

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER IV

Sonship Gifts - Adoption D

Son of God, Son of Man, Son of Abraham, Son of David

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5, 22-23

In Ephesians 1:5 we are told, *“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,...”* Divine purpose progressively unfolds in the Sonship Gifts. First God chooses us for His family and purpose. In step one, we acknowledge and identify the purpose. In step two, He declares us holy, allowing the Holy Spirit to indwell us as His temple. In step three He declares us blameless, qualifying us to take our place in His family. Four is our actual legal adoption in heaven’s realm in the Father’s family. With the privileges come spiritual responsibilities. Adoption activates things in the realm of the Spirit. The Greek word here is **huiothesia**. It is a compound Greek word and starts with **huios** meaning ‘sons.’ Then **thesia** signifies to place the selection of sons where He wants them in their assigned calling and destiny. This is the goal of our adoption into our Father’s family. Once we embrace what the Father is offering we are adopted by Him and we become heirs. The covenants define our inheritance. Our adoption opens the door to our inheritance in Christ! It is time we started exploring our inheritance.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Scripture: Matthew 27:43

While Jesus was hanging on the cross someone called out saying, *“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”* At various points Jesus called Himself the Son of God, the Son of man, the Son of David, and He was also called the Son of Abraham. The purpose of the Sonship Gifts is to bring us into the fullness of Christ. But fullness of Christ means fullness as son of God, of man, of Abraham and of David. How can we grow in all four? The Word has the power to mature us when activated by the Spirit. 1 Peter 2:4 says that it is through the exceeding great and precious promises that we become partakers of the divine nature. Jesus as the Son of David bears God’s rule and dominion through four levels of power. We must look at each, because all four comprise the fullness of Christ. Fullness of iniquity in a culture demands fullness of Christ in us. Fullness unfolds in the book of Ephesians. Jesus walked as a Son of man. We must then acquaint ourselves with the scriptures where He fully depended on the Holy Spirit. We do our best to emulate Christ. The last days demand mighty men and women, sons of David demonstrating dominion. It belongs to us as a spiritual inheritance through covenant. Galatians 3:26-29 declares if we are Christ’s then we are heirs and sons of Abraham. We inherit all those promises. We inherit significant, powerful promises through the five theocratic covenants that culminate in the New Covenant. The reality of becoming sons and daughters is the ultimate goal of these covenants. Christ came as the Son of God to lead us into the depth of family relationship. Will we embrace it, or be like the foolish virgins with lamps only partially filled with oil when we could be among those who are overflowing with fresh oil? I don’t want to stand at the heavenly judgment seat and have loss on every side because I was too lazy or passive concerning my Christian growth. Sons and daughters of the King, arise!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Scripture: Daniel 3:8

Taking our place as a son or daughter of God means facing persecution for Who we represent! Daniel 3:8-11 says, *“Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”* In verses 13-18 Nebuchadnezzar was in a rage and fury because of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The king threatened them with death in a fiery furnace. They replied, *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”* Is it possible we will face evil, godless commands in the last days? Bills to ban the Bible have been introduced in both Texas and California. Every place Islam gains a foothold Christians are persecuted. Yes, we must know this Jesus Who gives us the authority and the anointing to stand in the face of death itself and stay faithful to Him. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did. Daniel did. I trust that you and I are in the same place. Isaiah 11:1-4 says that we can grow to the place where our words will slay the wicked! The Bible clearly identifies the wicked in Scripture by declaring the death penalty for their actions. How will we respond when facing those ‘worthy of death?’

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Scripture: Daniel 3:19-25

At the refusal of the three to bow and worship the gold idol, Nebuchadnezzar became furious. He commanded the fire to be heated seven times hotter than usual. This furnace was so blazing hot that the men who were commanded to toss them in were actually killed by the intense heat themselves. The king’s command was urgent. In verse 24 there was astonishment on the part of the king who said, *“Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’ ‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’”* What do we learn from this passage? We learn that there is an anointing to walk in the fire in the last days. We often ask where is God when corrupt judges and liars prevail against the righteous? The answer is in our heart waiting to be released through our mouth in divinely-directed declarations and judgments. God’s end-time witnesses are anointed to bring judgment and strike the earth as often as they desire. Have we been taught that? No, instead we have been taught to turn the other cheek. I don’t see God turning the other cheek even once when fullness of iniquity has been reached. We are finding out what it means to be a son of God and that as a son of God we can walk in the fire and not be burned. Whether the application is standing in the fire we call down or standing in the fire that an enemy throws us into, the obedient son of God has access to the divine protection of his Father Who is the True All-consuming Fire. Our assignment is to declare full judgment on the enemy as written in God’s Word always keeping in mind that as legally adopted sons, nobody can take us out before our time.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Scripture: Luke 24:49

Jesus as the Son of God began to instruct the disciples that He was going to impart to them the four levels of power that make up His fullness. We are going to need that to walk in perilous times during the last days. Ephesians guarantees us the fullness of Christ which includes these four levels of power. Jesus began teaching about His power in Luke 24:49 which says, *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power, **dunamis**, from on high.”* Throughout the ministry of Jesus at various junctures He referred to these different levels of power. Jesus walked the disciples through an understanding of each. He demonstrated them Himself and then at the end of His ministry He told them to prepare because He was going to bring them into the fullness. Our pattern starts with **dunamis** which comes from the Holy Spirit. There are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are all **dunamis**

based. I have studied the word dunamis in the most extensive Bible dictionary called Kittle's. It is a ten volume set, which includes 70 pages dedicated exclusively to the word dunamis. To fully explore those pages and the depth of meaning is a huge undertaking. The bottom line is unfolded best in one definition in particular which summarizes the 70 pages of various shades of its meanings. According to Kittle when we receive the Holy Spirit, we have the dunamis of God residing on the inside of us and the dunamis of God is the power to change history at the will of God. It is the power to overturn anything the devil has ever done. It is the power to change personal history, the power to change corporate history and national history. Dunamis is the power to change history!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Scripture: Matthew 11:20-24

In Matthew 11 Jesus was rebuking some of the cities He had ministered in. Many cities that He visited saw great miracles. Those works of dunamis were works of healing, deliverance and freedom. The gifts of the Father were present to bring freedom. Verse 21-24 says of certain cities, *"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."* What a statement that is! When we receive the Holy Spirit we receive the anointing to overturn the works of the devil. As we walk in God's dunamis power it is an eternal witness to anyone who sees it. That is why God gives us this anointing and authority. It is His way of witnessing to the resurrection of Christ. That is why He commanded the twelve to stay in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on High. The Holy Spirit is the Steward of the power to change history.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Scripture: Luke 10:17-19, 2 Timothy 3

Luke 10:17-19 says, *"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.' And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority (**exousia**) to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* From this passage we learn that the power of God comes in layers. Layer one is dunamis. But not only does God give dunamis but the devil anoints his servants with dunamis. Moses found that out in Egypt. Pharaoh's magicians replicated his judgments in the first two plagues. They were able to duplicate the supernatural events they witnessed through Moses but only for a short time. The magicians copied the display of the blood and the frogs but were stopped by lice. 20% of what Moses did was as far as they could go. As judgment escalated they could not match God's power. 2 Timothy 3 cautions us that we will face the same counterfeit in the last days. According to Paul, we must overcome it the same way Moses overcame Pharaoh's magicians. Escalating selective judgment was how the Spirit led Moses. Moses saw multiple levels of God's power! Moses executed judgment on all the gods of Egypt.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Scripture: Luke 10:20

Returning from ministry, the seventy were overjoyed at their power for ministry! The very next verse says, *"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."* The seventy returned amazed at what God had done. They didn't understand the authority that went with their position. They thought it belonged to them. They were impressed with themselves because the demons were subject to them in the name of Christ. In verse 20 what the Lord reveals to us is that each level of power has a corresponding character qualifier. Experiencing victory through the dunamis-anointing can open the door to pride. If we want to see the full measure of the power of God in operation through us, we must develop the character qualities of Christ within ourselves that will sustain the power. Pride will forfeit dunamis. In the development of the power of God it is very, very normal that when we first see the gifts of the Spirit pride manifests in our life because it is so exhilarating. It is so supernatural and it so brings us into a different dimension that it is very easy to get an attitude. The

seventy disciples developed that attitude. Jesus called them on it and demanded an adjustment in their attitude or they would end up forfeiting the dunamis He had given. There is no place for pride when we are moving in the power of God. The Word says, *“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”* We have to put that ploy of the enemy under our feet which was exactly what Jesus was teaching!

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Scripture: Romans 13:1

Judicial authority is level two and comes with our Sonship position. Every policeman earns a badge. Jesus made us kings and priests. That position carries a badge of spiritual authority. Jesus gave His kings and priests authority that is accessed by faith! Counterfeit signs and wonders will proliferate in the last days! Romans 13:1 says, *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities (exousias). For there is no authority (exousia) except from God, and the authorities (exousias) that exist are appointed by God.”* Here is what we discover in verse 1. We discover that governmental biblical authority empowers law enforcement.. And exousia is spiritual governmental authority assigned to men to execute God’s wrath on those practicing evil. We would say that the police, the sheriffs, the military all bear governmental authority, The perversion of that authority through bribes and mammon brings destruction. God’s end-time witnesses will war against anti-Christ government. Governmental authority has its roots in God’s assignment. When wicked governmental authority is released, God releases authority to confront it. We have to judge by the Spirit and be anointed with exousia in the realm of the Spirit to be effective against spirits. I trust we understand that. There is the natural and there is the spiritual. In Corinthians we are told first the natural and then the spiritual. Natural things help us comprehend their spiritual counterpart. There is natural authority that comes with a badge and a spiritual authority that comes from God. Jesus demonstrated His spiritual authority in healing, deliverance, resurrection, and in miracles, signs and wonders. You and I as we develop in Spirit are supposed to be doing the same thing with one end-time addition—judgment! I believe we are headed for the greatest revival including signs and wonders that the earth has ever seen. All of this will come with a purpose and that is a mighty harvest of the nations. Why are we studying this? We need to understand that as legal heirs of our Father we are called to make a difference and a contribution to the great end-time harvest. Revelation portrays God’s final mercy to man as a radical display of divine judgment in seals, trumpets, and bowls! Standing for the Gospel of Christ during this season could be costly!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Scripture: Romans 13:2, 2 Peter 2:18-25

In Romans 13:2-4 we are told, *“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”* Now we discover here that spiritual exousia and natural exousia are different. Whoever resists the spiritual authority resists the ordinances of God and whoever resists will bring judgment on themselves. The police, the military and the judges are natural authority. They are appointed and they have an important function in society in keeping and maintaining order. The Bible says if we resist them we will bring judgment on ourselves. That assumes government is obeying God. What about government that legislates evil against God. If they aren’t operating in righteousness, we are directed to go (to prayer) with God against them and against their evil edicts. As Christians we are not obligated to support and bow to unrighteous government. We have a command to resist it as the early church did. The book of Acts is full of occasions when the disciples actively resisted government. When rulers rule in righteousness then they are ruling for God. When they depart from God’s righteousness and start to dictate unrighteousness, then it is our obligation to pray them into the judgment of God. In 1 Peter 2:18-25 we learn that Jesus suffered wrongfully yet committed Himself to God Who judges righteously and God reversed the death sentence with resurrection. History records the horrors of 70 AD as the judgments Jesus prophesied manifested against Jerusalem! The Kingdom of God triumphed over the Jews and the Romans! There is only One God and Jesus the pattern Son Who rule history. The Father and Son will bring many sons to glory in the last great harvest! Time is short. Let’s make it count!

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Scripture: Acts 4:18-22

In Acts 4:18 the political leaders of the Jews, the Sanhedrin, came against the apostles, commanding silence. In verse 18 it says, *“So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”* Their directive was against what God said. God had told them to stand and preach the issues concerning this life. The political leaders commanded them not to speak under penalty of jail and persecution. Did the disciples bow to their demands? They did not! They resisted! Acts 4:19-22 says, *“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’”* What the disciples declared publicly they did. And privately they agreed in prayer asking God for boldness, the anointing to heal and for the judgments of Egypt. Their private prayer was nuclear. God honored what they prayed privately by executing Ananias and Sapphira. We can declare our freedom to serve God publically. Praying judgment is best done privately. In Acts 4:18-22 the apostles resisted unrighteous rule. We are not to bow to unrighteous rule, we resist it! If the judges on our Supreme Court champion what God hates, let’s pray God removes them! God knows how to terminate the rebellious and cripple the darkness they hatch! Psalm 2:8-12 is a great prayer to pray for judges and best done privately.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Scripture: Acts 4:23-26

In Acts 4:23-26 believers came into agreement regarding what they were to pray. They were going to pray for judgment based on God’s Word. These verses say, *“And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: “Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.”’”* In their prayer they quoted a portion of Psalm 2 a prayer of King David. Those early believers took a stand and they prayed judgment on the leaders who were ruling unjustly. We need to be aware of that today because we can employ our spiritual exousia and we can pray judgment over all the demonic dunamis coming out of evil leaders and judges. As sons and daughters of God there will be times we will be led forth in exousia to pray bold prayers to halt the onslaught of death and destruction. Where were the disciples led to discover the appropriate prayers to pray? They were led to King David’s Psalms. If it was appropriate for David to pray, then it was acceptable for the disciples to echo. We should not hesitate to pray the Psalm’s prayers declaring termination of the enemy. If the Holy Spirit leads, saints, pray it! Covenant mercy to the righteous means that ‘Hamans’ have to die.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Scripture: Acts 4:27-31, 2 Timothy 1

In Acts 4:27-31 we are told, *“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”* Here they asked for three different manifestations of judgment against their demon-inspired leaders. First they asked for boldness. Number two, for God to extend His Hand to heal, and number three, they asked for signs and wonders. When we study signs and wonders we are led directly to the judgments of Egypt. 2 Timothy 1 makes it clear that we are going to face the same demonic opposition as Moses and that we will have to overcome it the same way. This is precisely what the early church was doing in the book of Acts. They were overcoming the demonic- dunamis in the same way that Moses did. Let’s meditate on the Word and discover the prayers God’s people prayed. When the Holy Spirit pushes us forward in exousia, let’s not hesitate at all to boldly pray!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Scripture: Romans 13:3, Acts 12:5, Romans 12, Luke 18:1-7

Romans 13:3 says, *“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority, **exousia**, Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.”* Our rulers as stated are sheriffs, police, military and judges. They are called to bring forth the righteous rule of God. What happens when those rulers bring forth demonic rule. Then what the early church did is what we have to do. We have to pray judgment like the early church. *“Forsake not wisdom and she will preserve you, love her and she will keep you.”* That is one reason that Jesus came. At whatever level satan resists us, as God’s agents we respond by praying judgment. That is what it means to be a son of God. It took the death of Jesus to overcome but He willingly died. Does God expect the same thing of us? Jesus is the Pattern, He in His Own Sonship is the pattern and model for our own Sonship. Rulers are a terror not to good works but to those who do evil. Did the early church terrorize those who did evil? God terminated Ananias and Sapphira? Will God hear us? We face the same level of evil. We have judges and politicians responsible for killing over 60 million innocent babies. Herod killed James and threatened Peter! Acts 12:5 says, *“Constant prayer was offered to God for Peter by the church.”* God sent angels to release Peter and kill Herod! Our Bible in Romans 12:3 says, *“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.”* That is true for righteous rulers who are obeying God. When government leaders commit evil like Herod, it is up to the church leaders to appeal for justice. Jesus committed Himself to God for justice and got it! Romans 12:19 says that we can’t avenge ourselves but we should appeal to God for covenant vengeance. Jesus taught the same thing in Luke 18:1-7. Our job is to ask God for covenant judgment! In the last days the prayers of the saints move God’s Hand! Samuel moved God’s Hand, Moses moved God’s Hand, Paul moved God’s Hand! Mature sons and daughters of God are confident in the rights and privileges of their inheritance and capable of moving His Hand by asking!

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:11, Acts 9, Acts 13

2 Corinthians 5:11 says, *“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”* The writer of this epistle was the Apostle Paul. Did the Apostle Paul experience the terror of the Lord? Yes, he did in Acts 9. God knocked him to the ground and he was lifted from the ground blind. He was blind for three days and at that time, he had no idea that the blindness wasn’t permanent. We can be sure that he knew the terror of God and that he knew it firsthand. In Acts 13 when Paul faced a false prophet he spoke the very same blindness on that false prophet that was brought on him, *“O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the Hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.”* Paul brought affliction on the false prophet in order to save him. He was overturning the works of the devil in an attempt to bring salvation in its place. Picture the perfect Heart of the Savior as He comes to minister the least amount of judgment for the maximum amount of salvation. Through the terror of the Lord we persuade men!

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-2, 10, 19-21

Isaiah 2:1-2 says, *“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord’s house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.”* Isaiah is referring to the great end-time harvest. He goes on to say in verse 10, *“Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From **the terror of the Lord** And the glory of His majesty.”* In the end-times in order to rescue people out of deep darkness and deception, we must manifest the terror of the Lord. When God repeats a point three times, it is set. *“They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.”* Isaiah goes on to say in verse 20 and 21, *“In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats, To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.”* God has spoken: the end-time harvest demands **the terror of the Lord**. Isaiah prophesied it, Paul declared the purpose. The

early church walked in it. I cannot emphasize enough that God's purpose in bringing terrifying circumstances and events is to destroy darkness and deception. His purpose fully aids the goal of salvation. *"Through the terror of the Lord we persuade men."* God wants a family, a very large family and that takes a wake-up concerning the reality of heaven and hell and the truth concerning light and darkness. God's current children through truth and Sonship will play a part in the ingathering of more lives. It's time we stop stumbling around and begin to establish ourselves in who we are in Christ and what our rights and privileges are. If we can complete our grounding in what is revealed to us through the Sonship gifts, we are going to gain confidence and fortitude to move into what is available. Jesus paid for it through His Blood so that we can gain an end-time harvest. Every one of these levels of authority is serious! The goal is the harvest of nations.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Scripture: Romans 13:4, Luke 18:1-7, Ephesians 3:10-12

Romans 13:4 says, *"For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."* God assigned government the task of pursuing, arresting and punishing and when necessary killing evil doers. When government rebels and promotes evil, the church is to pray and move God's Hand against evil doers. Bearing the sword in order to be an avenger by executing wrath on those who practice evil is a godly assignment. When political leaders legislate evil, avenging becomes a prayer assignment. That is affirmed by what Jesus taught in Luke 18:1-7. Through God-assigned prayers God's kings and priests become covenant avengers praying righteous God-breathed wrath. God will bring His wrath and the sword on evil doers. It is time for the spiritual kings and priests to start praying judgment on the wayward and those leaders committed to darkness. We can pray judgment on wayward judges. We have to demonstrate to principalities and powers that they don't rule. In Ephesians 3:10-12 we are called to do that! Through prayer believers have access to the sword of the Lord and to God's Blood-avenging Hand! The angels in the last days execute wrath on those who practice evil. We know that from the book of Revelation! Praying appropriate Psalms is the best way to represent our Father and move His Hand as sons and daughters of David!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-12

How do we pray judgment on wayward judges? We always want to do the wise thing, and the safest thing is to pray the Word. The easiest but cowardly thing is, of course, not to go there at all. The safest path is following those fearless warriors who have gone before us. Because the early church effectively and appropriately prayed Psalm 2 when they had to pray judgment on the rulers, it is safe to say that we can also use Psalm 2. Psalm 2 specifically addresses judges and politicians. Listen to the last three verses. *"Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."* If we run into wayward judges-federal, local, Supreme Court or any other judicial levels, the Spirit may very well lead us to pray Psalm 2. I remember visiting a city and going out to lunch with a couple. I heard their amazing account about the husband working for an accounting group. His bosses, unbeknownst to him were doing illegal investments to diminish tax liability. The leaders of the company knew it was an illegal scheme and used her husband as the fall guy and he ended up in jail. He trusted his boss and went to jail for it! The wife started praying while he was incarcerated because the judge had steadfastly disallowed parole. Her husband was innocent, wrongly convicted. It was the pinnacle example of unrighteous judgment. This wife cried out to God one day about this judge asking for his removal from the case. Just before the husband's case was to be heard, another inmate appeared before him, grabbed a bailiff's gun and shot the judge. Her husband's case was handed to a different judge who granted parole. This case made the headlines because the man who shot the judge escaped. Then while he was on the run he broke into a woman's house. That woman had just read 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren. She persuaded this fugitive to give himself up which he did. What an amazing story about the authority of God to bring forth justice on a judge! The judge's clerk later revealed the judge should have recused himself. It was a blatant conflict of interest due to his own personal investment with this accounting group. This is a great example of taking judgment to victory. The corrupt judge died. And there was vindication for her husband and salvation for a fugitive. What a fitting display of judgment leading to salvation! One housewife's prayer led

to a victorious outcome. God heard that prayer, judged the judge and removed him. That is the God you and I serve. He has layers of judgment that we should eventually walk in with Him. Do we see ourselves as sons and daughters who represent our Father! Why tolerate unrighteous judges? What are you and I doing? Praying Psalm 2 is a great place to start!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Scripture: Revelation 1:5-6, In Exodus 33:16

Revelation 1:5-6 says, *"...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* Jesus bought and paid for positions of authority. Just as the Father made Christ King and Priest, Christ made us kings and priests. As spiritual kings and priests He has given us governmental authority over the dunamis of the enemy. When rulers choose conflict with God we have the privilege of partnering with God in His response. Our prayers have the honor of moving God's Hand. As for various people who are in power now, if they will not bow their knee to Christ, then it is right for us to pray that God will remove them. The how and when are His job not ours. But at times He will call on us to be the initiators of justice through our prayers. Will we obey? That is how we demonstrate to principalities and powers they don't rule. We pray. God hears and things change. Let's trust God's Word and get involved in actively growing in our Sonship Gifts. As we do we will know that God's power is our 'governmental right' in the realm of the Spirit. That's how this is supposed to work. We pray, God hears and things change. That is the simple pattern that God ordained for Moses in Egypt. In Exodus 33:16 Moses refers to this pattern for revealing God to unbelievers. That pattern is repeated in the New Testament through the apostles and prophets and He has ordained it for those walking in the last days. The end-time is quickly approaching. We have the assignment of revealing God through relationship. Each one of these levels of power has a character test. The character test for dunamis which we see in Luke 10:17-20 is overcoming pride.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13

In this passage we discover the character test of exousia. If we are going to walk in God's divine authority then each level has a character test that must be passed. Matthew 8:5-13 says, *"Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.' And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' The centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority (exousia), having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.' When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!' And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Why? This tells us why. *"Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.' And his servant was healed that same hour."* It is vital to bring ourselves under the authority of the Holy Spirit. If we are going to exercise the authority of God, the exousia of God, we have to be under the exousia of God. Authority cannot flow through us if we don't welcome it to us. We are to welcome God's authority to us and yield to it and bring our life under subjection to it, then it can flow through us. If we honor our Father and our family calling, we will be surrendered and submitted to God's authority. In that place we can be agents and representatives of our Father's authority. Refusing devious behaviors means trusting God rather than manipulating man! Sons and daughters trust their Dad!

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Scripture: Luke 4: 6-8

We see this principal again in Luke 4:6-8. This passage says, *"And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship (proskuneo) before me, all will be Yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, satan! For it is*

written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve." **Proskuneo** means bow your knee, like a puppy, expecting to get food from the master's hand and submitting to the master. There it is again, the same thing. Bow your knee and submit. If we as believers steadfastly refuse to bow our knee and submit to the devil and we only bow our knee to God, then we have the authority to cause others to bow their knee or flee. That is the only way we get it. Walking in power and authority is a product of Who we worship! Who do we yield to? Do we bring ourselves under God's authority? That is the test! It can't flow through us if we don't welcome it to us. Over and over again Jesus makes this point! Yielding to the Spirit guarantees power! Moses, Samuel and the prophets all had to learn this Biblical truth!

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

Mark 10:35-45 says, "Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, 'Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.' And He said to them, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said to Him, 'Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.'" But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, 'We are able.' So Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.' And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John." What we see here is the closest thing to civil war that Jesus ever had to confront among the twelve disciples. A lot of people think that Jesus' ministry was all joy, sweetness and peace, but that is not true. This incident no doubt stirred up rivalry and jealousy akin to civil war among His disciples. James and John had gotten their own mother involved in order to advance themselves ahead of Peter and guarantee themselves the top positions. This is a picture of selfish ambition in action. The disciples were going to be forced to make a choice right here. They better choose right for if they don't choose right they could miss out forever. The wise choice will advance them to maturity. The wrong one could disqualify them from meaningful and mighty ministry. The ten were greatly displeased with James and John for good reason. They needed to repent. Sometimes we simply need to repent, straight out! That's what we are called to do and we just need to do it. Obedience is better than sacrifice!

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Scripture: Mark 10:42

Mark 10:42 says, "But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles **lord** it over them and their great ones exercise **authority** over them,...'" That Greek word is **katakureuo** from **kata** meaning to come against, judging or subduing. Jesus subdued satan taking the keys of death, hell and the grave. He passed that authority to us to subdue enemies. James and John were misusing their divine authority and they were using it to try to gain advantage and position for themselves against their peers. Jesus clearly let them know His kingdom operated differently. God's Kingdom can't work that way and it won't work that way. Manipulating to set ourselves above others will actually disqualify us. The compound word is **kata** and **exousiazō**. **Kata**, is to stand against, and **exousiazō** is governmental authority. It is to dominate and tyrannize. Instead of using it to free people they were using it to abuse and dominate. One who operates this way is utterly misusing their God-given authority. The disciples were rebuked by Jesus because the enemy was trying to stir up this godless motivation among the twelve. The real question was, did James and John hear His rebuke? Apparently they did not because we see hints of this behavior at the Last Supper. Will we learn from their rebuke?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Scripture: Mark 10:43-45

Mark 10:43-45 says, "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus said, 'Guys, you have it absolutely backward. You are perverting your God-given authority to rule righteously by using it to subjugate your friends rather than serve them.'

Using God's power for personal gain to build your own kingdom is not good. It will undermine your God-given purpose and hurt others in the process. You will disqualify yourself if you continue.' What is stunning and amazing about this is that this issue was so strong that it continued through the Last Supper and the only thing that delivered them was their own denial of Christ, and all twelve of them did it. It was the supreme failure and it was that failure that broke that spirit in their lives. They finally were delivered, but that deliverance was accomplished through personal sorrow and pain that walked them deeper into their Sonship. I hope we can hear this because God is not fooling around with this issue at all! He gives us His authority and we are to use it to serve people. We cannot use it to build our own kingdom. That is a death sentence to a ministry. The purpose of ministry is building people up in Christ, at times to the point of laying down our lives for others! Building a personal kingdom guarantees failure. Jesus laid down His life as the Ultimate Servant of all. He arose from what looked like the ashes of defeat and forged the path in leading many sons to glory. Gloriously the disciples rose up from their own personal ashes of defeat. Beyond pride and selfish ambition, beyond other areas of failure, they rose up to fulfill their ministries in becoming humble servants and agents of glory for Him. For us as for the disciples failures can be stepping stones to victory as long as those failures are covered with acknowledgement and repentance. We must, however, pass the character tests to move toward maturity and power.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Scripture: Matthew 5:13

Matthew 5:13 says, *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good (ischuo) for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."* Ischuo is level three of God's power. When in war or under assault, ischuo is the divine push that comes when we are at the point of exhaustion or giving up. The boost that we need to renew the battle to overcome is God's ischuo and can be lost through disobedience. Saul lost his salt by refusing to destroy his enemy Agag. The very first law of Sonship is to obey the Spirit. The race is not always won by speed but often the prize goes to the willing and obedient. Salt is our ability to move God's Hand through covenant relationship where obedience counts. God often rewards us by pushing us into victory, provision, healing and freedom. Ischuo is the divine push that we need to become victorious when only God can break us through. The lesson we learn from the seven churches of Revelation is that every one of them is called to overcome. Persistent, patient refusal not to give up pays off with victory. God rewards those who refuse to quit! Ischuo pushes us toward that reward!

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Scripture: Matthew 8 28-29

In Matthew 8:28-29 we discover two individuals who shut a route so no one could pass through the geographic area. The highway was closed. No one could travel. Individual destinies were on hold until Jesus broke the hold the enemy had over this area. The occupying spirits responsible recognized Jesus had the authority to break the spiritual blockade. Those demons questioned Him about God's timing but Jesus refused to answer. Wrong questions don't deserve answers. Satan illegally stopped this route and Jesus declared an end to the demonic activity. The demons were bound and the way was cleared so travel could resume. The route was opened by Jesus' declaration. Jesus refused the debate about timing, God's will and the issue of torment. Authority is given for man's benefit. In this instance it was freedom to travel by whatever route best serves man's need. God's power when embraced by sons serving the Father brings freedom! Jesus brought freedom by overcoming demonic obstacles. Ischuo is the anointing to push through overwhelming circumstances to address evil forces that battle trying to shut down trade, to lock up a city, to lock up a family, or to lock up a person. Ischuo is the authority to open up trade, to open up a city, to open up a person depending on whether or not we qualify to use it. Ischuo is the power to overcome. Jesus brought freedom by overcoming demonic obstacles! The enemy creates paralysis of movement but God releases the authority to change things. God's anointing to break through brick walls is called ischuo and that anointing comes by the Holy Spirit!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Scripture: Philippians 4:11-13

Philippians 4:11-13 is the ultimate expression of faith in God's covenantal care for us. It says, *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I (**ischuo**) can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Paul learned to rely on the Spirit for victory. Impossible circumstances bow to God's eternal purpose when pastored by the Holy Spirit who wields dunamis. It was as if Paul was saying, 'When I was in jail in Philippi, He brought an earthquake to deliver me. My chains fell off when the Jews tried to kill me. God exposed the plot and saved me. When the storm destroyed our ship and I spent a night and a day in the perils of the sea, angels saved me! I have learned to rely on the power of the Spirit Who dwells within.' This power results in ischuo but it is first infused by the Spirit like an IV antibiotic drip releasing God's overcoming wisdom. Truly ischuo is God's empowering grace to carry us through the impossible!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Scripture: Luke 6:46-49

In Luke 6:46-49 we are told, *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and **could not** shake it, for it was founded on the rock. (**ischuo**) But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."* If we do God's Word, the promise is that our works count for eternity. Even if we die in the process, our actions count for eternity because what we do for God and not just for self is that which is eternal. We are either going to do the Word or we're not! We choose to serve other people with our giving, serve other people with our time, serve other people by reversing the curse and breaking the authority of the enemy in their lives. God honors our choices. Giving ourselves to build God's Kingdom versus our own is eternal! That choice is the high calling! We are either going to bow to God's purpose or we choose our own. By choosing to serve others and yield to the Holy Spirit, we choose the eternal work that is Christ-like! Ischuo is available to us!

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Scripture: Acts 19:11-20

In Acts 19, God was doing unusual miracles through Paul's hands so that his reputation was widespread among the people. Verses 14-16 say, *"Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them and prevailed (**ischuo**) against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."* This incident brought the fear of God because it demonstrated the real and the counterfeit. Authority and power in Christ is the product of relationship, obedience, testing and character development. The Holy Spirit makes power available to those of us who know Him, to those of us in His family. The words and actions of sons and daughters carry weight and power through family relationship with the Father. Our prayers will move God's Hand, demons will bow and flee!

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Scripture: Matthew 12:28-30, James 5:1-3, James 5:16-18

Matthew 12:28-30 tells us, *"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter (**ischuros**) a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."* There it is. If you and I yield to the Spirit we become overcomers and the door that God opens is to spoil the enemy. Ischuo is the anointing to lock up a city, to shut it down or to lock up resources or to shut them down, to starve out an enemy. Ischuo is the anointing to starve out an enemy by shutting down their resources. According to

Matthew power is available through obedient sons and daughters. If we yield to the Holy Spirit and have the authority to overcome the enemy, we can bind him, lock him up, and shut him down. Are we maintaining our salt through obedience? In James 5:1-3 we are told, “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.” Now there’s a prayer! If you and I serve others, if we chose the servanthood/Sonship path of Christ, then He gives us the authority to lock down the resources of those who have stored up wealth for themselves. All those who have built their own kingdom can’t keep it. It has to flow into the hands of those who are serving God. Verses 4-6 even say they got their money by stealing it from those who were obedient. They kept their wages back by fraud. It was ill-gotten gain and therefore it can’t stay there. But you and I don’t have the authority to pray unless we pass the character test. What is the character test? James 5:16-18 reveals the character test. This passage says, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man **avails** (ischuo) much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” Elijah is an example of one who overcame through obedience. Transparency and yielding to the Holy Spirit is the character test of ischuo. If we will be transparent and honest with God and let Him give us His empowering grace through the impossible and if we will embrace His servanthood pattern we can overcome the enemy. We come into level three of God’s power called ischuo and it is ordained for us to use it and overturn the work of the enemy in the last days. I trust we will see a church which can lock up and starve out the evil elements within our city. Jesus paid for a great end-time harvest and He is going to have it. I trust we will see the church without spot, wrinkle or blemish rising quickly.

It’s Time

*O Father, let redemption come
That all of those we love may run,
Forward in their destiny
Salvation their stability.
Release them now from satan’s grip,
That each may be Your heart and lip,
With fortitude to run their race
Committed to Your saving grace,
As Your trumpets, Lord Most High,
For You alone can satisfy!*

J. Houghton