

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER XII
Sonship Gift VIII: Inheritance A

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4,9

The Sonship Gifts of Ephesians 1 woo us into a family relationship with God through Jesus! The first gift of being chosen was for a specific purpose. God's choosing of us in creation reflects ultimately His purpose. There is never a choice without a purpose. We need to clearly understand something. The whole reason that we were chosen is to fulfill a God-given purpose in the earth. We don't want to depart or go anywhere until that purpose is complete. That implies that we can find out what our heavenly purpose is. We can fully embrace it and we can move forward to faithfully fulfill it. It is impossible to be chosen and not eventually discover a path and revelation of our purpose. The fact that we were chosen implies that we were chosen for a specific purpose and that is what we are to live for. That is what we want to discover, push toward and walk out. There really is no finer satisfaction in life than achieving our ultimate purpose. A truly prosperous life is one that embraces, walks in, and fulfills God's purpose. There is a process of relationship that unfolds in the Word promising the revealing of our heavenly purpose.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:6-9

In 2 Timothy 1:6-9 we are again told that the Lord saved us and called us with a holy calling not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. This reveals God's purpose present at our creation! Starting a relationship with God has some very serious moments where we come to grips with our eternal purpose, and God's path to achieve it. The Holy Spirit has been tasked with aiding us in this process. He knows the path and has the power to overcome all the obstacles. Everyone who chooses God's path faces adversity! Every calling comes intricately linked to the power and anointing needed to bring it to pass. No calling comes free of the resistance and adversity that causes us the growth and character-building necessary to prepare us. There is warfare around our purpose. There is great clarity in Scripture about God's calling. It always comes with a purpose and it also comes with resistance. There is a war over it. As a result we have an inheritance from the Creator who manifested Himself in the earth in the life of Jesus Christ Who is the Ultimate Overcomer in order to fulfill purpose. Nobody in history ever had to overcome what Jesus did with no help from anyone. Not leaning on His divine power, He endured unspeakable horror in order to accomplish His eternal purpose and He did it by choice. He followed the Spirit in the Ultimate Sacrifice for others. The question is, are we willing to follow a God who leads us as sheep to the slaughter? Hebrews 12 and Romans 8 are very clear about this concept. We are killed all day long, and none of us have shed our blood resisting sin. Christ did and He did it for us. We have an inheritance and part of that inheritance is the anointing and the ability to overcome the resistance that our gifting and calling face. We need to be aware of this and prepare for it. If we do not arm ourselves with the mind of an overcomer, then it is possible to give in and give the enemy place and eventually fall away before we have fulfilled what God called us to do. We can't afford to do that in the last days! We must stand strong and not only embrace our purpose but find victory through the battle that goes with it. Choosing preparedness, stoicism and full resolve helps when we choose to be an overcomer. All seven churches in the book of Revelation conclude with the same exhortation and each with its own promise. Seven different promises are set forth to those who overcome. Let's accept the fact up front that we have an eternal inheritance and that inheritance includes the anointing to overcome.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-10

We shouldn't accept being chosen without seeking God's eternal purpose! Once purpose is revealed how do we pursue it? 1 Peter 2:4-5 says, *"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* Our purpose includes being counted among His holy Priesthood. That holy Priesthood has prayers, praises and treasures that we are to offer up. Verses 9-10 of this passage say, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."* In that purpose something eternal comes into view. We become aware that we are to become agents of mercy. As agents of mercy there are two distinct manifestations. The first expression of mercy is the mercy that is pastoral. It is loving-kindness and compassion that covers sin and failure. The Sonship Gifts reflect a rainbow of divine mercy that transforms every one who is chosen. Jesus demonstrated this mercy by dying for us! The first side of mercy is God's lovingkindness expressed through His people. This pastoral side of mercy forgives failures like Abram straying from God's purpose and going down to Egypt. The other side of mercy is the judicial side that saved Sarah from Pharaoh's harem! This salvation required "great plagues." Salvation for Sarah demanded great plagues on Egypt. Are there any government mandated activities that qualify for great plagues? If the Bible mandates it, bank on consequences for sin! God will perform His Word! Israel suffered great loss including captivity. Can we expect anything less, without divine intervention by the Holy Spirit?

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture: 1 John 3:7-8

1 John 3:7-8 says, *"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."* There is a judicial side of mercy that Jesus executed when He went to the cross. When He was raised up, He was raised up as a judgment on the enemy and that judgment was declared and a whole new Kingdom was prepared for people to participate in and walk in—a kingdom, a Holy nation, a kingdom of priests. Here we are! That is who we are. Mercy has two sides. Side number one carries tender mercies to the sinner, the Lord's forgiveness and loving-kindness. Side number two is, if we want to continue in our rebellion, the same God who wants to forgive us will have mercy on the nation and destroy us in hell. It is our choice. Which one do we want? When God judges and kills He kills the body but after that the soul is judged and could be assigned to hell. That is a choice and it is a choice that every single person needs to hear. They will not hear it as long as the church only presents half of mercy. So far much of the Christian church in America is only presenting the mercy that saves from sin. In the last days we must bring forth the fullness of God's mercy. This is the mercy that saves the righteous by killing the wicked to protect from darkness and corruption ruling the nation.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Scripture: Revelation 17:14-17

Revelation 17:14-17 says, *"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."* Then he said to me, *'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.'*" The Bible states in the last days that there will arise an antichrist adversary that rises up to test the whole church. God created this adversary. People are forced to choose. The valley of decision is emerging where people have to choose either light or darkness. Are we going to go with God, or are we going to go against Him. That choice has to be made. The church has to be schooled and grown and matured so we can stand strong through adversity in the last days. That is the assignment of the leaders of the church. What happens when ministers get focused on trying to build a large congregation or a 'successful' ministry rather than obeying the Lord and preparing the saints to flow in their

purpose and destiny? When leaders are absorbed in building a personal kingdom often preparing the people to overcome is thwarted. Unfortunately we have that happening in many churches today, both in our nation and in others. Many are not teaching the saints to stand against the enemy or even how to recognize evil. We have a whole generation in the church perfectly comfortable with evil. We can't make peace with evil and call ourselves Bible-believing Christians! The condition of the church is a most critical issues for the Lord at this stage. God desires leaders to walk with humility as lovers of truth and relentless in obeying and teaching the Word. He desires leaders who refuse to compromise! This is a major, major issue for today. The first casualty of selfish-ambition is we leave our first love, Jesus! Only repentance could save the Ephesus church from losing their candlestick! What will it take to save us?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4

Ephesians 1:4 says, *"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"* The first two Sonship Gifts are chosen and holy. Holy is a characteristic of the Lord Himself the seed which He plants in our spirit at our conversion. In order for us to qualify as temples of the Living God, He has to declare us holy so He can take up residence and dwell in our temple. The third Sonship Gift, blameless completes the foundation of acceptance that we have to have in order for God to fill our temple. One third of the Sonship Gifts chosen, holy and blameless are given for our qualification to become sons and daughters thus the Temple of the Living God. Accepting these gifts develops a firm foundation for a holy temple! Choosing to accept these three foundational Gifts is choosing to grow. God's plan is to continue this progression all the way to our inheritance and our purpose. God has a divine plan and we must tune into what our part is!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5

This verse states, *"Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ for Himself according to the good pleasure of His will..."* In Gift number four regarding Sonship, God adopts us into His Family. What a transition this makes! This means we come out of a birth family that has all sorts of problems but are invited into a spiritual Family that has a guaranteed destiny, a guaranteed inheritance and a guaranteed purpose. Through adoption this dramatic change develops but has not been seriously emphasized as a shift out of birth family into our heavenly Family. This dramatic shift needs emphasis and definition for the momentous shift it really is! Changing families changes practically everything and must be recognized and accepted to experience the benefits. We are not an accident, we were created for a purpose. That purpose can only be accomplished when we accept the truth that God chose us to be sons and daughters. If there is a crisis in the church today that crisis is one of identity. Most saints never fully transition into their new status! Some have never been told and others have never believed it. Others have wrestled in believing the truth of it and lived life believing lies about their self-worth. Not only do we need to choose to believe it, but we need to choose to sign on to **everything** that goes with it because we are signing on to an eternal destiny, with an anointing for a purpose. We are signing on to the full measure of legal rights that go with joining a new Family. It is not something we wish for but rather a reality that we lay hold of and embrace which is guaranteed by the Blood of Christ, and the entire New Testament as the fulfillment of the Old. There are key promises that accumulate all the way through the Word. The end result is we are now Sons and Daughters of the Most High. Time is of the essence! We need to hop on board and get going. We need to be deliberate and intentional about our position and our future in God's Family. God has specific works for us to do!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Ephesians 1:6, Luke 1:28

Adoption into a new Family is a big change! Who we now are, looms large. What is God's purpose for us. The initial primary need for all who join a new family is acceptance! The Gift that follows the adoption as described is verse 6 of the Sonship Gift of acceptance. The Greek word translated accepted is only used 3 times in the entire New Testament and the first time it is used is in the angelic greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel declared **khar-ee-too-o** to Mary, *"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"* Why did Mary receive one

declaration of favor and you and I get **two**? Our job is harder than Mary's. We have to birth the Second Coming of the Lord which involves all out warfare in the clash between righteousness and pure evil and destruction. Ephesians 1:6 says, *"to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He **made us accepted in the Beloved.**"* The Greek reads **khar-ee-too-o, khar-ee-too-o**. It is called the double, back to back. Accepted, accepted in the beloved. Mary got one mention of accepted/favored. You and I get two. She had to birth the physical Christ, but we have to birth both the spiritual and corporate physical Christ. There are a lot more people who are going to oppose us than those who hated Mary. She didn't come under the same level of opposition that the end-time saints are going to face. It is obvious that the season is different. Our job is much harder than Mary's was and that is why we get the double acceptance. It takes the double for those navigating perilous times to do our assignment. Extreme persecution is not an easy assignment to face in any generation. How do we grow into the fullness of Christ declared by Ephesians so that we can stand unflinching? The persecution is coming—we need to qualify for what is available now—Next year may be too late! May the fullness of Christ come quickly!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 2:13-14

This verse says, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* What is redemption? Redemption is the issue of paying the penalty so that all fines are taken off the table and the law books are made neutral because the fines are paid—all penalty taken away! Judgment is satisfied. All the penalty is erased because it has been paid. Simply said, the account goes to zero. The Blood of Christ redeems us from all sin! Colossians 2:13-14 says, *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."* God through Jesus has taken our debt and wiped it out. This is the finest expression of the removal of debt we could never pay on our own. The debt of sin which could have bound us to perpetual darkness is removed! It is forever paid. That in itself is utterly freeing. We willingly and purposefully must decide to believe it and embrace it. Acceptance is a choice you and I have to make!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17

This verse says, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* Forgiveness of sins has a two-fold application. Number one it is the forgiving of sin so that it is over because the penalty is fully paid. Number two is the expunging of the record. The expunging of the record is the cleansing of the conscience so that we can have perfect faith to germinate the seed of God's promises given in His Word. Without forgiveness of sin being this two-fold process, we would not have the faith to function as sons and daughters of God. Perilous times demand relentless warriors! This is the point at which Paul denounced his own past as gone, eradicated. He said, *"I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. I know nothing against myself. I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men."* There is a supernatural cleansing of the conscience when we are 'a new man in Christ'. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."* There is no more record of failure, mistake or sin. The only one to remind us is the devil and we are the ones who have to choose not to listen. We must choose to believe Scripture! Believing the Word demands acting on the Word! We choose to act -and silence the accuser of the brethren. We are the ones who have to arise to silence his repetitions and lies and choose to reign over our thought life. When will the church grow up. Whenever we actively use the sword of the Word as our weapon, we defeat the enemy with the truth of God's Word. We have access to God's empowering grace to become fully established as sons and daughters of the Most High God.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture: Ephesians 1:8-9

Verses 8-9 say, “...which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself...” The mystery of God’s will unfolds when we get established as sons and daughters. Sonship Gift 7 seals the establishing process. As we acknowledge and accept the first seven Sonship Gifts, like the Apostle Paul we can say, we know nothing against ourselves. We have a cleansed conscience and our future is now a book that God can write on. We are like a clean, pure, fresh page for God to begin to write a new story on. We are now in a place to have faith for our God-appointed inheritance. When we know nothing against ourselves, our heart does not condemn us from this point on. There is no condemnation available anywhere because the record has been expunged. Let’s understand where we are now in this process. There is a reason why God waited until now to unfold the mystery of His will. He can’t trust us with our inheritance if we refuse to act on His Word! Spiritual growth enables people to act as mature believers. Declaring truth has benefits when we agree with and declare God’s Word. Faith is released, planting a seed that when watered, grows into the fruit of a promise! Abraham demonstrated how this worked when he called things that be not as though they were allowing God to create them. These steps were needed in order to germinate the promises of God. That is our purpose here in the earth. Let’s recognize how we got here and what the issues are each step of the way. There are challenges involved. That is the reason why we choose to walk in faith! We are moving into new territory and faith is crucial. It is the unfolding of God’s will. As we cooperate with Him in calling it forth, this is the release of the inheritance. It is saying, yes to the purpose of God, without reservation. In other words we are going to act like, walk like, live like true Christians. Let’s just imagine an army of mature warrior saints ready to stand in the evil day! These are the mighty saints who have their full armor in place. Up until now we have not yet had the maturity for it. Mature believers act like Christ! We can follow the Apostle Paul’s example in accepting the authority that Jesus bought and paid for in the resurrection. All things are possible to Him who believes!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Scripture: Ephesians 1:9

Ephesians 1:9 says, “...having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself...” There are two interesting things that partner with one another consistently in Scripture: chosen and purpose. The first Mystery of His will is the Sovereign nature of the call and often the seeming disconnect with our ability. By divorcing call from ability, God guarantees reliance on the Spirit! Now Mystery number two unfolds as we focus on the Sovereign choice of Purpose. We come to the realization that we have each been chosen for a very specific purpose. Knowing our purpose releases faith for promises. That purpose is released as the mystery of the unfolding of Christ in us. Once established as sons, God can trust us with individual purpose. Sometimes the revelation of that purpose costs us, as it did me when God’s purpose collided with my purpose forcing me to choose flying or ministry! As a young adult I prepared to be an airline pilot. I made a lot of decisions including years of flying hours as a Navy pilot. It took a number of sacrifices. I built a resume as a pilot for an airline job. American airlines offered me a job! God had other plans. When individual choice collides with God’s purpose, a divided heart exists till we yield. I had to yield my choice of a career to God and accept His choice for me, which was a path into ministry which was fraught with peril and problems. When I graduated from seminary God told me two things. ‘Son, you can’t ask for money and you can’t ask for a place to preach.’ My thoughts went something like this: ‘Well great, this ministry is over before it ever starts. God, You’ve got to be kidding me. How will this ever work? What kind of operation are You running here. How can this possibly work?’ This is a glimpse into my wrestling match with God. It took a few years but once I walked forward in obedience I could clearly see the wisdom in God’s directives. As the mystery of God’s will unfolds in us there are choices that you and I have to make. We can either choose to obey or choose to reject. It is often a challenge, one which involves obedience. The mystery of God’s will demands choices. As God unfolds His will in front of us, the immediate thing that happens is we are presented with choices to accept, reject, try to modify or go our own way. The bottom line is that if we don’t choose to go God’s way we end up compromised. We end up immature, worthless and without fire. God honors the people that obey with fire. He anoints us with fire. The fire is the result of our obedience. The fire of God’s anointing is how we can tell the difference between those who have obeyed and those who have

compromised. There is a fire in the anointing on the genuine and the true because there is a price of surrender and obedience that has been paid. Qualifying for the mystery of God's will comes with a reward—the anointing! Once we walk forward in obedience we can clearly see the wisdom of God's directives. It takes time but the fruit of obedience and surrender is a deep love for God's ways and His Word which benefits others. When we die to self, Jesus shines through with His will, purpose and plan! Eternity rejoices over the sacrifices of our obedience!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-6

Becoming established as sons, opens the door to mysteries! The first is the mystery of His will as it springs from Sovereign choice completely often unrelated to our ability. The second mystery from the same passage forever connects being chosen with Eternal purpose. The Third Mystery to unfold is in Ephesians 3:1-4. That mystery is how the Jews rejection of Christ opened the door of Salvation to the Gentiles. God's firstborn through adoption is Israel but Israel rejects Christ so the Gentiles can come in. In Ephesians 3 verse 9 and 10, Mystery number four unfolds as both believing Jew and gentile qualify as the body of Christ assigned to teach Principalities they don't rule. This passage says, *"and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,"* What is that purpose? God intends the church demonstrate that demonic spirits don't rule! The truth is that Jesus is to rule through His Body, the church! He disarmed His enemies when He arose after three days in the belly of the earth with all authority in heaven and earth given unto Him. He stripped His enemies of their power and authority. Who is supposed to prove that out? Who is assigned to be Christ's agents and walk that divine rulership out? You and I! The church is supposed to prove to principalities and powers that they don't rule. How do we do that? If we can't move the Hand of God in prayer on those who are destroying the country as agents of destruction, then we are missing an important and necessary part of our assignment! The way we prove it is to partner with the Holy Spirit and bring the Hand of God upon the demonic vessels of destruction. Sometimes that is a Supreme Court Justice. Sometimes that is a politician, educator, counterfeit minister or other influential leader. Proving to principalities and powers that they don't rule is the ability to pray the way Jesus taught us in Luke 18. Lord, avenge me of my adversary! God's purpose is to unite Jew and Gentile, His church into One victorious New Man!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Scripture: Ephesians 5:32-33

The relationship of husband and wife reflect the mystery of Christ and His church. Men receive the assignment of sowing acceptance as blamelessness in the women. Christ died to make the church blameless even when blame can be seen! The job for us is to sow blamelessness into women by choice as an act of will when it is not deserved following the example of Jesus. The women respond in obedience by a choice again following the example of Christ choosing to respect the man in his assignment because Christ earns respect for His sacrifice. Birthing the fear of the Lord enables both to walk in victory. The mystery of Christ and the church has yet to unfold in its fullness but is assigned to our generation. Ephesians 5:33 states, Let the wife see she respects her husband. **Pho-beo-** is the Greek word translated respect. But the fear of the Lord is the true concept. When the wife sows respect it is a death blow to feminism. When the husband sows blamelessness it is a deathblow to chauvinism. The fruit is the fear of the Lord restored to the church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Ephesians 6:18-20

This passage describes the 6th use of mystery in Ephesians where it appears more than any other book. The mystery of Christ unfolds this way in Ephesians 6:18-20. Paul says, *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."* The question here is, what is the mystery of the Gospel. The mystery of the Gospel goes back through the original purpose that manifests in our inheritance which

immediately emerges after the mystery of His will in Ephesians 1:9-10 which says, *“having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”* Where in the Bible do heaven and earth come together. God shows us in Ephesians 1:10. They come together as our inheritance manifests through us to make Christ known in the earth. If we walk as true sons and daughters developing the same quality of relationship with the Father that Christ had, then the mystery of Christ manifests in that anointing that flows through us. The ultimate assignment of every believer is to reveal Christ in the earth and to allow heaven to rule in the affairs of men, if we will but yield to Him. **Christ in us, the hope of glory!** This **Christ in us** will bring healing to those who are sick, deliverance to those held captive by darkness, freedom to those in bondage. All these giftings are available through the anointing of Christ in our life and assigned to be revealed through us. Are we bringing the rule of God on the scene wherever we go? That is what we are called to do and we cannot do it if we don't become fully established in our new Family, as sons and daughters of the Most High! This is what we can sign onto. There is an eternal component that is both redemptive and beyond a blessing! It is our Father's desire that we walk, think and talk like Jesus in the earth because it is His life that we have to manifest in the last days. That is the assignment of the New Testament believer! Are we ready to be active representatives?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture: John 14:11-12

John 14:11-12 says, *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* We must interpret these powerful words exactly as Jesus stated them. Sons and daughters of the King represent the King in His authority, in His fullness! We represent the King. That is the legacy and purpose of being in His Family. As Family members we have a responsibility to represent the Family. We are part of the 'Family business' so to speak. There are few saints out there that understand the weight and the awe that we carry. We must choose to renew our minds to what this rhema Word says. That is what the Lord has told us to do. That is the only way we can enter into the fullness that our Father has ordained.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Romans 12:1-3

John 14:12 becomes real when we renew our mind so the same relationship Jesus had with Dad produces the same works! Romans 12:3 is very important here too. Relationship is the key to the works and the greater! It is the acceptable, good and perfect will of God. The will of God is in His Word. His Word reveals His will. The power is available to do the works that Jesus did and greater works because of the Spirit. The divine call makes the anointing accessible! We've been called to that and we've been anointed for that. The question is, are we going to say yes? We need to start thinking differently! How do we think as a son or daughter of God? We have to continually remind ourselves that we have been adopted into a new Family. God is now our Dad. We have a Family business! Let's purpose to think like that! He is a wealthy Father. He is the Ultimate Father abounding in the true riches who gives an inheritance to His kids. We must start thinking and acting accordingly. We can renew our mind in Jesus' name out of a poverty mentality to thinking like a King's kid. 'Lord, Help me set my focus fully aright. I choose to do that!' Choosing to do that is the wisest thing that any of us will ever do. Only we can make the deliberate choice to renew our mind to think differently! Our responsibility starts here!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture: Romans 12:3

Romans 12:3 says, *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”* What is the qualifier of verse 3 all about? It contrasts pride versus humility. True humility is when we surrender and agree with God's plan. If we think our sin is too big for God to blot out that actually comes under the arena of pride. If we are exempting ourselves from forgiveness, it's as if we think our flaws are bigger than God's greatness. God has already

dealt with our sin and we must not set ourselves out of the scope of God's love but instead renew our minds daily with the Word. We are forgiven and no longer is there any hint of a record against us! Alleluia to our Mighty Father! Let's join the Apostle Paul in saying, 'I've lived in all good conscience before God until this day.'

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Ephesians 1:10

Ephesians 1:10 now becomes the centerfold goal that you and I have as sons and daughters. We choose to shoulder the purpose of God. The purpose is, *"that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him."* Are we coming into the fullness of Christ? Are we approaching the last day harvest? Are we entering into the time of a Jewish harvest? Are we seeing that as it was in the days of Noah so will it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man? It is approaching... Earthquakes are on the increase and perversion is multiplying. Does this fit? Yes, it fits the timing. The end-time church looks like verse 10. Heaven and earth meet in the fullness of times in every believer. Our assignment is to bring the authority of heaven to our circumstance and situation and gain a harvest. That is what we are called to do. **Christ in us** is Bible at its very core and purpose.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission that Jesus declared to the church says this, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Isn't it interesting what Jesus did when He disarmed principalities and powers and took all authority in heaven and earth. He immediately gave it to us, the church! This message was the crux of Jesus' departing words to His people. The anointing is available and it is ours. It is time we stood up and acted like it! It is time we said yes to our assignment to represent the King! Jesus said, 'The works that I do these and greater ones you will do.' This anointing has been given to us for this purpose. Will we accept who we are and walk in it? All the promises of God are yes and amen in Him. A resounding yes, Lord!! The early disciples said yes. Look what they did. They turned the world upside down. If we say yes, what are we going to see? We are going to see a harvest of nations. That is what God promised for our season.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture: John 17:20-23

John 17:20-23 says, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."* The glory has been given, it has transferred. It is done. How does the world know that Jesus is the Messiah? When He prayed God moved. How are others going to know that we represent Jesus? They will know because when we pray, God moves. Our prayers move God's Hand. That is how Moses walked. That is how Jesus walked. That is how the prophets walked and that is how saints in the end-times are to walk. When we pray God's Presence comes and others see God's Hand move. We have chosen to believe what the Bible says about us. We are called to this but we have to renew our mind first. We have to agree with the Word. We have to say yes to it! I will do the works that Jesus did. I will do the greater works He promised. Jesus raised the dead and a greater work would be praying them dead. We don't originate these prayer assignments. We listen and respond to the Master who planned our life before the foundations of the earth. Our job is to discover and unpack that inheritance and say yes to it and walk it out. Praying in the Spirit calls the glory into manifestation to persuade people!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Ephesians 1:17-18

How does God's will unfold for us? This Ephesians passage says, *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power..."* This process unfolds through knowing: 1. The hope of His calling, 2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and 3. The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. Each step is a building block for the next manifestation. Step 1 is relational. We are invited to develop the same depth of relationship Jesus had with the Father. That would result in us doing the works Jesus did and greater. Jesus is the Firstborn among many brethren and we can develop the kind of intimacy He and the Father demonstrated! This is why Jesus came. Are we ready? We choose to believe what the Bible says. Then we look for opportunities and wait on the Lord. Whenever He triggers something for us to do, we do it, we say it, we pray it and it is up to God to manifest it. This is the way Jesus walked! We wait on Him to trigger us into acting in His behalf.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Ephesians 1:18

In Ephesians 1:18 we are called to accept to the hope of our calling which is building a relationship with the Father, just like Jesus had. What kind did Jesus have? When He heard God He obeyed. Can we obey when we hear? The next building block is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. The riches of the glory of our inheritance should catch our attention. What did we read in John 17? Jesus has given us His glory. The glory is resident in us and on us by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Will it be manifested as we obey what we hear? As that happens we are bringing the power and authority of heaven to bear in the earth. What we pray, what we declare, what we decree should bring a response that can be seen so that God can be known. A phrase in the Bible that consistently appears is *"That they may know..."* Glory describes the intervention of the Spirit! Jesus prayed, the Spirit healed. The purpose of the John 17 prayer is to continue the process of divine demonstration through us! Jesus revealed the will of the Father to intervene in our lives. The whole purpose of that is so that people may see and may know God. *"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:"* Here is that same relationship the Father and Jesus had. I in them and You in me, that they may be made mature in one and that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. So how does the world know. The world has to see the Spirit manifest what we pray! If the world doesn't see, they won't know. The reason that Jesus gave us this anointing is so that when we pray the glory that has been given manifests and things change and they see. And because unbelievers see God manifesting in the earth at our prayer and at our God-inspired word, then they can know Him.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture: Ephesians 1:19-23

Ephesians 1:19 tells us what comes after the glory is manifested. Verse 19 says, *"and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."* This is point number three in this 3 Fold process. Who is the demonstration of God's fullness in the earth? We are!!! The sons and daughters display their relationship with the Father. We are to demonstrate the fullness of Christ to the unbeliever. This is the God we are ordained to know. This is the God we should want to know. This is the One Who is the Giver of Eternal Life. This is the God of healing and restoration, Jehovah Jireh our Provider. We are assigned as keepers of the knowledge and the mysteries of Christ in the earth. And we are to reveal it to those who don't know Him. We are to be God's ambassadors and the representatives of His glory! What a profound and weighty statement! In Acts 4 as the Sanhedrin encountered Peter and John they realized they were uneducated and

untrained men, *“And they realized that they had been with Jesus!”* The Sanhedrin encountered men in relationship with God!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** May your Christmas surprise be a relationship with God for all to see!

Scripture: Ephesians 2:18-22

This Ephesians passage makes it very clear that the purpose of the church is to demonstrate the fullness of God through our relationship with the Father. *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* What does that mean? We are to be a walking, living demonstration of the Godhead if we develop the same relationship with the Father Jesus had. The glory has already been given. The exceeding greatness of His power is available in and through the glory. God’s wooing us into a Family relationship that will propel us into maturity. When we choose to build this caliber of relationship we go from glory to glory. Our relationship grows and deepens. With each obedience, we gain more maturity. As relationship deepens, confidence and assurance comes. Wisdom, discretion and discernment grow in breadth. That is a description of God in us. The Spirit is weaving spiritual DNA into the depths of our spirit, mind and heart! Do we know Him well enough to move His Hand so that people can know and see. I trust that this is our pursuit because this is what God has for us and anything less is selling ourselves short for what God wants to do in this season.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-18

In Ephesians 3:14-18 we are told, *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—“* In other words that we may be able to deeply and thoroughly know God. The purpose of the Bible is to launch us into a relationship with the Father and to grow us into the fullness of that relationship. Out of our relationship comes our inheritance. It is accessed through relationship. If we are willing to build that relationship, then we will demonstrate and radiate His Life to others around us. This revealing will come about because they will see His Hand move when we pray. We will demonstrate that God rules in the affairs of men.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Scripture: Ephesians 3:19-20

Ephesians 3:19-20 says, *“to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”* As the understanding and comprehension of the saints becomes deeper and fuller, confidence comes! We are entering the fullness of times that we learned in Ephesians 1:10, where heaven meets earth through the believer. People see what is happening in God-events. They see what God accomplishes when attentive saints pray. Those around us watch God move as He works His works through us. This is birthed out of our relationship with Him. As a result they either reject Him or become open and hungry to have a relationship with Him. That is just how God works! That was His purpose all along. The Father wanted a Family who would know Him and love Him, a Family who would be His agents of glory. Perhaps the two acceptances conferred on us in Ephesians 1:6 by the back to back Greek of the two **kar-ee-tu-oo’s** were needed for us because we were meant to carry the spiritual Godhead. We were meant to serve Him and to carry Him into circumstances and situations.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Scripture: Ephesians 4:12-16

In Ephesians 4:12-16 we are told the pathway that we are to walk as we move toward this maturity. This passage says, *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”* God gives us an equipping team to ready us. This team comes in the form of leaders with various giftings. All five ministry offices are given for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry for the equipping and training of the saints! God helps us prepare and grow relationally through His ministry gifts!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16

Ephesians 4:15-16 say, *“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”* Wherever we are assigned to go to church is the place we are to grow into maturity and we should be active participants in that growth. All the members are to contribute. We must be zealous to assemble ourselves together because there is to be an important, corporate growth process that is to take place. Our church location should not come from what is the most convenient, well-liked or entertaining. We are to pray and seek God about His personal assignment. He wants us to grow and bear fruit! Growing up into Him in all things is the goal. God desires that we do that as part of His Family. Can we grow into the fullness of this relationship that God has for us? Yes, we can and it is born out of relationship with our Father. Through relationship we grow in His Word, His ways and His character. Ephesians 4:1-6 says, *“I...beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* Participation matters, character matters! Are these a priority to us?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1

Ephesians 5:1 says, *“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”* The word for imitators or followers is **mi-ma-tace**. This word means to act like, look like, think like, duplicate. The English word mimic fits here. We are to let our actions reflect what we believe to be the core values of the One we are imitating. That is what we are supposed to do with God. We act like God, think like God, walk like God and talk like God, because reflecting Him is our assignment. We are to be His reflection and that means being full of God and letting Him fill us. Fullness is our assignment. Here we see it for the fifth time in the fifth chapter of Ephesians. Fullness is born out of relationship. The way we enter in is that we come into relationship with the Father as Jesus did. We talk to Him, and when He speaks we obey. This is God’s purpose! Our part is to surrender and renew our mind to His truth.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-11

Ephesians 6:10-11 says, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* If we put on God’s armor, Who do we look like? We resemble our Father! Thoroughly and purposely clothed as God, we will reflect Him and represent Him in the earth. We are to reflect God in the earth so that people will meet Him and long to know Him. That is our assignment. In the fullness of the times heaven meets earth in every committed and prepared believer. Knowing and

following His Word are a key. Actively renewing our minds will get us there! 'Lord, we pray for every believer who is studying the Word at Work. May the fullness of heaven be upon them for good! And may the fullness of heaven bring them the blessing of God!

*There's hope of a calling
For a purpose ordained,
Your own unique purpose
That God has proclaimed.*

*Gifts of Sonship await,
An inheritance too
Exceeding great power,
Is His prize unto you!*

Based on Ephesians 1:18-19, By J.Houghton

Ephesians 1:18-19 "...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."

Be Encouraged!

If we find ourselves part of the persecuted church in this hour, God will use us in that place of suffering. If we are a businessman on the road hours a day, the Holy Spirit will use us beyond what we could imagine. If we are incarcerated for a crime, now being a new creation in a new life, God has a faith-filled destiny for us exactly where we are. This applies to housewives and folks on the streets. A fruitful destiny is there for those living in poverty. Many senior citizens have paid a great price to stay the course and that will not go unrewarded! These excellent ones steadfastly now bring their heart of prayer unparalleled in any age. No surrendered, obedient heart is out of God's reach for a divine destiny with eternal fruit and meaning!