

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER IX Sonship Gifts – Holiness D

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-23

One of the great correlations in Scripture exists between holiness and the fear of the Lord. That connection is powerful and it needs to be explored. When the bush burned for Moses, God said, 'Take your sandals off, this is holy ground.' Moses tried to prepare Israel to meet God for the receiving of the Ten Commandments but when they saw the lightning flashes and the mountain smoke they ran in fear. Holiness and the fear of God go together like a hand in a glove. The fear of God is a vehicle for the unfolding of the end-time harvest! Fear is a subject in Scripture that needs to be studied because it is one of the keys enabling us to fully embrace the will of God. We have to be fearless in that pursuit. The fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom. The Greek words of **fo-ba-o** and **fo-bas** and how they are used in the New Testament is a real study that can equip us to walk with the Lord and birth the fear of God that is an agent of salvation in the last days. So the entire panorama of fear and how to walk free from it and how to walk in that reverential, healthy, holy fear of the Lord is essential. All the different aspects of it are really worth studying. The Greek word for fear in Ephesians 5 first appears in Matthew 1:20-23. This passage says, "*But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be **afraid** to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."* Joseph was questioning Mary's faithfulness due to her pregnancy but God revealed His will and settled the issue. After hearing the angel, Joseph had the faith to walk out the will of God. He would need supernatural help to avoid the threats against the child's life. Natural wisdom tells him that he really should go another direction. Embracing life free from the fear of circumstances is an aspect of the fear of the Lord where the fear of worldly circumstances is eclipsed by faith in the direction of the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Scripture: Matthew 2:19-23

The second New Testament place that the subject of fear appears is in Matthew 2:19-23. This passage says, "*Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead.'* Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" Here we see fear can be healthy and productive because it is verified by the angel. Fear served as a warning saying, 'Don't go reside there because that ruler will take note and will come after your Son. In this instance fear worked as a warning of what not to do and Joseph paid attention and as a result protected the life of Jesus toward God's ultimate purpose. The angel in effect said initially to Joseph, 'Don't be afraid of that, for marrying Mary is the will of God. In this situation the angel said, 'Yes, be afraid of that and walk this journey out protecting your family. Here fear became an agent of direction toward the will of God. Fear has to be discerned. Each time fear is present it can be either an agent of salvation or it can be an agent of compromise placing us in jeopardy. Fear can be a tool of the enemy to cripple or a tool of the Spirit to direct. The Holy Spirit has to be the Interpreter of the fears we face. Wow! There is no yardstick. We have to let God be God and the Holy Spirit has to interpret fear when it comes.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-31

Jesus was instructing the twelve and He said, *“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”* If we’re going to represent Christ and His Word then as verse 26 says, *“Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”* There is a life-key here-do not fear men! Do not fear men even those threatening to kill us. When we are faced with doing the will of God or being silent based on fear of man we must always do the will of God. That is not always easy! We must always speak up and always say what God wants us to say. The minute we bow to fear and compromise God’s Word is the minute that we enter into sin and will have to repent for it and somehow go back and recover from it. We all know the Word says we can’t serve both God and money. Well, we can’t serve God and fear of man either. We dare not diminish the Word based on fear of man!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Scripture: Matthew 14:1-10

In Matthew 14:1-10 we read another account of Herod. Herod believed that Jesus was John the Baptist resurrected as a judgment on his sin. This is the story of his wife’s daughter who pleased him with her dancing and he promised to grant her a request even up to half his kingdom. Her mother incited her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter and thus Herod had John beheaded in prison. Suddenly now he was facing his own sin because it looked to him like Jesus was John the Baptist raised up from the dead. Herod was feeling very guilty about what he had done to John and rightly so! Fear of judgment was following Him!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Scripture: Matthew 14:25-33

In this passage Jesus directed his disciples to a boat with plans to meet them on the other side of the lake. In the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them walking on the water. When they saw Him they thought they were seeing a ghost and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus focused them saying, *“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”* He told them to take courage and not be afraid. Peter stepped out and said, *“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”* And the Lord said, *“Come”* so Peter did just that. When Peter focused on the boisterous wind, he became afraid and began to sink. Jesus with outstretched hand caught ahold of Peter and asked him why he doubted. The end result of this interaction with the disciples was that they worshipped Jesus and declared, *“Truly You are the Son of God.”* It is interesting how the fear of God is used in the New Testament. Over and over again the disciples faced situations where Jesus was trying to get them to overcome their fear of man as well as their fear of the unknown. There are multitudes of examples how He walked with them to overcome fear. Surely He is also walking with us to overcome fear in the same way! He’s present with us, and He is our Arbiter concerning issues where fear arises.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-7, Psalm 65:5

Matthew 17:1-7 says, *“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved*

Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him! And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, *'Arise, and do not be afraid.'*" In this account Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the Mountain of Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appeared. Peter spoke and said to Jesus, *"Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."* A bright cloud appeared and suddenly God was speaking and said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* Hearing the voice of God the disciples fell on their faces and feared greatly. When God manifests, carnal men naturally respond in fear. Spiritual men keep their composure, responding in reverential awe. Jesus came and touched them telling them to rise up and be not afraid. We must learn to walk with God in the supernatural realm so that we use fear for good. Walking in such a way, we become His agents of salvation! That should be a Biblical goal for each of us to mature into a fruitful believer, a goal born out of deep and intimate relationship with Him. God's holy, majestic Presence can inspire fear! Paul used fear as an agent of persuasion, 'Lord, teach us to use fear to further Your Kingdom. Lord, ignite Your Presence and purposes within us that we as agents of salvation would display the awesome deeds of righteousness referred to in Psalm 65:5.' Jesus discerned the origin and consequently how to act whenever fear was present. That is a life-quality that God wants for us. It is time to start praying about it and to ask the Lord for it and to pursue it.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Scripture: Matthew 21:23-27

This passage says, *"Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?' But Jesus answered and said to them, 'I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?' And they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus and said, 'We do not know.' And He said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.'"* Isn't it interesting that when we walk in the fear of man we do not operate in faith nor receive the revelation of God, and we can't please God if we can't overcome fear. Why did Jesus teach with authority and the Scribes and the Pharisees did not? The Pharisees compromised the Word through their fear of man, self-interest and prideful arrogance. Jesus did not! And we cannot afford to either.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46, Psalm 118:22-23

In Matthew 21:33-46 Jesus taught the parable of the landowner and He is teaching it against the Scribes and Pharisees. In this parable the landowner leased out a vineyard. When Jesus got to the judgment line in verse 41 He said of the landowner, *"He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."* Then Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22-23. *"Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes.' Then He said, 'The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.'"* A key part of this are verses 45-46. Here we read, *"Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet."* Jesus used the fear of man to His advantage, and He outsmarted them and escaped in order to victoriously finish His race. Jesus understood how fear works. Can we as His people use fear to our advantage? Paul did! When we discern the fear of God, it can be to our advantage in a situation. That is one of the reasons we have to discern fear and we need to discern people. There is supernatural intuition available to us, but it takes relationship with God including a tuned-in and listening heart. We need to discern situations. The Holy Spirit knows how to deliver us and if it takes the fear of God to do it, He will manifest it. Building a wall in the Spirit takes time! Praying in the Spirit will facilitate the process. That is something we can all do!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Scripture: Matthew 25:23-30

In this passage the parable of the talents unfolds. At the conclusion of this parable, Jesus said, *"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* How did we get to the place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth? The issue is verse 25, *"And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in*

the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.” The judgment on the servant was, ‘Your inaction was wicked.’ Why? Fear paralyzed him so he did not obey what God said do. He did not speak up. He didn’t develop what God had given him. Fear stopped that servant from gaining his assigned kingdom fruit. This parable is a cornerstone of what it means to walk with God in the last days. There is no way we can be fruitful if we do not overcome the fear of man. It cannot happen. Over and over again we see in Scripture that fear is manifested in many different ways. When it comes to those of us who are called to do kingdom business, we cannot walk in the fear of the man. We have to replace the fear of man with the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and it will always overcome the fear of man. I learned what overcomes fear while flying combat missions in Viet Nam! We are empowered to overcome when we realize that what we are doing is worth dying for. When we make that decision, situational paralysis flees when we face death, so that we are free to respond as we were trained. God promises the Holy Spirit will give us what to say when we face such trials. Choosing Jesus is choosing eternal life in the face of physical death! Let’s choose now so we won’t hesitate then!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Scripture: Matthew 27:50-54

This chapter records the death of Jesus and the signs and wonders that immediately followed His resurrection. It says, *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’”* God the Father through signs and wonders witnessed to all that Jesus was the Son of God! Fear of God was the fruit. Signs and wonders are available to all of the church for the same purpose! Signs and wonders confirm the reality of Christ as Son of God. Those phenomena will dominate the last days! In the book of Revelation God kills far more than He saves! These events are prophesied for the last days. They are promised. This is something we need to put on our faith calendar to prepare for and be ready to participate in. We need, also, to be able to explain God’s judgments. The Lord is going to work with His people with signs following in the last days and many of those signs are going to bring a restoration of the fear of the Lord. Peter revealed why God killed Ananias and Sapphira! What an assignment to pray for, prepare for and connect our faith to!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Matthew 28:1-10 records the resurrection event where Mary came to Jesus’ empty tomb. We read in verses 9-10, *“And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.’”* This is the kind of fear that is manifested when people encounter the Lord. It is a good and healthy fear. Do not be afraid, do not fear. It is a deep reverence experienced in a holiness encounter and yet we are not to be afraid. He has covered us with His holiness. We have nothing to fear from God when we are walking with Him, when we represent Him. It is a different issue for those who do not know Him and as such they are going to respond quite differently. But those among God’s Own are repeatedly told by the angels in those encounters, ‘Don’t be afraid.’ The Lord comes as our Friend and not as our enemy. He walks with us in the last days as our Friend, willing to intervene in our behalf, willing to save His Own. Moses discovered that to be very helpful and advantageous when, on more than one occasion, jealous people in the congregation wanted to kill him. It is very beneficial to have God as our Friend. When others want to destroy us, God guarantees we get to finish our race! But we are not the ones who have to be afraid in those situations when facing these adversaries. Those intent to do us harm are the ones that better be afraid, because we know what God is capable of doing as the Omnipotent Judge! The book of Acts records confrontations. The apostles suffered abuse but the Lord delivered them from it to fulfill their race. Jesus had to supernaturally hide Himself twice. Confrontation becomes a major issue in the last days! All of us who name the name of Christ need to settle one primary issue! Are we willing to lose our life for the Lord! Once we settle that issue, Jesus promises that we truly find our lives! No one can take our life from us until we finish our race!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

In Mark 4 we see the first account of the fear of the Lord in the book of Mark. When the disciples were in the boat and about to be swamped by the storm, Jesus stood up and rebuked the wind and the waves and said, *“Peace be still!”* which was

immediately followed by a great calm. In Mark 4:40-41 Jesus continued on and said, *“Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’”* This is a picture of what you and I are supposed to look like. The wind and the sea are to obey our God-breathed declarations. Are we walking with God in this dimension where the wind and the sea obey us? Are we relieving drought? Weather is a serious economic issue. The deceived believe man is responsible for the weather. The Bible teaches that God is Lord over the weather and it is subject to Him. Our prayers should be visible moving God’s Hand in the weather!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Scripture: Mark 5:7-15, Acts 19:15

In Mark 5 we read of Jesus’ encounter with the legions in which He commanded the demons to go into the swine. When the people saw the man completely delivered and sitting and clothed in his right mind, suddenly the fear of God fell on them because they saw the miraculous Hand of God at work doing what no man could do. If there was ever something to believe God to walk in in the last days, this is it! God doing what no man could ever do is a testimony that He is in fact God and that we need to pay attention to Him and acknowledge Him and believe Him. That should be our goal and we need to be asking, seeking and preparing! Demons bow at the name of Jesus if we are known in the Spirit! Acts 19:15 recorded a confrontation between a man and an evil spirit. *“And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?’”* Does the enemy know us?

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Scripture: Mark 5:25-33

In this passage in Mark 5 we discover the woman with the issue of blood who quietly approached Jesus and took hold of the hem of His garment. She was suddenly and dramatically healed. The Word says in verses 32-33, *“And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.”* The fear of God manifested in this woman’s life through the healing and deliverance that God brought. Let’s remember what Jesus said, ‘The works that I do shall you shall do also and greater ones because I go to the Father.’ It is obvious that this should be a part of our life and ministry. We should know when a healing anointing of God issues from us. We should have a witness that someone just got healed. Where are these manifestations of the Holy Spirit? It is certainly the right time to start believing for them!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Scripture: Mark 6:18-20

In Mark 6:18-20 we are told, *“Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife. Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.”* Herod use to call for and listen to John the Baptist. Herod was convicted by John’s preaching concerning his adulterous lifestyle. The Bible says that *“Herod feared John knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him.”* Does anyone in government fear us? Does anyone in government know that we are a just and holy people? If not, why not? Could it be they are not seeing the fruit? The Word promises the very same works that Jesus did those who believe will also do. Here is the bottom line. We are just and holy and declared so by the blood of Jesus. Holiness and the fear of the Lord are connected. If we embrace holiness, people should see the fruit! Fruit is not about elevating us but about God’s power manifesting to gain a harvest. Signs and wonders that establish the fear of the Lord grow from the soil of holiness!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Scripture: Mark 6:48-51

In Mark 6:48-51 it says, *“Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.’ Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.”* The very first thing that Jesus had to do when He met them as He walked on the water was to say, ‘Guys don’t fear, it’s Me, don’t be afraid.’ We cannot have faith for the supernatural if we are afraid of the supernatural. It may be time to make a quality decision to seek the supernatural

manifestations of the Lord. Certainly He is ready to manifest them. Our awareness of our new stature through God's gift of holiness should enable us to discern fear and respond appropriately. After holiness, Jesus declares us without blame. Being without blame enhances and accelerates faith for the supernatural. Anointed confidence as well as great wisdom will be byproducts of the Sonship gifts operating in our lives! When we know God has made us holy and without blame, faith for the supernatural increases!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Scripture: Mark 9:30-32

Mark 9:30-32 says, *"Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, 'The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.' But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him."* There is an interesting context for fear in this passage. They were afraid to ask the Lord, 'What does that mean?' What is it that we are afraid to ask God? Are we afraid to ask Him what our next assignment is? Are we afraid to ask Him where He wants us to live? Are we afraid to ask Him, who does He want us to work for? What is it that we are afraid to ask God? Maybe we need to confront the fear or dread of the future and just ask Him! At the same time we need to be prepared when the answer comes. Do we really want to forfeit a major part of what God wants to do because we are fearful? They have a cowboy saying in Texas—'man up!' Saints, it's time to man up!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Scripture: Mark 10:32

Mark 10:32 says, *"Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him."* The disciples were clearly afraid of what was about to happen or what was coming. Sometimes fear of the unknown itself is paralyzing. That is something that we have to overcome because we are going to have to walk through it one way or the other. If it's in our future we're going to have to walk through it, and we need the grace of God to do that so we need to overcome fear. At the minimum, we can ask, 'Lord, show us what is in our future and what You have ordained for us. Let us see what we are going to have to walk through. Lord, show us and start preparing us now.' Now is the time to ask!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Scripture: Mark 11:15-19

Mark 11:15-19 describes to us Jesus cleaning house in the temple. Verses 17-18 say, *"Then He taught, saying to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching."* Jesus was prophetically declaring their judgment. When we walk with the Lord, we are going to terrorize people who are afraid of God's judgment. That may come through us and the words that we speak. Their reaction may very well be to try to plot a way to do away with us. It happened to Jesus and it will no doubt happen to some of us. Grace exists in part to finish our race gloriously.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Scripture: Mark 11:28-33

These verses say, *"And they said to Him, 'By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?' But Jesus answered and said to them, 'I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.' And they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'If we say, "From heaven," He will say, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "From men"—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.' So they answered and said to Jesus, 'We do not know.' And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.'" This passage describes an encounter that Jesus had with the deceitful leaders, when they were questioning Him because He was cleaning house in the temple. Jesus purposefully put them on their heels in fear. They feared the people because they knew that the people esteemed Jesus as a prophet. Jesus used the fear of man to entrap counterfeit leaders and force them to confront their own failure. The leadership of that day was compromised exactly like Satan compromises leadership today. If we opt for seeker-sensitivity because we are afraid of losing people, we no longer serve Christ. We have ceased building God's Kingdom and are*

building our own. Fearfully refusing to preach the cross, we serve satan not God. Shallow, people-pleasing leaders are in danger of walking away from their first Love! One very serious and crucial battle is over the hearts of preachers. Oral Roberts used to say that whatever a man compromises to keep, God guarantees he will lose. I've lived long enough to see the truth of that statement. Whatever you and I compromise to keep, God promises He will take it away from us. You cannot serve God and bow to the fear of man!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Scripture: Luke 8:49-56

Luke shares the account of the resurrection of Jairus' daughter. Luke 8:49-50 says, *"While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, 'Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.' But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, 'Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.'"* Jesus was declaring life in the face of death, 'Do not be afraid; only believe and she will recover.' What a statement! What do we do in the face of great adversity? Are we afraid to take a stand and trust Him? Do we handle adversity by the leadership of the Holy Spirit? Let us pray, 'Lord, what is Your will in this situation. What do You want me to say and do? Do I declare resurrection, or do I bless them into the peace of eternity?' The only way we can navigate such seasons is to allow the Holy Spirit to set the agenda in that event. Once we are in it, we have to continue to seek and hear God for His direction!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Scripture: Luke 9:29-36

Jesus finds Himself in the glory of the Lord speaking with Moses and Elijah. Verses 33b-36 say, *"Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!' When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen."* Isn't it interesting that as the cloud began to envelop them, suddenly they were dealing with fear! While God was talking, a cloud came and overshadowed them and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. Fear is a definite obstacle when it comes to the unknown realm of the Spirit. Are we going to allow ourselves to be ruled by fear or are we going to set our faith to walk in the realm of the unknown. That means we have to supernaturally overcome our fear of the unknown. We need to ask God to give us the spirit of a pioneer and make us as bold as a lion. We should be asking God, 'Lord, help me overcome the fear of the unknown in order to walk in the Spirit.' This is a prayer every single one of us needs to be praying.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Scripture: Luke 9:43-45

In Luke 9:43-45 Jesus prophesied His coming death. His disciples didn't understand it and they were afraid to ask Him about it. 'Lord, whenever there are things that we don't understand that are spoken by the Spirit, give us the boldness to ask You and to overcome the fear of the unknown.' The fear of the unknown can have a real bondage attached to it because it keeps us from asking for God's wisdom to show us what do when that situation emerges. We can ask for supernatural counsel and revelation how to wisely navigate what we are facing. We have to break through fear. To walk in the Spirit in the last days we cannot be dominated by fear of the unknown. It is a major issue in Scripture. The twelve were subject to it and they had to overcome it and so do we! 'Lord, we pray that You will empower us and give us the heart of a pioneer and a trail-blazer to overcome fear of the unknown. Grant the wisdom to discern what we are walking into and act accordingly!' Being crippled by guilt, blame and shame is the goal of the accuser of the brethren, however Christ gloriously declares us holy and blameless. This inheritance empowers us with faith to fulfill our destiny!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Scripture: Luke 12:1-12, 30-32

Jesus is teaching the twelve about the issue of the bondage of fear. He says in verses 4-7, *"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."* A prayer including this exhortation is, 'Father, in Jesus name, we are of

more value than any other living thing that You created. You have declared, that we are made in Your image and likeness. You have declared that we were created to walk with You in faith. We were not created for crippling fear. Therefore, deliver us from fear...fear of the unknown, fear of the unexpected and fear of man. Deliver us from disabling fear that we may walk in faith and show the power of Christ! Luke 12:30-32 says, *“For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* Are we afraid of what we don’t see yet manifested? If we are, that is hindering our faith to walk in it. Are we letting our past experiences keep us from our next manifestation of faith? Can we afford that? No, we cannot! ‘Lord, deliver us from the experiences of the past so that the fear of failure is under our feet. And give us the faith for our next adventure with you in Jesus name. Let us walk by faith and not by sight, in Jesus name, amen!’

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4. Exodus 29:1-12

Ephesians 1:3-4 says, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,...”* Sonship gift number one is chosen. Sonship gift number two is holy, and Sonship gift number three is without blame, which is the Greek word **am-o-mos**. **Am-o-mos** means without blemish or spotless. In classical Greek **am-o-mos** is used as a technical word to designate the absence of something amiss in a sacrifice or anything which would render it unworthy to be offered! When the sacrifice was **am-o-mos**, it was fully acceptable or perfect. When we look into the process of consecration, Exodus 29:1-12 gives us a Biblical example. The very first thing mentioned was that the priest had to take a bull as the sin offering but it had to be without blemish. This was a picture of Christ as our sacrificial Lamb. The perfect animal absorbed the sin and imperfections of the people or things being consecrated. This process of transference prepared man to receive Christ! **Am-o-mos** was the process of consecration or purification that caused one to stand before God free from sin so that he could do business with the King. The purpose was to make someone qualified to do business with the King and stand confidently before Him.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-27

In Ephesians 5:25-27 we have the second use of **am-o-mos** in the New Testament. We are told, *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”* Without blemish is **am-o-mos**! In this passage **am-o-mos** is equal to **kata-kri-ma**. **Kri-ma** is the word for judgment or condemnation and **kata** meaning to wipe out or to take away all judgment or to remove all condemnation. **Am-o-mos** speaks of the One God Who has chosen His Son before the foundation of the world to be without blemish. Accepting Christ gives us the privilege of standing without blemish before Him. God has sovereignly and supernaturally declared us worthy. When we stand before Him in Christ we are qualified to do business with the King! Jesus died to give us the same relationship with the Father that He had if we pursue it! In marriage the assignment is given to husbands to demonstrate this dimension of love and this attitude toward their spouse because marriage is a type of the relationship that Christ has with the church.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Scripture: Ephesians 1:25-28

When we add verse 28 to this process, we begin to see something about how God intended to birth the Sonship gifts in the church and how He ordained them to be experienced in an unfolding process that is a type and shadow of Christ and the church. We are told in this verse, *“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”* God extends or delivers an assignment here, and this assignment is important when we begin to understand His purpose for the birthing of these Sonship Gifts in the church. God gives an assignment to every Christian husband: love your wife the way Christ loves the church. We husbands must choose to treat our wives blameless by faith even when they fail to act appropriately. They will eventually rise to the standard we choose! We know in our mind that the blood of Christ consecrates or cleanses us and so we are without blame, and without blemish. When we add the meaning of **kata-kri-ma**, then it means that every judgment ever made against us going all the way back to birth and even into our development in the womb, every judgment ever made against us is totally destroyed and totally removed and completely abolished by the blood of the

Lamb. Accepting forgiveness is accepting the work of the blood. We share something with Christ and have been assigned the birthing of this in reality in the marriage relationship! We are to treat our wives as Christ treats us.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-33

Ephesians 5:32-33 says, *“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”* God says it is a great mystery, so we accept it as a great mystery. Nevertheless we commit to loving our wives and watch the ministry unfold. This is a faith project. When we treat our wives as if they are spotless and without blemish, then they grow into being spotless and without blemish exactly like Christ does with us. The more we treat wives that way the faster they grow to be that way.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-31

Verses 30-31 say, *“For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”* God ordained the marriage relationship as a picture of the developing relationship between Christ and the church. As a husband and wife grow together in unity, so the church is designed to grow together in unity with the Lord. That is hindered if we don't recognize that we are chosen, that we are holy and that we are blameless. One place that God ordained to develop this is in the husband and wife relationship. How are we doing in this process? Has the church grown into the fullness of relationship with the Father. Probably not! Any mature believer should be able to answer that question. We are not there yet and maybe it is because nobody pointed out that we need to start by embracing the Sonship gifts. Just as Christ died for us, husbands are invited by faith to treat wives as spotless and without blemish. The husband covers the spots and the blemishes. We don't battle the spots nor do we go to war with the blemishes. We don't deny the spots and blemishes, but we cover by loving through to acceptance. Jesus displayed this love to all people. This dynamic is exactly what is present for those unmarried as well as for the husband himself. This is the dynamic Jesus walks out for all His people, whether married, single, incarcerated, or those lost in grievous sin. The same powerful truth Jesus walked out for His people is the pattern for marriage. The husband can't argue them away. He can't mistreat them away. He loves them away with acceptance, and understanding. What an assignment!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-29

In Ephesians 5:29 this assignment becomes even deeper still. This verse says, *“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.”* Wow! This is an assignment for husbands to treat their wives as if they are without spot, without blemish. That is a tall order! What a challenge! Yet, this challenge has a purpose and that purpose is the birthing of the revelation of the full magnitude of what Christ has done for us and His purpose we are to fulfill. There is a key here that most of us have never seen. That key is how we as husbands treat our wives. Understanding this can unlock for us the fullness of the Sonship gifts and all that goes with them in faith, in relationship, in developing the same kind of relationship with us that Christ had with the Father. The key to it is choosing to treat our wives the same way Christ treats us. He made us blameless and spotless by His incomparable blood. He died for us as our perfect sacrificial offering. We as husbands need to choose to treat our wives as if they are spotless and flawless. This opens the door for the fullness of Christ to come forth in our lives. No wonder God has ordained prophetic marriages in the last days as examples of how to enter into the fullness of Christ.

*With courage like a pioneer
Bold as a lion too,
One chosen, holy, without blame,
Great exploits he will do!*

By J. Houghton

ITINERARY

9/7-9/8	Midland, TX	The Bridge Midland 2813 Maxwell Dr. Midland, TX 79705 7 PM Friday 9/7, 9 AM Saturday 9/8	Keith McLelland 432-967-3470
9/9, 9/10, 9/11	Andrews, TX	City of Refuge 1876 N. US 385 Andrews TX 79714 10 AM & 6 PM Sunday, 7 PM Monday & Tuesday	Larry Brewer 432-523-7773
9/21, 9/22, 9/23	Cross Plains, TX	Living Water Ministries 548 Highway 36 W. Cross Plains TX 76443 6:30-8:30 PM Friday, 1-5 PM Sat., 10 AM-1PM Sun.	Max Evans 254-725-6619