

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER III
Sonship Gifts - Adoption C

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5-6a

Ephesians 1:5 says, “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace,...” Adoption is the Greek word **hwee-oth-es-ee-ah**. It is a compound word that comes from **hwe-os**, which is the Greek word for ‘sons’. The other part of the word means, ‘to select or to place;’ Adoption is more than approval. In adoption God chooses us with a purpose and the adoption places us in His family with a specific mandate and calling. That calling was ordained and established before the foundations of the earth. We have a God-ordained niche, mission and metron, through relationship with Him. That involves making a contribution to His Kingdom. It really is quite a process. It is our adoption that makes the prayer Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23 possible. Being truly family with the Father opens up the oneness, the glory and the unity that qualifies us to represent Him!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Scripture: Romans 8:12-15

In Romans 8:12-15 we are told, “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’” The Holy Spirit has the job of guiding us into our placement in Christ for His Kingdom purpose. The interesting part of looking up this Greek word is the emphasis it places on the issue of Sonship. Our adoption actually puts us legally, spiritually and literally into the family of God. That is a whole mouthful alluding to privilege when we start looking at what our Elder Brother paid for and left as an inheritance. Thank God we have the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us into the revelation and truth as well as the fullness of it.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Ephesians 1:3-14 offers the stages of growth that emerge out of this passage in our preparation for and fulfillment of adoption as sons. Number one of the Sonship gifts declares we are chosen. Number two declares we are made holy. Number three declares we are blameless. These gifts qualify us for the adoption. We know from the rest of the Scriptures that adoption is 100% about being sons and daughters of the Most High God, our Creator. In the adoption we actually become sons of God! Now that we are legally sons we can grow in the next stage of gifts, acceptance, redemption, and forgiveness. These are important transitions in order that our conscience can be clean and that gives us the same potential testimony, a parallel testimony to what the Apostle Paul had. Our part is to believe and receive it. In Acts 23 Paul said, ‘I know nothing against myself. I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.’ The sealing part of the adoption permanently separates us from our past, never to be a hindrance again. This brings us into our future inheritance because as sons and daughters we are now heirs. The Holy Spirit is then given as the ninth Sonship Gift to be the guarantee of that inheritance. Or we could say, as His job the Holy Spirit guides us into that inheritance. The Spirit leads us into the fullness of our Sonship. This is the picture or framework for applying our Sonship Gifts and responding to life in wisdom and maturity. The purpose is that we take our place in the family of God developing the same relationship with the Father that Christ had. This enables us to fulfill our call in our assigned generation.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Scripture: Acts 7:57-60

In Acts 7:57-60 we read, *“Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”* In this passage we get a picture of Saul of Tarsus prior to his salvation and transformation. He was zealous in advancing in Judaism by persecuting and destroying believers. He orchestrated Stephen’s death and began the major persecution of the church that caused the depopulation of Jerusalem. As a result believers were scattered abroad into other regions. Paul’s goal was to advance his career in Judaism at the cost of the early church.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Scripture: Acts 8:1-4

In Acts 8:1-4 we are told, *“At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”* Suddenly we find that the church had a major enemy and his name was Saul. This enemy put people in prison and he put some to death. He was leading and orchestrating a major persecution against the church. He was traveling city to city in order to make sure that he could do the maximum amount of devastation and stop the believers preaching about Jesus the Christ. He was committed and zealous in his endeavors no doubt wanting to distinguish himself as a leader of leaders. It is interesting what happened in the early church as full blown persecution came from Saul of Tarsus.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Scripture: Acts 9:1-9

In Acts 9:1-2 we read, *“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.”* After Saul presided over the death of Stephen he continued breathing out threats and murder. That meant that he killed other people even though we don’t know how many. We can’t really say he was a serial killer, but we can say that Saul was the closest thing to it in the New Testament. There was major persecution of the believers and it was so prevalent that it quickly got God’s attention. At a certain point God decided it was time to intervene. He set a plan in motion that eventually would elevate and instruct the church for all time. His divine intervention put an end to Paul’s persecution. God intervened dramatically with a life-changing encounter between Paul and the Victorious Risen Christ which included Paul being temporarily struck blind. God Almighty stopped Paul in his tracks. God did a ‘suddenly’! In a moment of time we have the conversion of the number one enemy of the church. Suddenly the number one enemy of the church was arrested and halted in his tracks and changed directions. Saul of Tarsus was gloriously saved and the beginning of Paul the Apostle arose and no doubt all the faithful believers in that generation were very, very relieved because he was a major threat and a formidable enemy!

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Scripture: Acts 9:4-9

In Acts 9:4-9 we see God dealing with Saul and it was a crushing, humbling and dramatic experience. He saw the Light and he was knocked to the ground. He heard a voice. This passage says, *“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.’ So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord what do You want me to do?’”* He arose and instantly discovered he was blind and his traveling companions had to lead him on to Damascus where he stayed for three days without eating or drinking. In this place Paul was no doubt contemplating his future in blindness and repenting for opposing Christ! There are people who say that God does not judge, that all judgment fell on Christ. Let’s tell that to Saul of Tarsus! It didn’t exactly go that way for him. He learned the Sonship Gifts the hard way. He learned it because he personally needed the redemption revealed to him and recorded in the book of Ephesians.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Scripture: Acts 20:24-36

In Acts 20:24-36 we are told in verses 24-26, *“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.”* Let’s remember that this moment happened 28 years after Paul’s conversion. What happened in those 28 years? He received transformational revelation and he wrote the book of Ephesians. The Sonship Gifts happened. Through revelation and understanding of the Sonship Gifts, Paul’s conscience was cleansed. In those 28 years, he was completely forgiven and learned who he was in Christ. Who he was in Christ completely erased all blame, shame, guilt. He no longer had any conscience that was stained by his previous deeds. Those stains were forgiven and erased. Paul understood that he was a new man, a redeemed man! We are looking at one new man! We are looking at the power of transformation through the Living Word. It is amazing and it should be. Thank God for it because it paints our future. It was Paul’s experience of transformation and it can and should be the pattern for our personal transformation.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Scripture: Ephesians 1:22-30

In Ephesians 1 as we read through the Sonship Gifts we find out what the stated purpose of those gifts is. In verses 22-30 we discover that we can have the same relationship with the Father that Christ had. We discover that the glory is what we are supposed to dwell in. We find out that the exceeding greatness of His power is freely given to us. Verses 22-23 say, *“And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”* The church is defined as the fullness of Christ. The purpose of the Sonship Gifts is to bring us into adoption as sons in order that we will walk in all the fullness of Christ. That is the definition of the church. We must ask ourselves, how are we doing in that category? Are we there? Are we close? How are we doing? What needs to happen to get us there? As we walk through each Sonship Gift and become established in it, the understanding of adoption frees our conscience to represent our Father in the fullness of Christ. Fulfilling our assignment that was given at creation before time began is the ultimate purpose. What a blessing! No wonder we need to fully believe and unquestionably accept these nine gifts. This is our future and the key to it!

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Scripture: 1 John 3:4-8

At this stage the real question is, what is the purpose of the fullness of Christ in our life, and what will it look like? That is the goal? That is what we are to aim for as we receive these Sonship Gifts. 1 John 3:8 tells us what that purpose is. *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* The purpose of Christ was to birth God’s fullness for you and I. That starts with the application of these Sonship Gifts which when fully pursued and embraced and owned can completely eradicate blame, shame and guilt. This path can bring us into the full adoption as sons so that we can move on to our inheritance and birth what God called us to do when He created us. Only God would make provision like that and He did. All that provision is in Christ. As we study this and receive it, it will unfold in us. We accept our Sonship to approach God as our own Dad! Accepting Sonship opens the door to a Father/Son/Daughter relationship of the highest and most awesome caliber with our Creator!

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Scripture: Ephesians 3:8-12

We are aware that the purpose of Christ was to destroy the works of the devil, but we also find out in Ephesians 3 that there was an additional purpose He had for us that only mature kids are able to accomplish. It says, *“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”* According to verse 11 the eternal purpose of Christ that Jesus carried to fruition was that you and I with boldness, faith and confidence would demonstrate to the enemy and his realm that they don’t rule. We already know where the confidence comes from. The key to this process of completing our assignment is **confidence before God**. That means we have to achieve the same testimony the Apostle Paul had. ‘I’ve lived in all good conscience before God until this day. I know nothing against myself.’ Are we there yet? Probably not! The reason we are studying this is that this is the revealed Biblical pathway to get there. That is why we are doing what we’re doing. Accepting Christ’s provision of adoption is entering God’s family through Jesus the Door.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Scripture: 1 John 3:19-21

1 John 3:19-21 says, *“And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure (persuade) our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”* There it is. To move forward in the eternal purpose it is essential that we have confidence before God by faith through Christ to demonstrate to principalities that they don’t rule. How do we get the confidence? That is what coming into harmony and union with our Sonship Gifts will do! Paul through the revelation of the Holy Spirit penned powerful truths which when pursued and grasped will have life-changing impact. These truths came through waiting on God and developing intimacy with Him. For us it will involve more than merely studying the Sonship Gifts. It will involve connecting with truth in our spirit. It calls for commitment! That is what God did for Paul and He is no respecter of persons. He will do it for us! We’re on the right track. This is serious and it is connected to our eternal fruit. Our adoption may well be the key to understanding and receiving our position as sons and daughters of the Most High God. Adoption is becoming a focal point of what is going on with the Sonship Gifts. This may well be the transformational issue! I sense that the great power of these gifts has been missed by much of the church. God often hides truth in plain sight in order for us to discover it by seeking Him and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jeremiah 29:13 says, *“And you will seek me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”* Our progress in this journey may very well depend on our diligence and determination! We are in the process of doing that right now. Are we wholeheartedly contending for God’s best?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Scripture: Ephesians 2:22, 3:17-19, 4:12-14

In Ephesians 2:22 we are told, *“...in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* This refers to fullness. The church is defined as the fullness of God at the end of chapter one. Here again at the end of Chapter two we are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit. The same issue is highlighted in Ephesians 3:17-19 which says, *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”* In Ephesians 4:13 Paul goes on to say, *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”* Over and over again in every chapter in the book of Ephesians the purpose is the fullness of Christ being formed in His people. That is the purpose of the Sonship gifts. A union with these gifts has the power to eradicate blame, shame and guilt so that our spirit can say yes and amen to each one of these verses. We need to start to believe it and act like it and walk in it. But what does it look like as we walk in it? That is why we are doing this study. That picture emerges as we go. Agreeing with God’s Word will always produce supernatural fruit and more of God’s glorious Presence. Jesus defined His family as those who do the will of the Father!

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Scripture: John 10:7-10, 1 John 3:8

What does 'Jesus being formed in us' look like? Does He reveal His purpose and what it looks like? Yes He does and it is right here. John 10:9-10 says, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* In 1 John 3 we remember that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. In John 10:9-10 we read that Jesus is the door and the thief comes with destruction to steal and kill, but Jesus came to bring us life and to have it more abundantly, which means life in the fullest measure. Therefore Jesus is committed to anoint us to overturn the works of the devil. Can this be that simple? Let's see through this study if that is the picture that emerges.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Scripture: John 10:17-20

This passage says, *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.** I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father. Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" The Jews couldn't hear this. They did not want to hear it. They said, "He has a demon and is mad." Jesus is telling us that once we fully commit and walk in our Sonship Gifts no one can take our life until we have finished our race and lived out our purpose. The fullness of Christ carries a guarantee. The same promise extends to us as to Him! This tells us that you and I walk in such a way in Christ that nobody can take us out before we have finished our race. This is something that should establish us in confidence before God in order to finish our race. Cancer can't take us out prematurely, accidents can't either! God guaranteed before the world began that our created purpose would be fulfilled! We must however, apply ourselves, agree with our adoption and by faith lay hold of our Sonship Gifts. I can accept that. I can believe it. I can add my faith to that and boy does that give me confidence before God. There is a hymn of the church that many of us know and it starts out, "Blessed assurance Jesus is mine. Oh what a foretaste of glory divine, heir of salvation..." The words of that hymn fit well here. There is glory in this Sonship walk that is beyond what most of us have experienced and it includes mighty confidence and should bring us a great measure of blessed assurance!*

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Scripture: Mark 1:38-45

Mark 1:38-45 says, *"But He said to them, 'Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.' And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons. Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, and said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction."* We are following the revealed purpose of Christ and we see an example here of Christ destroying the works of the devil. He cast out demons and He healed the sick. Every time Jesus found a work of bondage, a work of sickness or disease He with compassion brought deliverance for the people who believed He was Messiah. Because we believe, we represent Him! He was the mouth of God, He was the heart of God, He was the hands of God. What is the purpose of the Sonship Gifts? That purpose is that you and I represent the Living Christ! We are His head, His hands, His heart, His compassion and health to His world. We are agents who are to overturn the works of the enemy. We are sons and daughters who are to represent our Father and bring His glory on the scene to challenge darkness and prevail. That is a priority, and that is our call. To be the head, heart and hands of Christ to people. We may say, I don't feel like a preacher. The issue is, what is our purpose? What are we called to do? We are sons and daughters of the Almighty God, the Creator of all and He lives within us. God has a purpose for us. Are we really catching it? There is a serious call on the church to minister who Christ is and many prefer to think of that call only applying to people in full time ministry. Not true! It is for all saints! The Lord is trying to push our reset button. Will we let Him? It is time to advance toward maturity and shake off all that is hindering us from God's best!

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Scripture: Matthew 27:43

In this passage as Jesus hung on the cross, the detractors around Him said, *“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”* On a few occasions during His ministry Jesus declared Himself the Son of God. Jesus in us is the pattern Son of God and shows us the pattern for being sons of God. We have to ask ourselves as we look to our Elder Brother, the pattern Son of God, our perfect example of Sonship, what was His purpose? What did He most often do? The answer is, whenever He encountered a work of the enemy, He relied upon His relationship with His Father and called upon Him to overturn it and God heard Him and answered. This included deliverance, healing, restoration and even creative miracles. This is the life that you and I are called to live. This is the realm where life doesn't just happen, it is to unfold in front of us and we respond out of our relationship with God Who created us. Does that make for an exciting life and journey? That makes for a very exciting life because we never know what is going to happen next or where God is going to take us! All of our days were written in Him before the foundation of the earth.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Scripture: Luke 7:11-16

Here is a picture of a day in the life of Christ. It should show us what our days may look like if we're really going to take our Sonship seriously. God's power is available! This passage in Luke says, *“Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us’; and, ‘God has visited His people.’”* The God you and I carry within wants to visit people. And He wants to do it through us. Every time Jesus encountered a work of the devil He overturned it. Has God anointed us to do that? Yes, He has! We need confidence before Him, including an understanding that blame, shame and guilt are eradicated by the Blood of the cross. We would also benefit from a washing of the water of the Word. The Word is our sword and can offset and negate all the accusations and the harassments of the enemy. He will no doubt, attempt to undermine and batter us with thoughts that cause a downward spiral. We have to equip ourselves with words from the Word that will empower us with truth and strength! Jesus died for an end-time harvest of nations. Will we participate?

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Scripture: Matthew 9:6

Let's take a look at another day in the life of Jesus. We know that the Son of God lives inside of us but we also know that we are just people. Matthew 9:6 declares, *“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”* Jesus had the same situation we have in that He was also the Son of man. He was the Son of God. He indwells us and we are promised fullness, the fullness of the Son of God. But we also know that He was and is the Son of Man. He had to be anointed by the Holy Spirit to do these works. Just as we do. We have to be anointed by the Holy Spirit and partner with Him to do these works. We have to develop the same confidence before God that Christ had. Wait a minute! We cannot do that with sin holding us captive! That's right. The Blood of Christ eradicates our past sins as we enter salvation, but it is that same Blood that we apply through repentance when we make missteps and sin as believers. It is important to keep our hearts in righteousness through the Blood. This will continually keep us free from blame, shame and guilt. With a clear conscience, Paul walked in freedom and we can too! That confidence comes through the knowledge and understanding of our Sonship Gifts. Rehearsing them is a priority. With confidence we should declare over ourselves, 'I am chosen, holy, without blame, adopted, accepted, redeemed, and forgiven. I am an heir with an inheritance and if all of this were not reward enough, my Father God has sealed me with the Holy Spirit of promise as my guarantee.' We are given the Holy Spirit for multiple blessings one of them being so that we can walk this life out in righteousness. We truly are the righteousness of God in Christ. What a place of safety and power, walking in righteousness and confidence before God!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Scripture: Matthew 1:1

Matthew 1:1 says, *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”* Jesus was not only the Son of God as well as the Son of Man, He also walked as the Son of David and the son of Abraham meaning that He walked as an heir of their respective covenants. Is Jesus within us an heir of those same covenants? Yes, He is and so are we! That means that those covenants are fully available to us and we can walk in the fullness of them. Jesus did, and people saw it and recognized it. It is an amazing process! No wonder the Sonship Gifts give us confidence. We find in Isaiah 11:1-4 that the same God who anointed King David to kill Goliath promises to make our words a rod to slay the wicked! The same anointing that brought deliverance to Israel through King David is promised to us by the Holy Spirit! Will we develop the anointing for that same end-time deliverance?

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Scripture: Acts 13:32-24

This passage says, *“And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’”* The very first thing that Jesus did upon His resurrection was to endow each one who believe in Him with the same covenant that King David had. That covenant created mighty men. It made David mighty, and it made his men mighty. As we pursue God and set our faith on all God’s fullness, it will empower us to be made mighty, mighty in word and deed. That is the purpose of the Davidic Covenant, and that is why Jesus is also called the Son of David. He was and is mighty in word and deed. He is in us and as we walk in the fullness of Christ we cannot help but move toward walking mighty in word and deed. The Living Omnipotent God dwells in us. We have bowed our knee to God and His eternal purpose which is to bring the authority and glory of Christ on the scene and overturn the works of the devil. We are anointed for that and it is the Holy Spirit Who will lead us into that. It is not all easy. Most of it is a challenge. There is blatant, radical resistance. There are those who hate God. There are God-haters and God-mockers, who do not hesitate to undermine and obstruct. But we overcome with the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. We are anointed to overturn the works of the devil. As we purpose to walk in the fullness of Christ nobody can take us out before we have finished our race! It’s in the Book. It is Who Christ is in us! What a future we have in God. What a future our kids have available in God! It is a future of glorious fruit including a mighty harvest! Our job is to find out who we are and believe it.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Scripture: Mark 16:14-20

Mark 16:14-20 says, *“Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents (that means to lift off the influence of demons); and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* the literal Greek says ‘on the sick, hands they will lay, well they will be.’ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” This is God releasing His disciples in the assignment they are to pursue. The same God living within us longs to move and guide us to be His agents as well. What kind of a future does this passage set before us? We represent the God Who created the heavens and the earth and nobody can take us out before we finish our race!

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Scripture: Luke 4:40-44

Luke 4:40-44 says, *“When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ. Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also,*

because for this purpose I have been sent.’ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.” There is a God Who rules in the affairs of men and this is the message of His Kingdom. There is a God and His name is Jesus and He will rule in our lives. He will intervene in our times of need. He will overturn the works of the devil. Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom everywhere He went. He preached the Kingdom and demonstrated the Kingdom. And this same Jesus has anointed us to follow His lead and do as He did! We are His avenue for doing His exploits. The question is, are we going to say yes and yield to it? It makes for the greatest life we have ever seen! Our part is to say yes, commit to the growth and commit to the process. This is about laying down our life including our ambitions, aspirations and desires and picking up Christ’s plan for us.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Scripture: John 12:23-32

John 12:23-32 says, *“But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’ Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’ Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”* Jesus died to break the power of satan in the earth and He broke it! Then He was resurrected and all authority in heaven and earth belonging to Him was given to us. In doing this God was preparing the way for us to overturn the works of the enemy too. That is the assignment, the purpose of the church. We are to demonstrate to principalities and powers that God is the Ruler over all! For those who need healing, hands we shall lay and well they shall be! For those held captive, we are to deliver them. It is time to turn God-haters, God-mockers and God-revilers over for removal. It is time they stagger and be uprooted and eradicated. God kills and God makes alive. In doing so, the result will be life and freedom for those who desperately need it. Alleluia! Do we have the faith and confidence to walk this out? That stability and anointed composure comes through our Sonship Gifts. Paul was utterly transformed through his supernatural encounter with the Living Christ. He experienced a complete turnaround in his life path in a moment of time. But did he come into revelation and his power-walk overnight. I suspect it was his first Christian years in the desert waiting on God that readied him. It was this season of listening and preparing that brought truth and understanding. I suspect this preparation launched him out in faith. It was growth happening one step at a time that turned Paul, a new believer into an agent of glory. I suspect it is time for us to fully sign on to the process too!

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Scripture: John 10:7-12

In John 10:10 Jesus declared His primary purpose and then He guaranteed the anointing. This passage says, *“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.”* Jesus made it really clear that a primary purpose of His was to save people, deliver them and set captives free. He anoints us to participate in that. He makes His fullness available to us. We are to be filled with all the fullness of Christ. We have a glorious future to aim for. We can run our race as agents of glory. We can sabotage and demolish the works of darkness, and be more than conquerors through the One that loves us and gave His life for us. That is the assignment! It requires yielding to the Holy Spirit!

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Scripture: Matthew 10:5-8

In Matthew 10 Jesus sent out the twelve. Jesus instructions to them were, *“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom (rule) of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”* God is consistent. Over and over

again He tells His people to stand against the evil one. We are anointed to reverse the works of the evil one, and to demonstrate God's love and deliverance. Where do we get the anointing for that? Where do we get the confidence for that? The fullness of Christ repeatedly referred to in Ephesians comes through being established and strengthened in our Sonship Gifts. Being transformed through our Sonship Gifts imparts the confidence to walk this out!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Scripture: Matthew 9:35

Matthew 9:35 says, *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."* Every sickness, and every disease was challenged demonstrating that the Kingdom was come. Do we know this Jesus who resides on the inside of us? The rule of God is here and God is come to overturn the work of the devil. That is very straightforward! Jesus did it and He passed the assignment on to us and provided the anointing to accomplish the goal. The question is, are we going to say yes? He has already provided the confidence for us if we will choose to believe what is written. We must be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Our part is to obey and step out in faith by following the Holy Spirit! Be a 'horse.' Embrace the Holy Spirit bridle.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Scripture: Matthew 4:22-25

These verses say, *"And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan."* What was Jesus doing in this passage? Overturning the works of the enemy! Exactly what He has called and anointed us to do.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Scripture: Matthew 15:29-31

Matthew 15:29-31 says, *"Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel."* How many veterans do we encounter that need this anointing right now? There are many that need creative miracles. Those are born of our mighty God and that is our future in Him. The Lord is showing us how to get there. There is a confidence that grows on the inside of us when we know who we are in Christ. The Sonship Gifts will get us there! The Son of God is in us! We are sons ourselves because of His indwelling and glorious Presence. We have been adopted. The glory will accelerate when we go on to realize that we are heirs of an inheritance, and then He further seals us with the Holy Spirit of promise.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Scripture: Luke 6:12-19

Verses 12-13 say, *"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles."* Once they were chosen they came down the mountain and Jesus stood with a crowd of His disciples. A great multitude of people from that region and beyond came to Him and He healed them. Verse 18 says, *"...as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all."* This can be a picture of our future. Jesus was anointed to overturn the work of Satan. It is exciting to read, 'and He healed them all.' There is a healing revival coming for the Lord has said that He will win people from every nation. We are to grow into this. Jesus moved in it, Paul grew into it and we are in the process of finding out how.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Scripture: Luke 6:14-19

Confidence before God puts us in a place where we can step out and move forward in this. As we step out, God is responsible for the work. Our faith in our Faithful Father ignites the action. The how and when is the job of the Holy Spirit! Our job is to follow Him. We don't go preach unless He tells us to preach. We don't lift our voice until He tells us to lift our voice. But when He says lift our voice, we better lift our voice. Unless we yield to God in the little things, He won't release in us the greater things. Yielding to the Holy Spirit becomes a lifestyle! It starts with our obedience. It starts with obedience in listening, giving of ourselves, and giving our time. Being available and giving ourselves to the Lord and the direction of the Holy Spirit starts with a commitment to live not for our own desire, plans, pleasure, comfort and goals. We give ourselves to live for the future God has for us. We let the Holy Spirit move in us and through us. We lay down our life and that is when we truly find it! That is the only door to go through. To find our life, we have to first lay it down for God. That is the key. The Sonship gifts give us the confidence to go there.

Our Choice

*The world demands our tolerance,
God's Kingdom - our obedience.
Which way to turn and who to please?
The answer comes there on our knees!
Dichotomies in life abound,
But whose voice will we let resound?
Fear or faith, evil or good,
Will we be satan's firewood?
Light or darkness, it's a choice.
Decide, choose well, and then rejoice!
The enemy had best beware.
Our Sonship Gifts will get us there!*

By J. Houghton

3/16-3/17

Sterling, AK

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