

W O R D A T W O R K

Dear Friends:

We can choose to approach this New Year with great expectation, much faith for fulfillment of vision, and hope for resolution of long-standing battles. We should also remember, with thanksgiving, the depth of spiritual lives poured out as seed in 2003. Psalm 126:5,6 states, "Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him."

I believe 2004 will be a year which marks the realization and harvest of seed sown in tears. As I was praying about this New Year and what we could expect, I was directed to Psalm 74 which describes the pain of occupation, devastation and desertion, with a heart-cry demanding covenantal fulfillment.

Verses 12 through 17 of Psalm 74 stood out describing what we should expect in this New Year. "For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness. You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter."

Seasons of victory are born out of years of adversity. For all who have known personal and indescribable applications of the cross, 2004 should mark a seasonal change from the Maker of Summer and Winter, Spring and Fall. The One who turns the tormentor into a "table of plenty" while surrounded by wilderness has much in store for '04!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

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VOLUME XXIV NUMBER I
Developing Endurance

THURSDAY, January 1

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 6:10-18 encourages us to pursue the power of God at four levels. Each level requires an application of the cross which results in a measure of Christ's character formed in us. **Dunamis** in any measure can easily foster spiritual pride but servanthood when chosen replaces it. One manifestation of that servant attitude is the call to put on the whole armour of God. God's purpose appears to be intercessory. The character trait of steadfastness or perseverance is required. Steadfastness seems to be a word that most describes what God is demanding in this season. Many years of carrying vision reach their final stages of frustration in an hour when nonperformance characterizes our past walk with the Lord. During such a trial, the number one survival ingredient is the refusal to quit. Christ-like character is being formed!

FRIDAY, January 2

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18, Romans 13:1-4

One manifestation of the powers we wrestle against in verse 12 emerges from an out of control government. The authority or government of Romans 12 must be impacted or we slowly lose our freedom to preach the gospel. While the Bible clearly exhorts to love the sinner, it also proclaims God's judgment on any nation who promotes perversion. The radical homosexual agenda is now a front-burner issue because of perverse judges legislating from the bench. One political party promotes conservative and Christian judges, while the other opposes and assassinates the character of Christian judges. Where is the impact the Church should have on government? **Ex-oo-see-ah** is the Greek word translated authority in Romans 13. The character issue necessary to birth and hold **ex-oo-see-ah** is faithfulness with money, or victory over mammon. For leadership, it is the attitude of Paul – a steadfast refusal to merchandise God's people. Character counts with God. He will not hesitate in spending a lifetime developing a role model for generational impartation.

SATURDAY, January 3

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

The third level of power necessary to birth is "the power of His might." "Might" is from the Greek word **is-koos** which describes an infusion of divine ability in the middle of a war of attrition, where the enemy's tactics are fomenting exhaustion by producing an endless flood of challenges. Christians can't afford to be quitters, because too much hangs in the balance. Israel lost a whole generation when the people believed the bad report of the spies. As we face another year, God's ability to impart encouragement and reactivation of prophetic vision to finish the race may be one of the most important things we seek. Perseverance is the fruit of **is-koos**, a baptism the Body desperately needs.

SUNDAY, January 4

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

The perseverance we are encouraged to display with our intercession is from the Greek word **pros-kar-ter-ay-sis**. It means to be steadfast or continue steadfastly, to give constant attention to, or to be devoted. For all those who are trying to birth the purposes of God and have given themselves to it continually over the preceding decades, this is the spiritual grease that keeps the wheels moving. **Pros-kar-ter-ay-sis** as used in Ephesians 6:18 is a derivative of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**. **Pros-kar-ter-eh-o** means to be diligent, to attend assiduously, or to wait on patiently. **Pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is a compound word which comes from **pros** which is a preposition of direction. It means to move forward or to move toward the goal with the destination ever before you. The other half of the compound is **kar-eh-o** which means to call aloud or to dig, to call forth. So **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is the continual calling forth of the vision of what you are believing for, keeping it ever before you. Have you been so discouraged you've abandoned the vision? **Is-koos** has a resurrecting affect when a believer is in the pit. Visionless **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is impacted when **is-koos** manifests. Let the resurrection begin!

MONDAY, January 5

Scripture: James 5:1-4

Keeping divinely imparted perseverance is the product of transparency. As Christ-likeness increases, the capacity for perseverance grows proportionately. Every area of life seems under assault from health to relationships and finances for many believers. All across the Body of Christ people are groaning because of circumstance and situation. Ministries are groaning from the same issues plaguing the church. There is plenty of ministerial vision, but it seems very little money to implement it. Verse 4 holds a key to the understanding of what is happening in such a season. It says, "Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." The word "cry" is the Greek word **krad-zo**. It means to scream, shriek, or croak. If you have been croaking lately you are probably in good company, but take courage the Scripture says something eternal may be happening. **Krad-zo** cuts through the demonic resistance and goes directly to the Throne Room of God! It is in such an hour that we need to remember the perseverance called for in Ephesians 6. We must continue **CALLING FORTH** the vision. It may be that the pressure of this season continues in order that the depth of our cries may pierce the heavenlies entering the ears of God, just as the cries of the children of Israel in Egyptian bondage. Our cries may be demanding God personally come and turn the captivity of the Church. God hears the cries of His people!

TUESDAY, January 6

Scripture: James 5:1-4, Matthew 14:22-30

Krad-zo is used a number of places in the New Testament. But in the context of James 5 perhaps the best example would be Matthew 14:22-30 where Jesus is walking on the water. In verse 26, "...they cried out for fear." Jesus calmed them. Peter said in verse 28, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But verse 30 says, "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'" The "cried out" of verse 30 is the Greek word **krad-zo**. It gives us a picture of what James 5 is talking about. The "cries of the reapers" are those of Peter, the cries of a drowning man who is croaking for the last time. It appears the price to birth the anointing for taking cities and nations is walking through a season where we are drowning. It may be a few months. It may, for some, be a few years. It probably depends on the magnitude of what God has called us to accomplish. The cries of drowning people go directly into the ears of God and move Him to action. This may well explain many personal and ministerial situations. If that is true, perseverance would be the single most important ingredient in the final stages of this birthing process. We need to see a Holy Spirit infusion of **is-koos** and perseverance.

WEDNESDAY, January 7

Scripture: Luke 19:28, 11-27

The magnitude of what we are called to birth determines the depth of perseverance we must embrace. A second major area of birthing is seen here in the triumphal entry of Jesus as He is moving into Jerusalem in the last week of His earthly life. The triumphal entry doesn't really start in verse 28, as most study bibles indicate. In fact, it starts back in verse 11 where Jesus taught a parable because He was near Jerusalem. It is doubly important because the second reason for the parable was they thought the kingdom of God would immediately appear. The key verses are 12-13, "Therefore He said: 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten pounds, and said to them, "Do business till I come." But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us."'" In verse 15 the nobleman returns and demands that each one of his servants be called, because he is going to find out how much they gained by trading. The first came and said his pound had earned ten. The second came and said his pound had earned five. Both were commended by the master. Finally the third one came and said, "I kept your pound hidden away and put in a handkerchief." Because he didn't trade or put it in the bank drawing interest, it was taken from him and given to the one who had ten. The issue seems to be one of obedience, and yet it has to do with something foundational of which every single one of us have the same amount. Ten servants, ten pounds. Each was sent out with the same. It either speaks of how we use our time, of which we all have the same amount, or how we accept, implement, and call forth divine purposes. Will we persevere in the **is-koos** (overcoming power) of God, or give up in frustration? The choice is ours.

THURSDAY, January 8

Scripture: Luke 19:11-27

What is amazing and sobering about this passage is it tells us we can start out with God but not end up with Him. Verse 14 says, "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'" Then verse 27 says, "But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me." The amazing thing is the citizens of verse 14 became the enemies of verse 27 with imminent judgment hanging over their heads. *Adversity* and *character development* force choices. The issue is: who will reign? Jesus is reigning over us when we persevere and refuse to let go. The frustration of not seeing fulfillment can yield to the joy of having planted the divine vision in the next generation. Sometimes that takes years of faithfulness in walking before God, because our actions are more impacting generationally than words. What has God called us to birth?

FRIDAY, January 9

Scripture: Luke 19:28-31

One thing we know about God. There is a timing in all He does. When Jesus was ready to triumphantly enter Jerusalem, He was missing a chief ingredient; which prompted Him to send two of His disciples to the village. Jesus said, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose him and bring him here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing him?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of him.'" What we learn from this passage is God gets what He wants in the season He needs it. The Lord retains the authority to requisition something from an owner for His use in fulfilling the divine plan. We need to realize God is in the requisitioning business: "Loose him, because the Lord has need of him." Sometimes we need to say, "Loose it and let it go, the Lord has need of it." Have you said that in intercession? Have you said that in prayer? Have you said that in **pros-kar-ter-eh-o?**

SATURDAY, January 10

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-7

This passage brings us to a second dimension where giving birth takes all of the **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** we can muster. It is the parallel passage of Luke 19. But here in Matthew 21 we find it wasn't just one colt on whom no one had ever sat, but verse 22 says, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me." Verse 7 says, "They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them." Jesus rode two animals into Jerusalem. The second one was unique because it was unbroken. Years ago the Lord said, "If you will walk before Me in integrity you can help raise up a generation that does not have to be broken like you did." Baby-boomers have been called to birth a generation of kids that will allow Jesus to sit on their back and fulfill His purpose. Never has a generation of children been so assaulted with abortion, internet access to pornography, drugs, witchcraft and the promotion of homosexuality. A flood of promiscuity, resulting in the long-term devastation of teenage pregnancies and a twelve-fold increase in sexually transmitted diseases is their generational testimony. An educational system that teaches humanism in which there is no God, and a barrage of television that literally kills motivation torments them daily! Those who have set their hearts to impact the next generation with the things of God have experienced a full measure of the enemy's flood. Over 45 million of that generation never even got the opportunity to leave the womb through birth. Birthing the following generation into the things of God demands **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** in great measure.

SUNDAY, January 11

Scripture: Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 2:5-9 [Birthing biblical thinking]

The law of sowing and reaping is one thing that has been in the earth since Noah. It is still operational today. It is spoken of often in the New Testament, and those of us who are doing our best to birth the purposes of God find ourselves in a nation where Christian leaders are denigrated for speaking truth. Our forefathers made **COVENANTS WITH GOD** reflected in our laws banning what would destroy the land. Homosexuality was banned. Abortion was banned. When we abandon our Christian heritage, we lose the ability to defend ourselves. 9-11 stands as a giant testimony to how far down the path we have come. The Ten Commandments are banned and we wonder why we have so much adversity as a nation. Allowing abortion has a fearful price! As long as we permit dismemberment in private where no eye can see - we open up our country to a spirit which will bring it about in public where every eye can see! **SOWING AND REAPING IS A REAL LAW OF GOD THAT GOVERNS THE REAL WORLD!** If the Church ever needed perseverance, prayer, and intercession - we need it **NOW!** Our nation is at war with terrorism! How much more can we stand to reap?

MONDAY, January 12

Scripture: I Corinthians 4:1-15

There is a third realm many of us are called to birth which requires a tremendous amount of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**. We see in I Corinthians 4 a call to faithful stewardship and the promise Jesus will come at the right time to reveal that which is hidden. Verse 15 says, "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me." Our culture is crying for the re-establishing of real fatherhood! We have a country in which many kids grow up fatherless. The current generation of kids are demanding a much different parental approach than most of us parents received. The necessity of a distinct generational difference in fatherhood is emerging. The previous generation instilled fear by force; whose motto was, "spare the rod and spoil the child." The fruit of that approach can be terror or respect depending on how it is ministered. The casualty can be destruction of relationship. God's way is obedience by love and boundaries; ultimately saving the relationship. There is a real cry throughout the land for the coming forth of godly fathers. Birthing true fatherhood will probably be a prerequisite for fathering the leadership of the country. There is a day approaching when the

leadership of the nation will come to the Church crying, “My father, my father”, like the kings did to Elijah and Elisha. The question is: will we be ready in such a season? The time to birth true fatherhood is at hand. But it takes tremendous perseverance.

TUESDAY, January 13

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

For a generation called to birth triplets, perseverance is required on almost every front. Any one of the three things God wants to birth in this season would guarantee a degree of warfare “nigh unto destruction!” The Scripture says, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” Discouraged, in the Greek is **ek-luo**. The “**ek**” is the point from whence action begins and “**luo**” means to drop the ball or turn loose of. This passage highlights **ek-luo** as an antonym of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**. We are exhorted in Hebrews 12:3 to look at Jesus who walked out the purpose of God for His life, and although having great opportunity to turn loose of it in the Garden of Gethsemane, continued on unto completion. **Pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is the opposite of **ek-luo**. One means to let go due to tremendous opposition, while the other means showing oneself courageous by refusing to faint. Perseverance should crescendo at a pinnacle point of discouragement, carrying us through to completion. Some of us need a baptism in **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**.

WEDNESDAY, January 14

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-3

Moses sent spies out at the command of the Lord. Every person he sent was a leader. This example teaches us about seasons in which God tries our leadership capabilities through great adversity. He gives us something which is impossible to do, and then let’s us see the opposition, which is generally so far beyond us we can hardly even muster a response. Such seasons are testing periods over the issues of obedience, often to vision. We should not think it a strange thing to be walking through such a place requiring a major infusion of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**.

THURSDAY, January 15

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20

Verses 17-20 show the specific purpose of God and an admonition, which should help us, especially if we consider the outcome. In verses 17-20 Moses sent leaders to spy out the land of Canaan. He told them precisely the track they were to reconnoiter as they went through the land. He said, “see what the land is like whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land.” Interestingly enough the translation “Be of good courage” in the Septuagint (which is the Greek version of the Old Testament), is **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**. Moses has already warned them that they are going to have to use their faith, they are going to have to persevere, they must continue to call forth the vision. We know from Hebrews 12 we need **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** because we all have the opportunity to **ek-luo** or turn loose. The giants in our life often loom very large.

FRIDAY, January 16

Scripture: Numbers 13:26-33

They departed to spy out the land and when they came back they said, “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.” Verses 30 and 31 show the difference in perspective when both groups have seen the very same thing. Verse 30 says, “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, ‘Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.’” Verse 31 says, “But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.’” In verses 32 and 33 they explain the stature of the giants, the descendants of Anak and why it was impossible to take the land when the giants were present. The conclusion is obvious: they fainted because of the giants. They turned loose because of the magnitude of opposition and impossibility of the circumstances. God was grieved with that generation and forty years later proved it by bringing their children in. Will God be grieved with us? They were told what they needed. It was **pros-kar-ter- eh-o**.

SATURDAY, January 17

Scripture: Numbers 13:21-22

In verse 22 we discover who the giants were. But more important initially is we discover where they met them. Verse 22 says, “And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)” The spies found the giants in Hebron. This speaks volumes to us about what we face as we attempt to carry out the will of God. Hebron means the place of communion with God and is where we receive divine direction but also where we meet the giants and our greatest resistance. Once we receive the purpose and plan of God committing to it, then we face the impossibility. Are we adhering to the call, or moaning over the impossibility of it? The choice is ours.

SUNDAY, January 18

Scripture: I Corinthians 10:1-12

The very thing we’ve been reading in Numbers is mentioned in the New Testament as an example. The spies are a perfect example for us of what not to do, how to **ek-luo** instead of persevere. Verse 11 says, “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.” In verse 11 God chooses to train us in such circumstances and situations. He leads us into places of impossibility as a boot camp for preparation for fulfilling His ultimate purposes. The Red Sea was the boot camp for them and God brought them through. Now they were ready to go in for themselves, but they had to stand believing God. If we look back in our lives I’m sure we can see many boot camp experiences of God’s preparation for His ultimate purpose in what He has called us to birth. What we have to remember is that God is bigger than all the giants combined.

MONDAY, January 19

Scripture: I Corinthians 11:23-26

As we read this passage, we need to remember our foundation from Exodus 13. They were sent to spy out the land and they saw the giants first at Hebron. Hebron means the place of communion with God. First Corinthians 11 is about communion with God. Verses 23-26 say, “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new

covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” What we learn about communion in this passage is that you can’t have it except through death. Verse 26 says, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” Communion with God is only possible through death. If the circumstances we face look like sheer death, then chances are we really are in a place of communion with the Lord and we probably really heard Him accurately. It seems there is no other way.

TUESDAY, January 20

Scripture: Numbers 13:22, 32, 33, Joshua 15:13

As we look at what happened in Numbers 13 we see at the place of communion there was a meeting which brought devaluation, doubt, and finally a discarding of the promises of God. Verse 33 tells us the giants were the descendants of Anak and the people were like grasshoppers in their own sight, as well as in the sight of the giants. There was great intimidation flowing from the enemy, but more than that there was a prophetic issue revealed in each name. In Joshua 15 we complete the family tree and get the full view of everyone they were looking at, and consequently their supernatural affect on the people. Joshua 15:13 says, “Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a portion among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).” Anak’s sons completely discouraged the spies. Isn’t it interesting that God calls the place of Holy Communion the same place we have to displace the cornerstone of the family tree of the giants. The very cornerstone of the place of our greatest fellowship with God comes in vanquishing that which is our greatest resistance. Is it any wonder the Scripture says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Are we there yet?

WEDNESDAY, January 21

Scripture: Joshua 15:13; Acts 7:22-30

In the meaning of each name in this family tree is a picture of what we must conquer in order to complete our fellowship with God and fulfill His purposes for our life. Arba means self-effort or the strength of Baal. Or, we could say helping God out is an open door for Baal. It seems in God’s School of the Spirit most of us have to follow this pathway. It was certainly true for Moses. He was a man mighty in words and deeds and when he saw God’s purpose for his life, immediately tried to perform it. The problem was he tried to do it in his flesh and help God out, but the whole nation rejected him. He wound up fleeing from Egypt and spending forty years in the wilderness getting delivered from his giant. How amazing it is to watch the pathway God leads us. Moses had to conquer self-effort and his own strength because God refused to use him in that condition. The need for perseverance is a good indication that Arba is dying.

THURSDAY, January 22

Scripture: Acts 7:37-41

The following five verses in Acts speak of Moses after he brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. “This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’ This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.” Moses had to pass the test of self-effort, but the people failed it when Moses tarried on the mountain. Arba is the father of Anak the beginning of the whole family tree of giants. Surely God brings us to places where our own effort or strength become total futility. At such a place we can have our greatest communion with Him. Hebron is a great place to deal with the giants. Everyone

who comes to the true communion with God has to face the giants; first those in their own life, and then those in their friends and church family.

FRIDAY, January 23

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; I Samuel 13:5-14

Arba's son was Anak. Anak in Chaldee means self-willed or a strangler, giving us the idea that self-will strangles the leadership of the Holy Spirit. First Samuel 13 gives us an excellent portrait of this principle in operation. Saul is leading Israel and the people come to him to fight for their country. Once again the situation is one where Israel is greatly outnumbered (36,000 to 3,000). Saul was waiting for a set time appointed by Samuel, as the pressure began to build for confrontation. Verse 8 says, "Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. So Saul said, 'Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.' And he offered the burnt offering. Now it happened, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. And Samuel said, 'What have you done?' And Saul said, 'When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash then I said, "The Philistines will now come down on me in Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord." Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.'" The giant Saul failed to slay was the self-will resident in his own heart. Had he been able to wait on the Lord in the face of insurmountable odds, God would have established his kingdom forever. In the preparation we often face we should not think it a strange thing to be facing insurmountable odds. When we try to do it and make it happen we fail the test and God has to look for somebody else. Anak was the father of the giants. Saul's self-will strangled obedience to the word of the Lord and cost him his kingdom. Is God revealing giants within through our current circumstances?

SATURDAY, January 24

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; Genesis 4:1-12

The first son of Anak, mentioned in Numbers 13:22, is A-hi-man. Who is my brother? This speaks to the issue of accepting God's heart toward others; helping the poor, giving to those in need when we have it. In the story of Cain and Able is a perfect example with Cain's cry, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The reason God asked the question was because the principle had already been shattered. It is obvious God considers us our brother's keeper. First John 3:17 says, "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" Is the giant of Ahi-man alive and well in the Body of Christ? Are we willing to help people the Lord leads across our path?

SUNDAY, January 25

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; Luke 10:29-37

The New Testament is full of examples concerning who is my brother. Perhaps the most classic Jesus taught is the parable of the Good Samaritan. Verse 30 says, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side." A priest was representative of the leadership of the religious structure of that day. What kind of heart was being imparted to people through the pulpits? Verse 32 says, "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side." The Levites did the duties of the temple and were very much a fixture of the religious system supposedly fully committed to the Lord. Samaritan's were, on the other hand, the outcasts considered second class citizens. And yet it was the Samaritan who had the

compassion. The issue here becomes not what your station or position in the religious system is, but how much has your heart been broken so that you can show mercy. How much mercy you've needed determines the mercy you can give. Is it possible the groaning of the Body of Christ right now is part of God's developing real mercy that leads to compassion; which is being woven into the fabric of our beings so we can really be the people of God, shedding religious appearances and jumping into the full measure of God's call? The giant of A-hi-man has to be slain in the Church. Our reaction to people in need often points to how much of a giant A-hi-man is in us.

MONDAY, January 26

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; John 8:1-11

The second son of Anak listed in Scripture is Sha-shei, which means white linen or self-righteousness. It is that ability to judge others over the very same thing we are blinded to in ourselves. John 8 is the account of the woman caught in adultery, accused by those who are demanding her judgment. Yet Jesus reveals how much mercy each person needs. Is there a giant in us of condemning people when some of the same attitudes are hidden inside our own hearts? Only God can reveal that giant, but He is committed to it. This is the time for mercy - not judgment. Let God do the judging. Let us extend the mercy!

TUESDAY, January 27

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; Luke 16:1-14

The final brother of the sons of Anak is Tal-mah-ee. Tal-mah-ee in Hebrew means to terrace, furrow, bank, or accumulate. Perhaps the best example of this giant that sometimes surfaces is the parable of the unjust servant. In Luke 16:2 he was called to give an account of his stewardship, so he "...said within himself, 'the pressure is on and what shall I do, I'm losing the stewardship. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I know what to do, I'll manipulate my way into places of favor.' He called everyone of his master's debtors, and he said, 'How much do you owe?' The first one said he owed 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly." Jesus said, "...make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon (that means worldly goods), that when you fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Verse 12 says, "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." The final giant faces the issue of integrity over truly being a steward of what is ultimately God's. Verse 14 says, "Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him." One issue with the final giant is our willingness to lay everything down and go for God's purpose and plan. If we are willing to do that, then He will give us that which is our own. How committed are we? How much of what we have truly belongs to God?

WEDNESDAY, January 28

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-16

The makeup of the spies is interesting if we look down through their names, because we end up with a division of three groups. Joshua and Caleb are quite distinctive, because they are the only ones moving in faith; the tribe of Judah and Ephraim. Perhaps the second most distinctive group is Asher and Naphtali; Sethur and Nahbi. Sethur means to hide or conceal. The number value of the name is 666. Nahbi means a cult. So it is a picture of anti-christ and his false prophet. The third group are the eight who are persuadable. The war is between Joshua-Caleb, and Sethur-Nahbi for the eight who are in the middle. Amazingly enough the negative wins out. Sethur and Nahbi win over the eight, and it becomes ten against two. Ten saying, "We can't do it". Two saying, "We can" because God is greater than the opposition. Perhaps once again we are facing days like that where God is looking for two who will stand in faith to inspire an entire segment of the Church. This

certainly may be true on the financial side of what it takes to wind up the age. Whatever God has called us to birth, it is obvious **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** has to be a major part. Sethur and Nahbi convinced the majority of the spies to **ek-luo**, turn loose of the vision. Only Joshua and Caleb held on with what it took to ultimately possess the promises. Let's hope the Body of Christ today is not confined to those percentages.

THURSDAY, January 29

Scripture: Luke 24:44-49

Pros-kar-ter-eh-o is very important in the birthing process. We see it appear continually over very specific themes. In Luke 24 the very final exhortation that Jesus gave His disciples included this issue. Verses 44-49 say, "Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.'" Pentecost was a result of people applying **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** and obeying the word of the Lord; waiting on Him until they were empowered. In every great empowering through the birthing of a new move of the Spirit, there is a season where **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is the final thing that is applied before the promise is birthed.

FRIDAY, January 30

Scripture: Acts 1:14

Acts 1:14 says, "These all **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." Prior to the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost and the empowering of the Church that was promised, there was an application of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** that kept them in the ball game above discouragement expectantly waiting on God to perform what had been promised. We need to understand that what we enjoy so much about the empowering of the Spirit came because people applied **pros-kar-ter-eh-o**. And it speaks to us of the pattern which we too must follow in our generation over what God called us to birth. If we are believing God to birth the anointing to spoil, we should expect that the financial warfare should rage; even into bankruptcy. God may even make a person a test in the Body of Christ over the giants of Ahi-man and Tal-mahee. Whatever we are believing God to birth, **perseverance** is the most important ingredient in the final stages of the birthing process.

SATURDAY, January 31

Scripture: Acts 2:41-47, 6:1-4, Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2

In the practices of the early Church, **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is one of the chief ingredients. Verse 42 says, "And they **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." They persevered in the teaching of the apostles and they persevered in fellowship one with the other. Verse 46 says, "So, **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Their perseverance produced the full measure of what God had promised and He added to what they were doing because of their obedience and faithfulness. Surely there is a call for the same ingredients today. Certainly the warfare demands it as an issue of survival. In Acts 6 the apostles began to understand God narrowing their vision to that which was most important to them. Consequently they were not to serve tables or do the administration of the daily distribution. Verse 4 speaks volumes when it says, "but we will give ourselves **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The apostles finally came to the conclusion they were not to be making hospital calls, counseling (which is an

excellent ministry and needs to be done), but applying **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** in two areas; prayer and the study of the word so they could accurately minister it. Do we allow our leaders to give themselves to those two areas, or do we demand their presence over other issues that were given to the deacons? Perhaps in our churches we have what we deserve. One final issue of **pros-kar-ter-eh-o** is the number of times it appears under each major heading. **Pros-kar-ter-eh-o** appears six times in Scripture over the issue of prayer, Ephesians 6:1; Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4; Romans 12:12; and Colossians 4:2. The second major application is unity of relationship, Acts 1:14, 2:42, 46. **Pros-kar-ter-eh-o** was very much a foundational part of the early Church. Is God trying to weave it into our lives so that once again there can be a sure foundation.

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ITINARY
Al Houghton

January 8-11	New Life Christian Church 29 Marshall Court, Patterson, NY Phone: (845)278-9407 Meetings: 8 th 10AM & 7PM 9 th 10AM & 7PM 11 th 10:30AM
January 16-18	Kingdom Faith Center 1153 – 56 th Street, Delta, BC Canada Phone: (604)943-8100 Meetings: 16 th 7PM 17 th 7PM 18 th 10AM
January 23-25	Ministry Of The Living Stones Anchorage, AK Phone: (907)262-7321 23 rd 7PM Sterling, AK Phone: (907)344-2263 25 th 10:30 AM

JUST AS lowly SHEPHERDS
IN WONDER AND AWE
SAW life’S GREATEST TREASURE
IN A MANGER OF STRAW

So OPEN YOUR EYES wide
AND fix YOUR GAZE TOO
ON JESUS ... YOUR SAVIOR
Who’S REACHING for you

JAYNE HOUGHTON

