

# THE LORD'S DAY

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Sonship Gifts II - Holiness C

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

Scripture: Exodus 25:8, 28:36, 31:18, 40:9, Habakkuk 2:20

In Exodus 25:8 the Lord told Moses to build a house so He could dwell among them. In Exodus 28:36, they engraved a signet for the high priest to wear: Holiness to the Lord which was to be placed on his forehead so God would always see it and accept all he did. This is a picture of how we walk holy and acceptable to God. In Exodus 31:18 God finished instructions by giving Moses two tablets of stone, written with the fire of His finger. In Exodus 40:9, once the tabernacle was erected, it was sanctified, anointed and declared Holy by the application of the anointing oil! Do we understand the necessity of a holy temple for the Lord! Habakkuk 2:20 says, *"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."* Aaron lost two sons for their violation of holiness. Israel walked away from God and became two kingdoms and had to learn the hard way about the importance of temple holiness! All these examples are written for us upon whom the ends of the world have come! If we are the temple of God as 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, then maintaining holiness is paramount to see Christ's fullness being formed in us! Do we understand the necessity of holiness for God's house? Israel did not and periodically God became their enemy! Do we have evidence of God being for us or against us? As a nation, we have the evidence of His intervention in the last election. God is trying to bless America by destroying the anti-Christ policies of the previous administration!

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 29:1-10, Ezekiel 13:19

This passage says, *"Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them. Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square, and said to them: 'Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place. For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the Lord our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the Lord, and turned their backs on Him. They have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. Therefore the wrath of the Lord fell upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has given them up to trouble, to desolation, and to jeering, as you see with your eyes. For indeed, because of this our fathers have fallen by the sword; and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity. Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.'" Is the church today walking in the covenant blessing or the distinct lack of it? How are we treating God's temple? If we accept sexual sin as normal, have we not done exactly what Hezekiah's father Ahaz did? Where is the Hand of God against our enemies to kill them? Ezekiel 13:19 states that sin in church leaders results in *"...keeping people alive who should not live."* Washington DC could look quite different, if we would honor God's temple with holiness! God would remove the rubbish.*

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, Leviticus 20:10-13, 1 Samuel 2:22-24

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 says, *"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'the two,' He says, 'shall become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is **outside the body**, but he who commits sexual sin sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."* Sexual sin carried a death penalty in the Old Testament and this is why. Leviticus 20: 10-13 says, *"The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death. The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death. They have committed perversion. Their blood shall be upon them. If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."* Sexual sin is different because it violates the sanctity of the temple! We are the temple of the Holy Spirit! Committing sexual sin in the New Testament is like what Hopni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, did by having sex with worshippers at the temple as described in 1 Samuel 2:22-24. They could not hear correction because God desired to kill them! How long will church leaders continue to defend and champion sexual sin when the penalty is termination? Judgment begins in God's house! Look for the sudden departure of apostate ministers and vile judges who legislate from the bench! Judgment begins in the house of God-ministers first! God's fireworks celebration may start soon in the church as He removes defiling tares! Watching God remove the tares should be quite a show!

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Scripture: Proverbs 1:7, Isaiah 57:15

The holiness of God should inspire healthy fear in us. Proverbs 1:7 says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. God will restore it to His house first! As we welcome the fear of the Lord into our lives and stay awed and deeply honoring of His glory and might, it opens the path to how we are to respond in very unique and different situations. As long as we walk in the fear of the Lord we will not despise wisdom and we will not despise instruction. Our response to His holiness keeps us wearing the mantle of holiness ourselves. Isaiah 57:15 says, *"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."* The wisdom of God and the instruction of God will always have a home, a hearing ear, on the inside of us if we choose to walk in the fear of the Lord. This is the path of holiness. It all starts right here. It is obvious that Paul has chosen the fear of the Lord and as a result both wisdom and knowledge are present and operational in his life. These discerning forces are intended to guide and direct our decisions. Will we welcome the fear of the Lord and choose the path of holiness?

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Scripture: Proverb s 1:29-33

Proverbs 1:29-33 says, *"Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil."* What a great promise for God's people. Because we choose the fear of the Lord, we know that there is major blessing coming our direction which includes God's mighty Hand of protection and security. Because we choose the fear of the Lord, which truly is our choice, God's counsel has a resting place in us. His reproof gains a hearing ear in us, but that is not so of the wicked. The turning away of the simple will slay them the complacency of fools will destroy them but because we choose the fear of the Lord we have a hearing ear and we dwell in safety and can be free of the fear of evil. What a tremendous

promise for the people of God if we but choose the fear of the Lord! That is where it starts. It starts in choosing to walk in the fear of the Lord.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 6

Scripture: Proverbs 9:10-12

Proverbs 9:10-12 says, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”* What an amazing promise when we choose the fear of the Lord! It is holiness that helps us choose the fear of the Lord. When we choose the fear of the Lord, God says that opens the door to wisdom. That opens the door to knowledge and understanding. As knowledge and understanding come, they are the seedbed for the will of God being produced, developed, chosen and walked out in our life. Then God says, *“For by me your days will be multiplied, years of life will be added to you.”* As we choose the fear of the Lord it lengthens our life. Suddenly our life takes on a whole new number of days. Ellicott’s Commentary says that this phrase includes not only length of years but also *“life that is worth living is to be gained.”* This is about not just quantity of life but about quality too. Wisdom and knowledge literally become a preservative that sustains us and keeps us moving forward and seeking God until we know the right direction to move and when to make the move. All these promises are yes and amen, and they are available to us as we commit to the quality of relationship with God that forms His holiness in us.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

Scripture: Proverbs 12:1-3

In Proverbs 12:1-3 we are told, *“Whoever loves instruction and discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof and correction is stupid. A good man will obtain favor from the Lord, But He will condemn a man who devises evil. A man will not be established by wickedness. But the root of the [consistently] righteous will not be moved.”* The great thing about holiness and walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit is that it lays a foundation of humility whereby we receive reproof and correction. Receiving reproof and correction keep us on the straight and narrow path, keep us in the middle of the love of God, keep us in the protection of God and keep us walking in holiness. This has been God’s intended path for the righteous where the quality of holiness doesn’t prevent us from ever making mistakes but it drives us to respond appropriately and quickly when we do. Repentance is a way of life! This is how it unfolds as we walk it out. Surely we are ready to finish our race in the fullness that God has ordained for us!

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

Scripture: Psalm 9:10-12, Psalm 25:9

Psalm 9:10-12 says, *“And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.”* One of the great things about walking in holiness is that it preserves and nurtures a humility that has all sorts of benefits. Out of humility comes trust, out of humility comes praise, out of humility comes a heart that God will hear when we ask Him to avenge blood. He remembers the humble. He does not forget the cry of the humble. The cry of the humble is always close to the heart of God. Is it any wonder that the humble He leads into adversity in order that He can execute judgment and He can clean things up as a result of their abuse and mistreatment. God is amazing in how He does that. It is something and as believers we are called to participate in (to bow to mistreatment too). We certainly see this truth unfold again and again in scripture. Psalm 25:9 says, *“He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.”*

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

Scripture: Psalm 11:1-3

In Psalm 11:1-3 we are told, *“In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, ‘Flee as a bird to your mountain’ For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? The Lord is in His holy*

temple. *The Lord's Throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.*" Wow, God sees us from His temple! He invites us to live with Him on His Throne. And now His Throne is in a holy temple. For us to sit with Him on His Throne, we have to partake of His holiness. When tests come our way, the choice for us is, will we choose the holy, righteous path? Paul chose not to pay the requested bribe to be released from jail. Paul made the obedient choice, he chose the righteous path. For two full years he paid in the obedience and humility of staying in adversity rather than choosing the easier more comfortable path. He paid for it through his own life, out of his own body, out of his own circumstances, out of his own adversity. Through his obedience, he bought the right to witness in Rome by refusing the bribe that would have set him free. Will the church walk in this level of dedication and commitment in the last days. Will we choose to endure incarceration and the privilege to witness to the right people? Holiness is costly! Will we choose it? What a life!

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

Scripture: Psalm 11:4-7

After we read in Psalm 11 that the Lord is in His holy Temple, we read in verses 5-7, *"The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright."* The reason why we walk in holiness is because God's eyes are always on us to see what we are doing and to hear what we are asking Him. We are told that the Lord is righteous and loves righteousness and that His countenance beholds the upright. The ISV says, *"The upright will see him face to face."* The Aramaic Bible in Plain English says, *"His face has seen integrity."* We always have face time with God when we walk in holiness. That face time with God among numerous benefits can result in deliverance and implement appropriate judgment. Everyone who uses an iPad knows what face time is. We hit the face time button on our device and can be quickly talking face to face. There they are. We see them on their device and they are present on the screen before us. We are communicating face to face. Face time with God is our promise from Psalm 11:4-7 because we choose to walk in holiness. If we comprehend and embrace holiness, it may lighten and enhance our appearance as it did Moses! When Moses had face time with God he had transformational radiance and glory resting upon him. How would this level of intimacy change how we look in the last days? Could this change our demeanor? What would that do to our boldness quotient in the face of evil. Quite possibly it would give us a baptism of boldness like we have never seen before. God invites us to holiness which could change our countenance!

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Scripture: Isaiah 33:5-6

Isaiah 33:5-6 says, *"The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, And the strength of salvation; The fear of the Lord is His treasure."* What we see in this process is that by walking in holiness we maintain the fear of the Lord and that brings us into justice and righteousness and a reward. As justice and righteousness unfold in us, the anointing of God brings us prophetic knowledge and then the application of it which is wisdom. This in turn causes us to know the season in which we are living and how to apply that wisdom in that season. That brings us stability. We are stable because we know what God is doing and that His outcome will be victorious. That is the platform from which we walk out a righteous path. When the Lord says, *"wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times."* We can understand how that works out practically. Prophetic insight is the knowledge. We understand the season. He gives us chapter and verse for the season in which we are living. God says, 'this is what I am doing in this season.' Then He unfolds the wisdom. How do I apply that to this situation? Then the Lord applies the understanding of the season in which we are living to the circumstances we have so that His light shines on the path forward. He enlightens our path forward through wisdom which is simply the application of the prophetic understanding we have received about the season we are in. It is really practical and it unfolds supernaturally, but it seems natural because it is so practical. In this promise from Isaiah 33 the Lord takes up His residence on the inside of us. He is exalted for He dwells in us on high. Because He is in us, the wisdom from above comes to us. He has filled Zion with justice that is both judgment and righteousness. Because we walk in righteousness, we have authority to ask for judgment. Wisdom and knowledge become the stability of our times and they transform into the strength of salvation for anyone who will hear. It all starts because the fear of the Lord is

the foundation. And those who walk in holiness have that fear! The fear of the Lord is a choice, just like choosing to live in holiness is a choice. God rewards the choice of holiness with the fear of the Lord. This is all borne out of our desire and corresponding behaviors to choose relationship with Him above all else. That brings the prophetic insight. That brings the application and it unfolds in direction. God is amazing in how He operates and He is supernaturally natural!

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Scripture: Acts 9:1-5, Genesis 22:17

Acts 9:1-5 says, *"Then Saul still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'" Here Saul was breathing out threats and murder against the disciples and suddenly the Lord intervened and knocked him to the ground. God declared to him, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* The reason Saul had opposition was because he was persecuting Christ. We represent the same Jesus who can also visit all our opposition and put them on the ground. We need more of this Jesus We need more of this miraculous intervention in our experiences. We need to know how to pray this Jesus into manifestation. This is the covenant-keeping God Who spoke to Abraham and said, *"By Myself I have sworn, 'Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son your only son, in blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply you, I will multiply your seed as the sand which is on the seashore as the stars in the heavens and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemy."* This is the Jesus Who you and I are in covenant with, Who hears what we pray and intervenes so that we possess the gate of the enemy. We have a kingdom and few believers are actually living in the benefits of the kingdom. What happened this day to the Apostle Paul should be a kingdom benefit for anyone who is being persecuted. Will we choose to find out our covenantal benefits and act on them? I trust we will!

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 13

Scripture: Acts 9:6-9

Acts 9:6-9 says, *"So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank."* Paul was trembling in fear and God told him, 'Get up, get off the ground.' God knocked Saul of Tarsus to the ground. He flattened him and once he had his attention God said, 'Now get up!' The blindness came to bring the fear of the Lord and point out to Saul that he had been living in darkness for a very long time and that the time for some life changes had come. If we want to change someone's thinking that is one certain way to do it. Come into their sphere and strike them to the ground and remove their sight and tell them to rise up but leave them blind long enough to realize they don't rule in the affairs of men, only God works like this! No wonder the early church once they found their relationship with God through the power of holiness received life-changing interventions. They found an anointing and refused to return to religion. God was the only medical insurance in those days. God was a much better Healer than any doctor or hospital. When the early church accessed the true God and all of His benefits, they could walk in fullness. The gift of holiness is a key component to the maturity necessary to walk victoriously! Who is going to forfeit the unfailing life and health insurance policy that exists? When Paul realized it was God confronting him, he shaped up very quickly. If we saw manifestations like this I am sure we would all agree that we could have a harvest in the earth. I suspect we are headed toward such a harvest.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

Scripture: Acts 9:23-28

This passage says, *"Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down*

*through the wall in a large basket. And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”* The Jews were plotting to kill Paul because Paul became an articulate voice for the gospel! The believers in Damascus devised a plan to get Paul out of Damascus. His relationship with God was secure because he drew from the benefits of relationship based in holiness and he had made a choice that he would not forfeit his new found relationship. He knew walking in holiness through relationship with God was the best insurance policy for ultimately fulfilling his destiny. Isn't it time we start walking with a little more boldness?

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

Scripture: Acts 9:29-31

The first thing we see coming out of this passage is that Paul speaks with boldness. In the name of the Lord Jesus, he arose to dispute the Hellenists. They attempted to kill him but they could not. When the brethren found out, they sent him on to Caesarea and to Tarsus and the churches all throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria were edified, walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Through Paul's ministry, they were multiplied. When we choose to walk in holiness, we walk in the fear of the Lord and the promise is that we have a divine insurance policy with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Paul used his. It is time we gear up and get ready because we are going to need ours. Holiness was the key to his deliverance. We are finding that Jesus gifted it to us as a Sonship Gift, bought and paid for in the resurrection of Christ. What an incredible gift!

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Scripture: Hebrews 12:14

In Hebrews 12:14 we are told, *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:...”* What a statement! We are called to pursue peace and choose to walk in the Spirit maintaining our integrity and holiness, walking uprightly before the Lord in obedience. As we choose to do so we get to cash in on God's insurance policy, His blessings and on all His promises. By adopting this lifestyle, we receive the honor of participating in an end-time harvest! What a deal! Why would any believer in their right mind walk away from that? That would be crazy. This is the best deal on the planet and the One who guarantees it is God Himself! The greatest days of the church are ahead!

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-15

In 1 Peter the Apostle Peter is saying, 'Look God anointed me, even my shadow heals. So, you want to walk in what I walk in, then here is how you do it.' In Peter 1:13-15 Peter admonishes us saying, *“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope; fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”* Peter is saying to the brethren that walking in the anointing requires walking in the Spirit not living in that which pleases the flesh but rather that which pleases the Lord, which is choosing the holiness path. Peter is sharing his path and experience and then identifying what choices mature believers must make. This is about choosing righteousness and choosing holiness. It's about a holy, reverent life of choosing daily to honor God. We cannot expect God to walk us through to the fullness of our assigned gifting and calling without it.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:16-19, Romans 9:23

1 Peter 1:16-19 says, *“...because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition*

*from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* Why do we walk in obedience? Why do we maintain holiness? We choose this life because we have been bought with a price. The blood of Christ made us holy. It removed all the blemishes. It removed all the spots. Now we are no longer our own. We belong to Christ. We are blood bought by the King of Kings Himself. He owns us and He has a purpose for us. We are carriers of holiness. We carry His anointing. We are His agents of glory in the earth in the last days! We are His healing and delivering agents. We are His afflicting agents. We are His terminating agents. Romans 9:23 says, *“and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory.”* We are both vessels of mercy and vessels of glory. The anointing is like horsepower from an engine. Why should we settle for half of what is available? Mercy is a two-edged sword! Don’t think that we get to live in one realm as God’s priestly saving agents without also demonstrating the kingly, judicial anointing. That is tradition and that is how we got in the mess we are in right now. It is time to replace the passivity and appeasement messages in the pulpits and begin to represent the whole counsel of God! It is the season for God to be represented as both Savior and Judge! Without it, we will not see the boldness of God that we have to have in order to victoriously navigate the last days!

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:22-25

We are told in 1 Peter 1:22-25, *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”* How did we get here? Jesus died for us and He appeared to the disciples. Then He was resurrected purchasing for us these nine Sonship gifts. He imparted each one of these to early church believers. As a result of these Sonship Gifts, they grew into the same relationship that Jesus had with the Father. They developed an intimate Father/son relationship and they grew in wisdom, power and fruitfulness. No wonder they had confidence! No wonder Peter’s shadow healed people. Jesus made this powerful promise, *“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.”* Jesus promised greater works and Peter experienced a measure of that in his life. Where is our experience of that dimension? It is probably waiting for our relationship to develop where we have the faith to walk where Peter walked. Perhaps then we can expect to see some of the greater. We are on the right path and we are going to get there because we are aiming to develop the very same relationship with the Father that Jesus had. That is what this series is all about. That is why holiness is important! That is why understanding it is important. When we follow the same path as the early church, we expect the same results! We have followed in the footsteps of Peter. We can fulfill our call as he did! We have followed in the footsteps of Paul and have access to the glory of the Father just as he did. We can fulfill our call expecting greater in the last days! We are on track to experience the greater because we are finally coming into the fullness of what Ephesians promises. We are doing it the same way that the early disciples did. Relationally! We know the end result of this and it looks awesome! John 17:22-23 in the NIV says, *“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-5

1 Peter 2:1-5 says, *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 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.”* Peter exhorts us, ‘Look, you have to come to the Lord as a Living Stone.’ Just as Christ was rejected by men but chosen by God and very precious to Him, so are we. Here is Sonship Gift #1 – chosen! We must think like Christ! Christ was chosen and look what He had to suffer. We must believe and acknowledge that we are indeed chosen. The very fact that we have to endure warfare is proof we were chosen by God for His purpose. Verse 5 says, *“...we 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.” We are being built into the full representative of Christ in the earth. Fullness is a cohesive theme throughout every chapter of Ephesians. Fullness of Christ, fullness of Christ, fullness of Christ! Every chapter! And here in 1 Peter 2 we see that we are being built relationally as He was. In order to have the faith in our core to walk such a call, we have to build relationally just like the early church built their relationship based on accepting the good gifts Jesus provided. When we accept the Sonship Gifts, it releases faith. Walking in holiness releases faith to represent God! It is defined as the quality that makes it possible to fellowship with God. That is holiness and it is blood bought! It is ours and we are exhorted to walk in it and develop it. Let’s stand up in the full measure of Christ!*

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:6-10, Daniel 11:32

*This passage says, “Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 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.” God laid a Cornerstone in the church. Those who believe on Him shall be saved. Those who don’t will be ashamed. Jesus is the Cornerstone, a Rock of stumbling, a Rock of offense! But we are, “a **chosen** generation” verse 9 says, “a royal Priesthood, a **holy** nation, His own special people,” that we might proclaim praises to Him for calling us out of darkness and bringing us into His marvelous light. Yes, we are being built into a holy priesthood. That fact is declared again and again! Over and over and over again we find the same thing. God emphasizes this point in part because He is calling us to pray the same prayers Jesus prayed and to get the same quality of victorious answers. He wants the warrior in us to participate with Him in harvesting cities and nations! It is time we grow up and develop our relationship with God and start building faith with the Father in order to do great exploits at His bidding. Daniel 11:32 says, “Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.” That verse ends in the Amplified Bible putting it this way, “...but the people who are spiritually mature and know their God will display strength and take action to resist.” How much action to resist is being taught in American pulpits? Our relationship with the Father needs to be top priority in our lives to move forward into the ‘greater works’ that Jesus promised! That is where we are going! Anything less and we would be forfeiting something that the Blood has already bought! Why would we leave something on the table that God has promised us? That would be as if we were despising our inheritance. Let’s pay the price and pick up all we are heirs to! God intended us to walk in it and it is time we said yes!*

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18-24

*In 1 Peter 2:18-24 we are told to submit to our masters with fear. When Jesus was reviled He did not revile in return. When He suffered, He did threaten, but He committed Himself to His Father who judges righteously. We have to commit ourselves to God knowing that He is the One who has to Author the judgment we are going to declare. If we are going to pray a judgment declaration, it has to come from God; It cannot come from us. It is utterly essential that as we develop our holiness we use it to grow in our relationship by submitting to the purpose and plan and direction God! It is essential in this hour that we develop holiness born out of intimate relationship and fully submit to the purpose and plan and direction of God! We have to walk this out in surrender and submission. It is utterly essential! Ananias and Sapphira’s judgment originated with the Holy Spirit! It brought a harvest of souls. I suspect a number of divine interventions are soon to manifest for the same reason!*



#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:1-6

In 1 Peter 3:1-6 we are told, *“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”* We are told to submit one to the other in the fear of God. Wives submit to your husbands. Husbands love your wives. And we are told in verse 5-6, *“For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”* In Ephesians 5:25 **ag-ep-ah-o** is the Greek word for what husbands owe their wives and that is to prefer the wife as an equal heir to salvation by acting as if she is blameless even when she falls short. Loving as Christ loved the church demands it! In Ephesians 5:33, the wife must respect the husband. **Fob-eh-o-mai** is the Greek word meaning, respect or reverence. It is sometimes used for ‘fear’. The picture is that when husbands treat wives as blameless and wives respect husbands, they birth the fear of the Lord in a redemptive relationship! This may be a key to birthing the judicial fear of the Lord manifesting through the team of the husband-wife relationship! May we all find it!

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:7-12

1 Peter 3:7-12 state, *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you inherit a blessing. For, ‘HE who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’”* Now it is the husband who is designated as originator. And husbands are told to dwell with our wives in understanding and give honor to her. This passage highlights that husband and wife are **heirs together** in the grace of life. It highlights being of one mind, having compassion on one another with tenderheartedness and courtesy. The Bible goes on to say not to return evil for evil and reviling for reviling, but on the contrary to bless—treat the wife as blameless even when she is not!. So if we desire to love life and see God’s goodness, then we have to seek peace and pursue it in the marriage relationship. It declares further, *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers...”* Walking in holiness means treating one another, how God treats us—blameless. It manifests in how we treat our spouse. It manifests in the fact that our prayers are hindered if we do not seek peace in our marriage relationship. We have to serve our mates. Our heart-cry should be, ‘God help us as we walk out Your fullness in the last days!’

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:15-21

2 Peter 1:15-21 says, *“Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* Peter related that he and the others were on the holy mountain with Jesus and heard God gloriously declare, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am*

*well pleased.*" Peter told of being present on the holy mountain, in a 'glory experience', and being touched by God's holiness. Let's remember, no true prophecy came by the will of man but holy men of old spoke being moved by the Holy Spirit. We should not be a vessel that houses the Holy Spirit and not walk holy. We simply can't because otherwise we grieve the Holy Spirit. We are the temple of the **Holy** Spirit! The Sonship Gift of holiness enables us to house the Holy Spirit! If we were not declared holy we could not be the temple of the Holy Spirit! The reason we can house the Third-Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit of the Living God is because the blood of Christ has already imparted to us holiness! We must not squander this incredible privilege. We need to greatly honor this amazing gift and be awed by the love of our Father in His gifts to us. Let's move with the Holy Spirit and maintain our holiness because that is our place of faith before God.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:1-3

2 Peter 2:1-3 says, *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."* There are going to be false prophets and teachers among us in the last days. But the good news is that they will come to ruin, however, many will follow them and the way of truth will be slandered. Because of their greed and ambition, they will twist God's Word, inviting deception. There is a war! There is a violent clash of cultures in the last days between two groups of people that consistently grow more and more polarized, with each one resembling the God they worship. Most of the church has been absent from this war because the church has been steeped in passivity and kindness and shallow-love. The turn-the-other-cheek relationship toward evil has caused great freedom for expansion of darkness. It is time for courageous, relentless warriors to arise and be zealous for truth! It all starts with commitment to relationship with God, and that should compel us to grow up in our Sonship Gifts! God is waiting on us to grow into the fullness of the gift of holiness that He has already given us. We have some judgments to participate in in order to gain a harvest! Let's not expect victory without the judgments! Let's run with determination toward God's fullness and His best! After the demise of Ananias and Sapphira thousands were added to the church. If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, it should not surprise us that God will use awe-inspiring events to bring salvation! Let's pray for guidance and then move forward at His leading!

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 27

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:4-9, Jeremiah 5:14

Now here is a Bible passage that unfolds a fuller picture of Who God is. Verses 4-9 say, *"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,..."* In the last days you and I are going to face false prophets and false teachers. But just like God did not spare the angels, He is not going to spare them. He didn't spare the ancient world. He judged it, only Noah and his family survived. He did not spare Sodom and Gomorrah, He judged it! What is God saying here? He is saying that the reason you and I must grow up into Him in all things in our Sonship Gifts is that we will be at war with demonized people who are evil to their core. We must be equipped to move God's Hand of judgment on their heads to gain a harvest. Just like Peter did with Ananias and Sapphira, we just may have to pray some of the demonized into the grave. It's time to get prepared! The days of exclusively being nice, gentle and kind Christians is rapidly coming to an end. We should not bring a nice, gentle response to people who are trying to kill us unless we are slated for martyrdom. God said in Jeremiah 5:14, *"I will make my words in your mouth like a fire and these people the wood it consumes."* To open the door for our harvest we must be ready to bring the judgment of God at His direction. For those who choose a life of filth and perversion, who even

plot destruction in the lives of others, including drawing the innocent to hell with them, then hell is their chosen home. *God knows who they are!* God-haters and God-mockers who want to ‘poison’ others need judicial dealings to halt the ‘infection’ they are trying to spread. The faster this happens the more the church will thrive. We are headed for a cultural civil war! We need a vibrant church! Is the church ready? I wish it was! We need to be grounded and founded in who we are in Christ and that is facilitated and strengthened by our growth in our Sonship Gifts! As we grow up in our Sonship Gifts, we can expect an increase in the anointing of God to meet the coming challenges!

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:10-13

2 Peter 2:10-13 says, “...and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,...” How are we going to walk in the last days? Are we going to walk in the flesh? Are we going to fulfill the lusts of the flesh? Are we going to despise and scoff at authority? Are we going to be presumptuous and self-willed? Are we going to speak evil of dignitaries and God-assigned positions of authority? What are we going to be like? We are being prepared to face corrupt and evil individuals and bring them into the judgment of God. This is what God is getting us ready for and it is clear in this chapter that we will face them in the last days. Peter and Paul faced them and we need to be prepared. God won’t let us turn the other cheek to evil forever! Eventually we must rise up and confront it. We have to be able to pray the judgment of God on evil and on those who actively promote darkness. We are looking at tares in this passage. These people are tares. If we are going to have an end-time harvest we must have the anointing that puts the tares in the grave. If we cannot put the tares in the grave then we don’t get the harvest because the tares are removed first. That tells us that there is a judicial, terminating, redemptive anointing that God pours out on His church to gain a harvest. In order to fully walk this out we must be grounded steadfastly and secure in all nine Sonship Gifts! It is past time to grow up! This is serious stuff. It is life or death. The end-time harvest depends on it!

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:14-22

Verses 14-22 are very revealing regarding the kind of people we are going to face. These are people who have their eyes full of adultery and cannot cease from sin, those who beguile unstable souls, those who have hearts trained in lust and greed. These people are cursed. What do we do when we face people who are cursed? Do we bless them? How productive would that really be? Instead of blessing, we need to seek God about the judgment that needs to be declared upon their heads. According to Job 31:23 in the HCSB translation, just such judgment could win some over to straight thinking. Watching God’s dealings fall on them may very well bring the kind of fruit to bear which says, “*For disaster from the Lord terrifies me, and because of His majesty I could not do these things.*” They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. God rebuked Balaam! Do we not realize that we may be called on to confront and rebuke those who are like Balaam? God restrained the madness of the prophet. We don’t want to end up like Eli because we have trained the church to be like Eli. We have turned the church into a group of Elis who are incapable of restraining evil. Turn-the-other-cheek does not apply here! The Holy Spirit has the job of restraining evil, but we have not trained the church to carry the Holy Spirit and the anointing to restrain evil. Much of the church is unaware of its calling in this crucial arena. They don’t know they can, they don’t know how. They are afraid to tackle it. That is a teaching failure by the church and that falls on us in ministry. We cannot continue that. This passage says, “*For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption.*” What do we do with people like that? We cut them off through our prayers, speaking judgment on their head. “*For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb; ‘A dog returns to his own vomit, and a sow, having washed, to her*

wallowing in the mire.” That is what you and I face in the last days. Are we ready for that? Are we ready to announce a judicial event? Are we ready to pray, ‘Strike them, O Lord I pray, with blindness...’? From that simple prayer God allowed Elisha to announce God’s justice. Where is that anointing? Who is God going to strike according to our words? I trust that we will be ready for that as we develop the fullness of the Sonship Gifts.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-7

What is it going to be like in the last days? This is sobering to study. It’s going to be tough and harsh, so tough so severe and vicious that God is reserving it for fire. Judgment is for the perdition of ungodly savage and ruthless men. Are we willing to strike such with God’s judgment declarations in order to bring salvation, perhaps stopping those who are preying upon innocent children or preventing serial rapists to keep them from devastating further victims. This is about bringing judgment to bear that will aid in gaining our harvest! As we connect with the King of Kings can we grow into the relationship that Peter and Paul walked in? We absolutely can and we absolutely should. I trust we will!

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-16, Isaiah 26:9

The Lord is not willing that any should perish but we must note that He dealt judgment to many who refused steadfastly to turn. What manner of person ought we to be in the last days? Peter tells us. *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”* Peter encourages us to walk like Paul walked in order to deal with the filthy and the wanton, the brazen and the depraved in the hopes of gaining a testimony leading to salvation for those who are deceived. Isaiah 26:9 says, *“For when your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”* The hope is that judgments will lead to the harvest. What is the anointing for salvation in the last days? It is judgment. It is being able, through the Holy Spirit, to bring the full range of the judgment of God from affliction to termination. Through well-aimed judgments, may the fear of the Lord fall thereby leading many to salvation!

#### ITINERARY

8/19	Placerville, CA	New Wine Christian Fellowship 680 Bee Street, Placerville CA 95667 Sunday 8/19 10 am & 6 pm	Pastors Nic & Beka Scher (530) 622-8054
8/24-8/26	Cross Plains, TX	Living Waters Ministries `548 Highway 36 W, Cross Plains TX 76443 Fri-6:30-8:30pm, Sat-1-5pm, Sun-10am-1pm	Pastor Max Evans (254) 725-6619