daimonion*]: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, *is*?

For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, *Ye* men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious [*deisidaimonesteros*; fearful of devil spirits.].

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

They were so afraid of offending these spirits that they had a statue erected "to the unknown God" to cover them just in case. The secret of the devil's success is the secrecy of his moves. He moves in darkness and covers himself with mystery and enigma, but God is forever trying to make himself known. God will give us everything we need to walk and stand for him.

Job 29:1-3:

Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

Oh that I were as *in* months past, as *in* the days *when* God preserved me;

When his candle shined upon my head, *and when* by his light I walked *through* darkness;

Colossians 1:12,13:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Isaiah 45:1-3:

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel.

Anything we need to know about the devil's kingdom to deliver people, God will show unto us. What do you need to know about how the adversary works and binds people?

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The adversary cannot keep things secret from us because we have a God Who knows all and will tell it unto us. Our God is our Father; we are born again by seed.

Acts 17:24-31:

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Jesus Christ is not dead. He is alive and seated at the right hand of God. He makes intercession for us.²⁸ It is God in Christ in us. Was there any situation he could not handle before? Do you think he is less powerful now?

Acts 17:32-34:

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.
So Paul departed from among them.
Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which *was* Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the key. If he is alive, we live with him. We can reign with him.

Acts 23:6-8:

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided

²⁸ Romans 8:34

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For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

There are people today who are only concerned about their beliefs and not about the truth of God's Word. We bring everything back to the Word, and therefore we can help anyone who is willing to come the way of God's wonderful matchless Word.

Luke 10:17:

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils (plural) are subject (singular) unto us through thy name.

Luke 9:1:

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luke 10:18-20,22-24:

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. . .

All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*.

And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things that ye see:

For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard *them*. (I John 3:8)

Psalms 91:10-16:

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

The joy and rejoicing of our lives is to know the One true God and His son, our lord and savior, Jesus Christ, and our salvation.

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Hours 16: Balaam and Balak

Preview of *Balaam and Balak*

In *Balaam and Balak* we will see the enmity of the world against the people of God. We will also see how God fights for His people and turns cursings into blessings. As we see ourselves through the “eyes” of God we will see a powerful people who are loved and protected by God.

Next we will be looking at a man who many see as a real enigma in the Word. Augustine called him a prophet of the devil, and Jerome called him a prophet of God. However, the Word clearly states that he did communicate with the True God and spoke some of the most beautiful and precise revelation recorded in the Word.

He speaks four revelations of God relating Himself to His people. As we read through Numbers 22-24 we will see the enmity of the world against the people of God. Ever since the Promised Seed was first prophesied in Genesis 3:15 Satan had tried to break the believers line and prevent his coming. However he was not successful and with the resurrection of Jesus Christ the devil was guaranteed defeat.

One of the adversary's attempts to exterminate God's people and stop the Promised Seed from coming was when Balak recruited Balaam to curse God's people. Moab's action was despicable in God's eyes and its consequences long-lasting.

Deuteronomy 23:3-6:

An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and **because** they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.

Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.

Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.²⁹

Balaam was not of the children of Israel, and he fought against Israel when they took the Promised Land. His unfortunate death was recorded in Numbers 31:8 and Joshua 13:22. He was used as a reminder to God's people of God's great love and protection and as a warning against covetousness and greed.

²⁹ See also Joshua 24:9,10; Nehemiah 13:2; and Micah 6:5.

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The man who lives before us in these chapters has a considerable knowledge of the One True God. Whatever difficulties it may create, it is obviously true that Balaam walked with the Most High God, knew the will of God, and operated the power of God at times. However, he is called a soothsayer (*qasam*) in Joshua 13:22,³⁰ a name of reproach and infamy among God's people in the Old Testament. There is no doubt that he played the part of a soothsayer for gain.

In the New Testament Balaam is mentioned as an example of the subtlest and most dangerous kind of enemy... an enemy who feigns spirituality, and follows unrighteousness.³¹ He "loved the wages of unrighteousness,"³² and many still "run greedily after the error of Balaam for reward."³³

Numbers 22:1-3:

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan *by* Jericho.

And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they *were* many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

While the Israelites had moved along their eastern and north-eastern border, the Moabites supplied them with provisions. But after the sudden defeat and overthrow of their own Amorite conquerors, their terror and uneasiness grew. Although they dared not commence open hostilities, their fear compelled them to do something. This happened just like God said it would.

Deuteronomy 2:25-29:

This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations *that are* under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying,

Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left.

Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet;

(As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us.

Balak and the Moabites did help with provisions initially, but after the defeat of the

³⁰ See also Deuteronomy 18:10, 14; Joshua 13:22; I Samuel 6:2; 28:8; II Kings 17:17; Isaiah 3:2; 44:25; Jeremiah 27:9; 29:8; Ezekiel 13:9,23; 21:21,23,29; 22:28; Micah 3:6,7,11; Zechariah. 10:2.

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Amalekites they became more and more terrified. Eventually Balak consulted with some allies and hatched a plan. Before he would actually go to war he wanted God's people cursed.

Numbers 22:4-6:

And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all *that are* round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor *was* king of the Moabites at that time.

He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which *is* by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they *are* too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, *that* we may smite them, and *that* I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest *is* blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

Balaam had gained quite a reputation. Moab was 500-600 miles southwest of Pethor, but Balaam's reputation had made its way that far. Balak, like the rest of the unbelievers around him, had a profound belief in the real effect of curses. Divination was a common practice among the people of the region, and they knew of enchantments, magic, witchcraft, and sorcery. These were all done through the operation of devil spirits. However, Balaam did not always operate that way.

Numbers 22:7:

And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination³⁴ in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

"The rewards of divination" is called in II Peter 2:15 "the wages of unrighteousness." The Septuagint has the word "soothsayings," the same word as in Acts 16:16 where it is used of "a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination... which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying." The temptation for a prophet to become a hired soothsayer was ever present. Earlier we covered the account of the lost asses and Saul taking money to Samuel. (I Samuel 9:6-8). If Samuel had cared more for money than for righteousness, he might have easily become what Balaam became, a prophet for hire.

The custom in their culture was to take a gift when going to see a man of God. However this cultural courtesy was not always accepted. Elisha refused Naaman's gifts (II Kings 5). Abraham refused the stuff from the King of Sodom (Genesis 14:22-24). Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar to keep his gifts or give them to someone else in Daniel 5:17. When the king offered the young prophet a reward if he would return with him, the young prophet refused (I Kings 13:6-8). Peter and John told Simon to keep his money, too, when he

³⁴ See also Deuteronomy 18:10; I Samuel 15:23; II Kings 17:17; Proverbs 16:10; Jeremiah 14:14; Ezekiel 13:6,23; 21:21,22.

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tried to buy a ministry (Acts 8:18-20). Paul said there were times when he worked to supply his own need instead of receiving gifts.³⁵

Motive of heart is the great key. Is there an attempt to manipulate and control and use the power for their own purposes? Paul said in I Corinthians 6:12 that "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." The key is to be in control, and do the right thing for the right reason.

Numbers 22:8,9:

And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

And God came unto Balaam (first), and said, What men *are* these with thee? [

One of the most consistent aspects of this account is how quickly God comes to Balaam when he goes to inquire of Him. Please notice as we go through these verses that although Balaam refers to God as Jehovah, God in the narrative uses the name Jehovah only twice (in 23:5,16) when describing His interaction with Balaam. Jehovah is the covenant of Israel. It was not Jehovah talking to Balaam; it was God. When it does say Jehovah, we will see that it is because God is acting on behalf of His people to bring a message to Balaam.

Numbers 22:10-15:

And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, *saying*,

Behold, *there is* a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

And God said unto Balaam (second), Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they *are* blessed.

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.

And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

Here we see the seduction of Balaam take a big step forward. Balak does not give up after the failure of his first attempt. The devil rarely does. He simply increases the rewards of divination making the lure even more tempting. Most soothsayers had a "price." Balak would find Balaam's.

Numbers 22:16-18:

And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor,

³⁵ Acts 20:33-35

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Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:
For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.
And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

What a beautiful truth! What a great awareness of how we are to work with God! Balaam had a relationship with God. When he spoke truth, it was true. Here is a man who speaks for God, and he speaks some of the most beautiful revelation ever given. Yet he is seduced from the truth and his relationship with God by greed and covetousness.

We see Balaam respond correctly at first. God had already told him not to curse the people for they were blessed. He should have sent them on their way home, but he does not. He would really like to go; perhaps God will change His mind.

Numbers 22:19-22a:

Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

And God came unto Balaam at night (third), and said unto him, **If** the men come to call thee, rise up, *and* go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

And God's anger was kindled because he went

He did not wait for them to call; he headed out without waiting for them to fulfill the condition that God had set. Now if he did not heed the first part of the revelation perhaps he would not heed the second part either. Look to what extent God goes to get through to Balaam.

Numbers 22:22b-31:

And the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants *were* with him.

[FIRST ENCOUNTER] And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

[SECOND ENCOUNTER] But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall *being* on this side, and a wall on that side.

And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

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[**THIRD ENCOUNTER**] And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: **I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.**

And the ass said unto Balaam, *Am* not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since *I was* thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, **Nay.**

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

It took his breath away. He knew by all rights he should be dead. What did he just say to the ass? Well he realized had it not been for his ass he would be dead. He was humbled very quickly. He knew that it was only God's grace that spared his life.

Numbers 22:32,33:

And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? **behold**, I went out to withstand thee, because *thy* way is perverse before me:

And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.

God values obedience even in animals. What a sorry commentary when the life of a dumb animal is chosen above the life of the prophet. The angel said his way had become "perverse." This word perverse is intriguing. It is only used twice in the Old Testament, and it means "precipitate" or "turned over." Green's Interlinear translates it "contrary." The only other occurrence is in Job 16.

Job 16:11:

God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

Balaam had turned himself over, he allowed himself to be brought under the power of the money, the bribe. He was acting contrary to God's will. The problem was not that he was going. It was that he had sold out or given in to get the reward and the recognition. However, Balaam finally sees and admits his error.

Numbers 22:34,35:

And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

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And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

If things change God will tell you. Revelation may change if the circumstances change. Here the circumstances changed, and God instructed him to go. How have they changed? Right, now his eyes are open, and he will not be fooled.

Numbers 22:36-38:

And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which *is* in the border of Arnon, which *is* in the utmost coast.

And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?

And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

When it comes to revelation, we can only say and do what God tells us. Otherwise it is called speaking presumptuously.

Numbers 22:39-23:6:

And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth.

And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that *were* with him.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost *part* of the people.

And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me **here** [high place of Baal] seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.

And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on *every* altar a bullock and a ram.

And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure [perhaps] the LORD will come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place.

And God met Balaam (fourth): and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon *every* altar a bullock and a ram.

And the LORD [Jehovah the covenant God of Israel, fighting for his people] put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

And he returned unto him, and, **lo**, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

Verses 7-10 form the **first revelation** spoken by Balaam to Balak and the Moabites.

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Numbers 23:7-10:

And he took up his parable [spoke his revelation], and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, *saying*, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, *whom* the LORD hath not defied?

For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth *part* of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

What a people they will be! This first prophesy addresses their calling and separation. When God calls them out of Egypt they become intolerable in the eyes of the world.

Deuteronomy 26:18,19:

And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments;

And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.

That is God's declaration of His people. That is His believing image of them.

Numbers 23:11,12:

And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed *them* altogether.

And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

Unlike soothsayers who will say anything for the money, prophets of the True God only speak as they are directed. God told Balaam that they could not be cursed. Balaam should have stood on that and not asked again. But no, he wants the money, the rewards of divination, so he checks one more time.

Numbers 23:13-17:

And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence.

And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.

And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet *the LORD* yonder.

And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.

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And when he (Balaam) came to him (Balak), **behold**, he (Balak) stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken?

The first revelation declared that they could not be cursed and gives the reason why. This second one declared that they are blessed and gives the reason why.

Numbers 23:18-20:

And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Behold, I have received *commandment* to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

What great words of God. Do you see the emphatic repetitions in verse 19? God is true to His Word even when His people are not. This was spoken in the context of the revelation being given twice. The revelation was repeated. Therefore, it is established and shall absolutely come to pass. Remember the two dreams that Pharaoh had? There were 7 fat cows and 7 ill-favored cows. Then there were 7 good ears of corn followed by 7 thin ears. The ill-favored cows ate the fat ones and the 7 thin ears of corn ate the fat ones. When God gave Joseph the interpretation he said they were one. It was the same thing repeated.

Genesis 41:25,32:

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh *is* one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he *is* about to do.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; *it is* because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

God is giving Balak an opportunity to avoid disaster. If I were Balak and heard these words I would be “hot footing it down” to make peace with these newcomers.

Numbers 23:21a:

He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel...

Do you see the repetition again? That does not mean there was not any. Numbers 25:1, the first verse following this section documents their sin. The point is that God does not behold it.

“God sees His people. He thinks of them. He acts toward them, according to the perfection of His own work. He sees His own workmanship, and it is to the glory of His great Name that not a blemish should be seen on them. His character, His name, the perfection of His work, are all involved in the standing of those He has

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united to Himself. Hence the moment the enemy advances, the moment the accuser speaks, Jehovah places Himself in front, and receives and answers the accusation; and his answer always rests, not on what His people are in themselves, but on what He has made them to be, in the perfection of His own work, in their *standing* in Him.”³⁶

Because of His great love, He does not see the imperfections.

Song of Solomon 4:7:

Thou *art* all fair, my love; *there is* no spot in thee.

Though our state may be foul, He sees us as “all fair.” When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples he saw them clean every whit.

John 13:10:

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit....

Though our state be “clean never a whit,” God sees us “clean every whit.”

Numbers 23:21b-23:

... the LORD his God *is* with him, and the shout of a king *is* among them. God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn. Surely *there is* no enchantment against Jacob, neither *is there* any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

This would go down as a significant time in history... God speaking on behalf of His people to the nations. Look at what God has done! What an example this is going to be to the world! If there is no enchantment on God's sons by adoption, do you think there will be any on us who are sons by birth? We have power over all the power of our enemies.³⁷ Nothing can in any wise hurt us.

Numbers 23:24:

Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat *of* the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

Israel's blessedness depends, not on themselves, but on the truth and faithfulness of God. God is not a man that He should lie. His promises are true and amen! God is able to bring them to pass even with stiff-necked, hard-hearted people, like Israel was at times.

Numbers 23:25-24:2:

And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all. But

³⁶ Bullinger, E.W. *Things To Come*, Vol. XX, No 9, page 97

³⁷ Luke 10:18,19

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Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.

And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.

And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.

And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.

And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments [“a meeting” (margin of Cambridge Bible) like the four previous times], but he set his face toward the wilderness.

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

That is how Balaam did it. He was a true prophet of God operating manifestations at this point in his life. He did not go for a meeting, but he got the revelation anyway. It comes at the most likely and unlikely times and places. Now we are about to hear the third revelation.

Numbers 24:3,4:

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

“Into a trance” is in italics. It was added by the translators. This “falling” refers back to what happened with the angel. When his eyes were opened and he was saved from death.

Numbers 24:5-9:

How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel!

As the valleys are they spread forth [referring to their vastness], as gardens by the river's side [referring to their fruitfulness], as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted [referring to their value (very fragrant) and unique nature], [and] as cedar trees beside the waters [referring to their strength].

He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed *shall be* in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce [them] through with his arrows.

He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up?

Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee.

What revelation God makes known to these unbelieving, heathen Moabites. Bless God's people and you will be blessed. However, there is one more yet to come.

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Numbers 24:10-14:

And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed *them* these three times.

Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.

And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,

If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do *either* good or bad of mine own mind; *but* what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise [to advise, give counsel] thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Balaam wants to advise them and get them to see there is no future in their actions. This is the fourth and final revelation Balaam speaks and it covers the future. Look to what lengths God is going, to try to get Balak to backdown.

Numbers 24:15-25:

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, *which* saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. [Speaking prophetically of David and ultimately of Jesus Christ.]

And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek *was* the first of the nations; but his latter end *shall be* that he perish for ever.

And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

And ships *shall come* from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

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Balaam went to the Midianites where he made new plots against God's people causing them to sin. (See Numbers 31:8,16.) Balak also went his way paying no attention to what he heard from the One True God. They do fight Israel and they are defeated.

Look at what great lengths God goes to fight for His people. He goes right into the enemies camp to deliver four prophecies to encourage Balak to reconsider his plans. God declared His allegiance to His people and promised to fight for them. With God on their side what did they have to fear?

The four prophecies were:

1. Addresses their calling and separation. They cannot be cursed.
2. Addresses how God sees them and leads them. Their blessing cannot be reversed.
3. Prophecies of their greatness. Blessed are they that bless them and cursed are...4. Prophecies of the coming redeemer and the world's subjection to him.

As crooked and evil as Balaam was, he still operated revelation properly. Why would you ever think that you would not be able to? The lesson is, that it depends less upon the individual receiving the revelation than it does upon God Who gives it. "Our God is in the heaven, He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased."³⁸

If God treated His servants in the Old Testament with such graciousness, how do you think He will treat you? Like the psalmist of old, we should boldly say. The LORD *is* on my side; **I will not fear**: what can man do unto me? (Psalm 118:6)

³⁸ Psalms 115:3

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Hours 17: Does God Change His Mind?

Preview of *Does God Change His Mind?*

In *Does God Change His Mind?* we will see that God is not a man that He should lie or repent. We will see how God uses figurative language to communicate His ways. There are no contradictions in His Word. We can be absolutely certain of God's will because He committed to the written standard of His Word. Therefore, we can rely upon God to be faithful to all He has promised.

Some scriptures clearly state that God does not change, and other scriptures appear to suggest that He does change. In order to walk in the power of God we must be sure of what God's Word declares about Him. Is God fickle? Does He change His mind at His own whim? If He does change, how can we ever be sure of His will.

We can be sure of His will because of His Word. He had His Word written to establish His will. He meant what He said and said what He meant. He chose to declare His will in His Word so we could trust and rely and rest upon His never-failing promises.

Malachi 3:6:

For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Numbers 23:19:

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

God is faithful to His promises. He is faithful to His Word. He is faithful to His revelation that He gives you. He is a faithful God and He cannot be otherwise.

James 1:17:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God does not change, even in the least. There is nothing bigger than He to overshadow Him or effect a change upon Him. His love, His care, His concern, His desire, is established in His Word and is awesome. The worlds were made and are sustained by His Word.³⁹

³⁹ Hebrews 11:3; Psalms 119:89-91

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Hebrews 13:8:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

God's Word is settled in the heavens. It is as sure as anything that has ever been. God does not change, and neither does His son or His Word. However, there are verses which appear to indicate that God does change.

Exodus 32:14:

And the **LORD repented** of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.⁴⁰

Jonah 3:10:

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.⁴¹

How does one reconcile apparent discrepancies like this? First it is important to identify what an actual discrepancy is.

**There would be a discrepancy in the Word if:
for the same object
at the same time
in the same sense
it was said to both be and not to be.**

There is no contradiction in the Word when one scripture says that the fig tree died immediately⁴² and another that says it died overnight⁴³ because they were different fig trees growing in different places and they died at different times. There is no contradiction in the Word when one scripture says that the ten commandments were written by the finger of God⁴⁴ and another that says Moses wrote it,⁴⁵ because they were written at different times, the first time by God and the second time by Moses. There is no contradiction in the Word when one scripture says that God is our savior⁴⁶ (the author of salvation) and another that says Jesus is our savior⁴⁷ (the agent of salvation) because

⁴⁰ James 1:13; I John 1:5

⁴¹ See also: Exodus 32:14; Deuteronomy 32:26; 1 Samuel 15:35; 2 Sam. 24:16; 1 Chronicles 21:15; Psalms 106:45; Jeremiah 18:8; 26:13,19; Joel 2:13; Amos 7:3,6; Jonah 3:10; 4:2.

⁴² Matthew 21:19

⁴³ Mark 11:20

⁴⁴ Exodus 24:12; 31:18

⁴⁵ Exodus 34:28

⁴⁶ I Timothy 1:1; 2:3

⁴⁷ Philippians 3:20; II Timothy 1:10

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they are both saviors in different senses. God initiated and devised the plan, and Jesus carried it out.

When it comes to operating the power of God it is important to remember that God does not change. Some people say that God's will is fickle and whimsical when it comes to healing. Sometimes He wants to heal, and sometimes He wants you to be sick. Sometimes He heals in response to our prayer because He loves us, and other times He refuses to heal because He wants to teach us patience or longsuffering or what misery is all about.

God does not change, and God's will does not change. He desires above all things that we should prosper and be in health. He has sent His Word and continues to send it to heal us and deliver us from all destruction. Who forgives all your iniquities? Who heals all your diseases?⁴⁸ God does! When we allow Him to by claiming and believing His promises, He is always faithful to. But be absolutely sure that His will is to heal ALWAYS. In the "Hall of Fame of Believing" in Hebrews 11 not everyone successfully believed for deliverance.⁴⁹

Although He may deal with mankind differently in different administrations His essential character and will are stable and perfect.

Hebrews 11:35:

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

They did not accept the deliverance. I am not assigning any condemnation or fault, but they did not accept the deliverance. God was able to deliver; it just did not happen. We should ask ourselves at times, "Are we willing to accept what God wants us to have?"

Although God may deal with mankind differently at times during different administrations, His essential will and character does not change.

Psalms 102:25-27:

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

But thou *art* the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Everything around us may change, but God does not change. God is immutable. He is not whimsical, constantly changing His mind. Although most everything around us changes, our God does not. Not only is God immutable He is omniscient. He is all-knowing. He knows everything there is to know. He has not learned anything. He has

⁴⁸ Psalms 103:3

⁴⁹ Hebrews 11:36-39

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not discovered something He was hitherto unaware of. He is never even surprised by what men do. He knows our thoughts and the intricacies of our bodies.

Psalms 139:1-4:

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.⁵⁰

Not even a bird falls to the earth without His knowing (Matthew 10:29).

Matthew 10:29:

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

God knows the intricacies of our bodies, and He know how to fix them. He made them in the first place, and He can fix them.

One of the things that separated the True God from all others is His ability to reveal the future. Isaiah challenged the pagan gods to shew him what would happen in the future.

Isaiah 41:22-24:

Let them bring *them* forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they *be*, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye *are* gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold *it* together.

Behold, ye *are* of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination *is he that* chooseth you.

People become an abomination when they worship other things and dedicate their lives to inferior causes.

Isaiah 41:25-29:

I have raised up *one* from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as *upon* mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay.

Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, *He is* righteous? yea, *there is* none that sheweth, yea, *there is* none that declareth, yea, *there is* none that heareth your words.

⁵⁰ See also Matthew 10:30, even the hairs of our head are numbered.

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The first *shall say* to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings.

For I beheld, and *there was* no man; even among them, and *there was* no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.

Behold, they *are* all vanity; their works *are* nothing: their molten images *are* wind and confusion.

The multitude of prophecies that have come to pass precisely as they were spoken indicate God's foreknowledge. If He knows ahead of time what will transpire why would He subsequently change His mind when it happens as if He were unaware that it would. He is not tossed to and fro. He does not vacillate back and forth. He does not declare one thing now and later change His mind in any literal sense of that expression.

Human languages are punctuated with dramatic figures of speech. This phenomenon is no less true in the case of the Scriptures than it is with other literature. A failure to recognize that the Word is both literal and figurative leads to numerous flawed ideas.

Yes, the scriptures use figures of speech that seem to suggest that God alters His actions in response to man's actions. Exodus 32:14 and Jonah 3:10 are both examples of this figurative speech. When the Bible says God repents it is figurative. God does not repent in the literal sense that you or I would. Since He knows everything even before it happens, He has no reason to repent.

The use of "repent" to describe God's action is an example of the figure of speech condescension or anthropopatheia, attributing human characteristics to God. You understand the figurative use of "the arm of the Lord" or "the hand of the God," because God is spirit and has no arms and legs. Similarly God is immutable and omniscient so He has no reason to repent. Furthermore we know it must be a figurative usage because the Word declares just the opposite of God.

Numbers 23:19:

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

I Samuel 15:29:

And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.

Men lie, and men repent. Therefore when those actions are attributed to God it is the figure of speech condescension. It is a way of explaining His actions in a way we should understand. Most of the times when it says God repents, it means that the man or men with whom He is dealing with has repented. It is a way for God to show us that He is willing to work with us, as fickle and changeable as we are.

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God frequently tells mankind what the consequences of unbelief will be to prod him to change and believe. When man does, then it says that God repents and changes His mind and does not do what He said He would do. In reality, God said it to encourage mankind to repent and change. He does not want us to reap the consequences of unbelief, so He warns us as to what they are so we have reason to change.

That is why Jonah did not want to preach to Nineveh. He did not want them to repent. Jonah reasoned that if he did not preach to them, they would not repent. And if they did not repent then God's Word and will would have been performed as stated. They would have been destroyed. God did not want to destroy them. He wanted to deliver them so they could carry out His will. When Jonah preached they believed and repented and their destruction was avoided. I handle that account in *Walking By the Spirit*.

When it comes to revelation you must know that it may change. Now we do not expect it to change or act like it is going to change, but God can change it. When He does He will tell you. I cover this in depth in Hour 3 of *Walking by the Spirit* when I share the Key: Stand fast on What You Have Received.

Once God tells you something, stand fast and do not budge on His direction. The young prophet in I Kings 13 did not stand fast. He let the old prophet talk him out of it and he paid a dear price. The principle that revelation once given may change, unless it is repeated a second time makes the story of Balaam and Balak clear and precise.

Revelation may change if the circumstances change. However, when revelation is repeated, it is established and shall absolutely come to pass. Remember the two dreams that Pharaoh had? There were seven fat cows and seven ill-favored cows. Then there were seven good ears of corn followed by seven thin ears. The ill-favored cows ate the fat ones and the seven thin ears of corn ate the fat ones. When God gave Joseph the interpretation he said they were one. It was the same thing repeated.

Genesis 41:25,32:

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh *is* one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he *is* about to do.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; *it is* because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

In II Kings 20:1-6,9 Isaiah told Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was going to die. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed about it. Before Isaiah even had

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time to leave the king's court, God told him to go back and tell Hezekiah that he would not die, but fifteen years would be added to his life. (It was during those fifteen years that Hezekiah's son Manasseh was born, who is listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:10.

In I Kings 21:17-29 Elijah reproved Ahab and pronounced a judgment upon him and his house, but Ahab repented so God told Elijah that it would not happen until after his death.

In Acts 27:9,10,21-25 Paul trying to persuade the captain of the ship not to leave port told him, "I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives." But, during the storm Paul prayed, interceding for the others on board, and God gave him different revelation. Then Paul told the others, "Be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but [only] of the ship."

Anthropopathia is a figure used by which God's activity is explained, by analogy, in strictly human terms. The meaning is not that God changed His mind; still less that He regretted something that He had intended to do. It means, in biblical language, that He now embarked on a different course of action from that already suggested as a possibility, owing to some new factor, which is usually mentioned in the context. (Which on most occasions is man's repentance.)

"In the Bible, it is clear that God's promises and warnings are *always conditional on man's response*: This is most clearly set out in Ezekiel 33:15,16.

Ezekiel 33:15,16:

If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

In Exodus 32 Moses seems to talk God out of destroying the children of Israel. It seems as if he reasons with God and convinces Him to deliver His people. Do you think God is such that He needed a man to convince Him to do what was right? That whole account was to get Moses' mind in alignment with God's will and purpose.⁵¹

It must be understood, therefore, that although certain biblical passages speak of the Lord being "changeless," while others represent him as "changing" (in response to human conduct), that *different senses* are in view. In light of this fact, the "discrepancy" problem dissolves. But when one does not understand some of the common figures of

⁵¹ We are not to think of Moses as altering God's purpose towards Israel by his prayer, but as carrying it out: Moses was never more like God than in such moments, for he shared God's mind and loving purpose. *Exodus – Tyndale O.T. Commentaries*, Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973, p. 217.

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speech utilized by the Bible writers, under the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit, he most certainly will draw many faulty conclusions – sometimes very dangerous ones.⁵²

⁵² *Does God Change His Mind*, Wayne Jackson available at:
<http://www.christiancourier.com/questions/changingMindQuestion.htm>

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Hour 18: Equipped by God

Preview of *Equipped By God*

In *Equipped By God* we will see that God has equipped us with nine manifestations of holy spirit. He has not only given us the power, but He has also given us authority in the name of Jesus Christ to use it. We have been commissioned and are able to do what Jesus Christ commanded us to do.

Luke 8:1,2:

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him,

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

The deliverance of evil spirits is healing. Sickness and disease is torment too. Evil spirits do the same thing. They keep you from doing what you know you want to do. What a joy to see healing!

Mark 1:21:

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

Preaching and teaching is all part of what we are to do.

Mark 1:22,23:

And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

When the Word of God is taught and people realize that they need help, they are going to come forward. Jesus taught the Word with authority and the devil spirit could not stay there, it had to come out.

Mark 1:24-27:

Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

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And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Devil spirits are always seeking a host body to function in. They love to control and torment people and wreak havoc in their lives and also those that are near them. They can occupy a portion of the mind wherever they can get in. They can occupy the body with diseases and sicknesses. How do we keep them out?

Romans 6:11:

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We reckon the old man dead. If it shows up and it is not Christ, then he is gone. Renew our minds to the Word of God that tells us who we are in Christ and what we are.

James 4:7:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We resist with the Word of God, by renewing our minds to what we are and who we are in Christ. We renew our minds to how we are to live, and how we are to have relationship in the body of Christ. We renew our minds to how we are to confront to change things that are not right.

James 4:11:

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Speaking evil is a lousy habit. It is an easy one to get into because the world does it. Sometimes it is done in fun. That is a way to work it in.

Ephesians 4:29:

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

There is your choice, evil or good. There is no gray area. Why do we speak that which is good? To edify the hearers. We want to help to remind them of the love of God and we want to remind ourselves at the same time. When we speak we hear it too.

I Corinthians 13:5:

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

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Keep no account of evil. If you are having some evil thoughts, get it taken care of. Go to God. If you continue to hold it, it will have an effect on your life.

We are not to be beguiled (fooled by false reasoning) by the devil.

II Corinthians 11:3:

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

That is how you resist. You stay in the simplicity of Jesus Christ.

“I can do all things through Christ.” Well, I do not feel like it. It does not matter what you feel like. What does the Word of God say? “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” It is not your strength. We do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me. “I am more than a conqueror.” “I am righteous. Now!” “Love one another even as Christ loved you.” Loving your wife even as Christ loved the Church.

Remember who you are in Christ and do not let nay one or anything talk you out of it with false reasonings. Do not be talked into something that you already have. We have it all. How can you add to what God has given us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:26,27:

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
Neither give place to the devil.

Do not give place to the devil. Anger is one of those things. Be angry at the right thing.

Psalms 37:8:

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Psalms 4:4:

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

I John 4:1-6:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

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They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Trust in the living God and His Word, always. Then trust can be a living, breathing part of our lives.

Isaiah 26:3,4:

Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength:

It takes strength to live in this world to be successful in life.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven he gave commandments and a commissioning to his disciples. (A disciple is one who follows the teacher and his teachings.) So many times we have disciples that follow the teacher everywhere he goes, but do they follow the teachings?

Mark 16:15-18:

And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

This is what Jesus told them:

Go into all the world.

Preach the gospel to every creature.

In the name of Jesus Christ, cast out devils.

Speak in new tongues.

You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover

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This is what the head of the body of Christ (and we are his disciples) said:

Mark 16:20:

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Matthew 28:19a:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations....

Teach it so that they can understand it.

Matthew 28:20:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

They were to teach them to observe (to keep an eye upon, to watch; to keep, to guard; to observe attentively) all things that he had commanded them. Jesus wanted others to be taught, and these others should also follow his commandments.

What commandments?

- ◆ Go unto the world
- ◆ Preach and teach the gospel
- ◆ Cast out devils
- ◆ Minister healing

God has equipped every believer to be able to do what Jesus Christ commanded. By the name of Jesus Christ and by the power in His gift of holy spirit.

Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The nine manifestations of holy spirit are our power base. We have those to utilize, to operate, we also have the authority in the name of Jesus Christ. God equipped us. We are able to do what Jesus Christ did.

The worship manifestations are given that we might worship Him in spirit and in truth; that we might bear witness of Him; that we might build our spiritual fellowship with Him; that we might build and edify the body of Christ.

The revelation manifestations enable us to receive information and communication directly from God by way of His spirit concerning things we need to know so that we can walk victoriously, and so that we can serve in the body of Christ. These manifestations need to be in operation if we are to be able to fully serve in the Body of Christ. They are

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the spiritual eyes and ears of the Church, and are companion to the Power or Impartation Manifestations.

The Impartation Manifestations of Faith, Working of Miracles, and Gifts of Healings, are the action manifestations, which bring deliverance to God's people.

All nine of these manifestations are important to our carrying out the commandments and commissioning of Jesus Christ to the apostles and to us. They are important if we are going to live that "Balanced Christian Spiritual Walk." That will bring great praise and great glory, and great honor to our God and Father.

These twelve apostles did not spend four years in a university or graduate from theology school. They were fisherman, blue collar laborers with some white collar, coat and tie, tax collectors stuck in there. They knew about boats, about nets. Sometimes they knew where to catch fish. The tax collector knew all the loopholes. He knew how to get the money, how to squeeze it out of them. But all that stuff that they knew did not equip them and prepare them to do the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ or to deal with devil spirits or ministering healing. But through Jesus Christ we are equipped. We have the power and we have authority. Jesus commissioned us to do something with them. God has given us free will. We can learn all we can and do nothing, or we can rise up and do.

Luke 9:2,3:

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

And he said unto them, Take nothing for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

No staffs – no need for protection.

No script – do not bother with a sleeping bag.

No bags – do not bother with a suitcase.

No bread – you do not need to bring food.

No money – God will provide your need.

No extra tunics – just the clothes on your back.

Luke 9:4,5:

And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

Jesus Christ commissioned his twelve apostles to preach, teach, heal and deliver Israel. That has all changed because now we are to preach to the nations, the whole world.

Luke 9:1:

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

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(Luke 8:49-52) Jesus did not ask them to do something they could not do and neither does God. We have been equipped, too. The old veteran believer is not any more equipped than the new one. We all got the same package. All of us can do all through Christ which strengtheneth us. If you are an old veteran and feel a little rusty, do not worry about it. The manifestations never rust. They are just as pure as when you got them. Start believing you can do whatever you need to do. People, either God is real or He is not. Either these manifestations are real or they are not. We have to make up our minds every day, this day. If you have any doubts, speak in tongues, that is supernatural.

Jesus said you stay where you are wanted. Do not allow disappointment or the bad way you have been treated affect you. Do not let their evil cling to you. Do not let it take up residence.

Paul and Barnabus did the same thing when they were commissioned to spread God's Word.

Acts 13:50,51:

But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

Luke 9:6:

And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

The apostles were equipped and they acted, they followed the command and commissioning they were given, and they were successful.

Luke 9:10a:

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done....

One day we will all have an opportunity to report back what we have done. (Luke 10:1)

He tells them that the harvest is truly great and people that has not changed today. The laborers are always too few. God keeps sending laborers. That is why he called you and me.

It is the truth of God's Word, the power of God, that sets men and women free.

If we commit our hearts to serve God and minister to His people, we will have many opportunities to bring deliverance to others.

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Matthew 4:23,24:

And Jesus went about **all** Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing **all** manner of sickness and **all** manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout **all** Syria: and they brought unto him **all** sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

It is the love of God and the truth of God's Word that draws men and women to believe and receive God's deliverance and healing. In Matthew 4:23 and 24 we saw the pattern of the full gospel ministry of Jesus Christ. Teaching, preaching, healing, and casting out devil spirits.

We teach you about discerning of spirits so that you will be prepared. So that you know that you can ask God if evil spirits are involved in situations. Then you will not be shocked if God tells you something like this out of the blue.

It is important that you are knowledgeable of the devil's kingdom and his spirits because they are real. Also, that you might know how to recognize them and to know how to handle them by casting them out in the name of Jesus Christ if there is opportunity. Remember, God does not want us to be ignorant of spiritual matters or Satan's devices. (I Corinthians 12:1; II Corinthians 2:11)

God wants us to know the power He has given us, which is greater than the devil's and we need to believe and act.

1 John 4:4:

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

God want us to be knowledgeable of His kingdom and of His gift of holy spirit, and He wants us to be knowledgeable of the devil's kingdom and his spirits. He wants us to know the difference between the two. We need to know that God's kingdom has no beginning and it has no ending. The devil's kingdom began when he was cast out of heaven and will end when Christ returns with his saints and subdues him, and God destroys the devil and his spirits and cast them in the lake of fire.

We also need to know how the two kingdoms function:

- ◆ God's kingdom functions out of love and allows free will choice.
- ◆ The devil's kingdom functions in hate and by possession.
- ◆ God's kingdom yields life more than abundant, life eternal.
- ◆ The devil's kingdom yields steal, kill, and destroy, death.

We are in a spiritual warfare.

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Ephesians 6:12:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

All of these are a part of the devil's kingdom:

- ◆ Principalities (evil powers of high authority)
- ◆ Rulers of darkness of this world (world lords of high position)
- ◆ Spiritual wickedness (those in high places that delight in evil)

Ephesians 6:13-17:

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.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

We have an adversary, an enemy that afflicts people. He is all evil, and he exists in this world. There are many people, even Christians that do not believe that the devil or spirits exists. When they think this way, they are sitting ducks. The devil and his spirits exist! They affect everyday life all over the world, and they love to be able to operate secretly. They do because people do not want to believe they exist. They believe that everything that happens, good or evil, is God.

Christian believers, especially Christian ministers who are ignorant of Satan's devices or do not believe the devil exists will **NEVER** be able to fully minister to God's people and bring them God's deliverance. They can teach people about Jesus Christ and get them born again, but after that, the new Christian is left out there.

The manifestations of word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits are not more important than the other six. All the manifestations are important because they work together to fulfill God's purposes. They equip believers so that they can be strong, that they might grow spiritually, that they might have a deeper relationship and fellowship with God, that they might have direct communication with Him; that He may give them knowledge and wisdom they need to know; that they will be able to deal with the adversary and his kingdom; that they may have supernatural believing or faith; that they may work miracles, and that they may minister the gifts of healing to others.

Jesus Christ's ministry was one of deliverance. Every ministry of God has to be the same. If we are going to be followers of him... If we are going to do the commandments and the commissioning of Jesus Christ, then we minister deliverance just as he did. Jesus

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Christ utilized all the power and authority God had given him to minister to God's people.

He manifested: Word of Knowledge
 Word of Wisdom
 Discerning of Spirits
 Faith
 The Working of Miracles
 Gifts of Healings

God has equipped us and He has called us:

- ◆ We are the called of Jesus Christ – Romans 1:6
- ◆ We have been called to be Ambassadors for Christ – II Corinthians 5:20
- ◆ We have been called to be more than conquerors - Romans 8:37
- ◆ As Ambassadors for Christ we are to “speak the truth in love” – Ephesians 4:15
- ◆ We are called to be the lights of the world – Matthew 5:14

When we speak and live the light of God's Word, our actions will dispel the darkness. We have power of attorney to make petitions and demands in the name of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11:

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

How are they going to confess it if they do not hear the Word? We have to preach and teach.

John 8:32:

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

We need to know the truth regarding the manifestations, how they work, and what our responsibilities are. All the manifestations are supernatural. As Christian believers we must learn to function in both realms... the physical realm and the supernatural realm.

As we grow in our knowledge of God's gift, practice the presence of God, and seek that we might excel in the manifestations, then we will have opportunities to actively receive revelation from God with instructions whether to take action or not. When we do we will see many of the same things the 12 and the 70 saw on their missions.

The apostle Paul preached the full gospel and the manifestations were a big part of his ministry.

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Romans 15:19:

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:4:

And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Paul followed in the steps of Jesus Christ. He followed the commissioning that Jesus Christ gave.

Acts 20:20:

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

Acts 28:30,31:

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

We should have all the confidence in the world because we are equipped.

Paul continued in the example of Jesus Christ and his ministry. He showed it publicly before the believers in the name of Jesus Christ. If we want to manifest our sonship before the generation of our times and let our life become a praise and glory unto God, then we need to walk by the spirit and be ***Led by God's Power***.

Romans 8:14:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

We are the sons and daughters of God. Let us walk in all that we have. Get out there and go forth, preaching and teaching and healing and do what Jesus Christ commissioned us to do.