

I Must Be About My Father's Business

Volume II

Dominion

Doing God's Will and Work

The Father's Business

Sword

1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Sickle

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

James A. Twentier

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Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version. Scriptures included from other Bible versions are indicated as follows:

NLT - New Living Translation
TLB - The Living Bible
TEV - Today's English Version
GNT - Good News Translation
ASV - American Standard Version
NIV - New International Version
NASU - New American Standard Bible
NKJV - New King James Version
MOF - Moffat
MSG - THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language
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PC STUDY BIBLE from BIBLESOFT was used as the source for all Scripture references and commentaries.

Please note that the emphasis within Scripture is the author's own. The name satan and related names are not capitalized because we choose not to acknowledge him.

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Dedication

Bishop James L. Kilgore

To **Bishop James L. Kilgore**. Thank you for being a great pastor, leader, mentor, friend, example, and the guiding light in my life and the life of my family for the past 40 years. Your love and passion for the work of God, the Word of God and your burden for lost souls and missions around the world, has been poured into my life for four decades and is now consuming me with a burden, a pressing in my spirit (a little time and a lot of work to do), and a dissatisfaction with the status quo. Your inspiration and example tell me I can do more, I will do more, and my best days of working in the Kingdom of God are still ahead.

We were privileged to witness first hand your burden and passion for world missions on our recent visit to the Philippines and the C. P. Kilgore complex in Manila named for your father.

The Missions Work in the Philippines

We are also dedicating this book to the church in the Philippines, to the missionary families, the ministers, the saints and the Bible school students in the ACTS Bible School in Manila. It was our privilege to spend seven weeks in the Philippines, teaching in the Apostolic Center for Theological Studies in Manila, and preaching in the churches in Manila and the provinces. We made wonderful friends we will never forget. We are praying and believing with you for God's continued blessings of revival and church growth.

Acknowledgments

My thanks and gratitude to all the following:

My dear wife, Marsha, who spent countless hours of word processing, editing and proofreading. Without her help and encouragement this book would not have been completed.

Joyce Houlette for proofreading and editing for clarity.

Roland Ramos for painting the book cover scene.

Many friends who offered their support and encouragement.

Relationship and Dominion Theme

Relationship - Man sharing a mutual relationship of love, communication, and trust with God, as a son of God, as a friend of God and in the New Testament as the bride of Christ.

Relationship Prayers - (The focus of need is for me)

This involves thanksgiving, praise and worship -- talking to God and listening to God:

- Not just our words of worship but our actions of worship, holy living, and obedience:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments”.

Dominion - To dominate with authority and power to rule in a territory or domain. God sharing His authority and power with man in a partnership to fulfill His purpose, His mission and to do His will and work on earth:

“Workers together with God”.

Dominion Prayers - (The focus of need is for others)

- Intercessory prayers -- standing between God and man
- Intercessory prayers -- standing between satan and man
- Change me (less of self and more of Him) removing hindrances to the flow of His love and power through me.

“He must increase, but I must decrease”.

Relationship - Mutual Need

God's decision to do nothing on earth except through man (*his prayer and his actions*) created a valid relationship of mutual need. For a relationship or covenant to be valid, it must involve mutual need -- God meeting man's needs (*come unto Me*) and man meeting God's needs (*go and minister to those in need*).

- **Man needs God (in a Relationship role).**
- **God needs man (in a Dominion role).**

Purpose and Scope

The primary aim of Volume I and Volume II is to deal with the purposes for which God created man. That includes the foundational concept that **God works only through man to accomplish His will and work on earth**. While God's purpose for creating man included **relationship**, it was much more; it was to bring man into a partnership with Himself, and give him **dominion** to carry out His mission, will, and work on earth. God's decision to make Himself dependent upon man created a balanced relationship with God needing man and man needing God. That is an exciting concept -- God needs you and me! So the two themes are:

- **Relationship** - Man's relationship with God.
- **Dominion** - God partnering with man and working through man to carry out His mission, His will, and His work on earth.

The purpose of Volumes III, IV and V is to build on the foundation of Volumes I and II, in moving toward the vision and goal of becoming a harvest-driven Christian.

This Project

The six volumes in this project are shown here to:

- Briefly describe the complete scope of this project.
- Define the purpose and scope of each volume and where this volume fits in this progressive series.

I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS – Volume II

Volume I

God's Purpose for Man Relationship and Dominion

Volume I sets forth God's purpose for man -- relationship and dominion. It addresses in more depth man's **relationship** with God and God's desire to have a close and growing relationship with man.

It describes God and man relationship roles: Father / Child, Groom / Bride, Friend / Friend, Master / Servant (love slave).

Volume II

Dominion Doing God's Will and Work

This volume emphasizes the importance of **dominion**, since we often lead people to a relationship with God, but fail to help them take the next important step -- exercising dominion in the Kingdom of God. The two concepts of **relationship** and **dominion** working together in a believer's life will bring **balance, spiritual growth, and fulfillment.**

This book addresses the subject of **dominion** and **why** we need to be involved in the mission and work of the Father's business. It includes many examples from both the Old and New Testaments of God's plan to work through man to accomplish His will on earth.

It also describes God and man dominion roles: Great Physician / physician; Great High Priest / priest; Great Commander / soldier; King of Kings / prince; Lord of the Harvest / harvester.

Purpose and Scope

Volume III

Transformation

- Dominion Over Sin and Self

This book addresses **what** we need to do to become more effective in the Father's business. This encompasses **foundational principles of spiritual growth** that will prepare individuals to be more fruitful Christians. The primary emphasis is dominion over self (the will, the mind and the emotions) vs. dominion over sin.

Spiritual growth results from a hunger and a **passion** for the things of God - **“Loving God with all of our heart, soul, and mind”**. The will of God will always lead us beyond where we are now in our spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth at the individual level will result in church growth at the corporate level.

Volume IV

Unlimited Partnership

With a Supernatural God

The greatest reason for God's first creation of man at the dawn of creation was that He might obtain sons to carry out His will and work on earth. He desired to reproduce His image in a creature.

The greatest reason for God's new creation of man (through a new birth, a spiritual birth) first recorded in the book of Acts, was that He might obtain **sons to carry out the supernatural work of His Kingdom**. True son-ship is an obligation to live out, or put in practice, the nature of the Father. It is the Father's will for us as sons of God, to become, *“Partakers of His divine nature”*, His supernatural nature -- partnering with Him in His business.

I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS – Volume II

Volume V

Revival and Evangelism

- Passion for God
- Compassion for the Lost

The key to soul winning is love and compassion while exercising **dominion** in the harvest field.

This book describes some of the biblical foundational principles of revival and evangelism. Discussed in more detail is the “**how to**” of putting the evangelism principles into practice through the two arms of the church:

- The **Prayer Ministry** - reaching for Him.
- The **Compassion and Care Ministry** (attracting, winning and retaining) -- reaching for them.

Revival and evangelism at the personal level will result in revival and evangelism at the corporate level.

Volume VII

Addendum

PowerPoint Charts For all Volumes

The Addendum Volume contains the 8.5 X 11 copies of the PowerPoint charts supporting the themes and concepts presented in Volumes I, II, III, IV and V of the series entitled, “***I Must Be About My Father's Business***”.

The full color charts are available on CD in Adobe Acrobat and PowerPoint formats. For group teaching, these can be printed on printer transparencies for presentation on an overhead projector or with a computer and multi-media projector.

Refer to Appendices 1 and 2 for the Addendum Volume charts applicable to this book.

Author's Note

The project of writing this six volume progressive series of books is very challenging in both scope and content. This First Edition is a work in progress and is by no means a complete exposition of the subjects. It is only a summary of themes that God has dealt with me regarding these inexhaustible subjects. It is my thesis and collection of findings at this point in my Christian experience from:

- Several thousand hours of studying various themes and subjects related to God's purpose and will for man, the restoration of the church, the end-time harvest, passion for God, compassion for the lost, and soul winning which involves the salvation of both the sinner and the saint.
- A theme that began a few years ago as a slice of bread from the Word of God, the Bread of Life. As my studies continued, it became a loaf of bread, and another, and another. As many of the things I had been studying came together, it became a bread truck, an overwhelming burden driving through my spirit, soul, and mind that had to be delivered.
- Many years of trying to apply these principles in my life and ministry. I have not attained all that I should, and I should be further along in His work and Kingdom, but I am reaching and striving for more.

- A direction and a burden from God, accompanied by an unusual urgency to very quickly write and complete this project. This is comparable to the burden of a message waiting to be preached. However, this feeling has lasted throughout years of work and preparation.

This project includes much Scripture text and commentary from both the Old and New Testaments. Considered redundant to some readers, I mention it here to explain that it is intentional. These collectively demonstrate the importance of themes and concepts describing the eternal purpose and will of God for man's involvement in His work on earth.

The Word of God is like a hammer. The hammer that has worn out many anvils throughout time and has not become weakened or diminished in its effectiveness. I pray that God will hammer these messages and themes into your spirit like He is hammering them into mine. ***Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?***

This book is a product of hearing several thousand messages, reading and studying the greatest Book, the Bible, and from many other sources of great writers over many years. I have tried to give proper credit to sources where appropriate. If I have overlooked someone or something, it is unintentional and only an indication that their individual message or work has blended into the larger themes of my studies and ministry.

Your comments for changes and additions to the content of this book are welcomed and will be considered for future revisions. God bless and multiply your harvest as we labor together with Him.

Introduction

The Challenge of the Church

The purpose and plan of God have always been opposed in every era of time by the kingdom of satan and at times the unbelief of His chosen people. Today the challenge of the church seems to be an impossible and insurmountable task unmatched in the history of mankind:

- Satan's revival of wickedness with perversion and sin unknown to prior generations.
- More sin, darkness, abuse, sickness, hurting and hopelessness.
- Larger population on the earth to reach with the gospel.
- Endtime, last of the last days with a very short time to work.
- Affluence and prosperity of our society wars against the mission and vision of the church.
- In Christian America, a gay bishop is ordained, while in another place a court order removes the Ten Commandments from the courthouse.
- The law may soon prohibit openly preaching against the sin of immorality and declaring the timeless truth of God's Word, that there is only one way to eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- The spirit of the antichrist is now working in the world and challenging the church on every front.

But our great God is greater than all of this. We don't have to understand how He will work to bring a great endtime harvest with this increased opposition from satan's kingdom. But our part is just to believe that our God will perform it, and then to position ourselves in dedication, sacrifice and humility to be an available instrument in His hands.

Yet, another problem and challenge is greater. It is not the wickedness of the world nor is it the evil powers of satan and the spirit of the antichrist, because; ***“Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”***.

The greatest challenge to the church and the New Testament Christian in this endtime, is the spirit of Laodicea, self-satisfaction, self-pleasure, apathy and deafness to the cries of the lost and dying. In one word, it is **SELF** (our will, our mind, our emotions). Self must decrease and He must increase – less of me and more of Him. There must be a death to our will to enable His will to be done. Our ways must cease so that His ways can be followed. There must be a death to our emotions so that His love and compassion, that goes far beyond the ability of human emotions, can flow through our lives to make a difference in the needs and hurts of desperate people. When self dies, resurrection power will come to the New Testament believer and the church that will defeat every obstacle and spirit that opposes itself against the purpose and plan of God for a great endtime harvest of lost souls.

I don't want to dwell on the negative, because we have our faith and confidence in a great God of the impossible. But at the very start, I want to identify the reality of the challenge and the problem that we face in reaping this endtime harvest. This is not to focus on the problem but to use it as a backdrop for the purpose and aim of this book, to identify the basic foundational principles of God's Word that answer this challenge.

There is no need for a solution without a problem. There is no need for a medicine without a sickness. There is no need for a battle without a cause. But, there is a big problem because our world is in trouble with a great sickness of sin. There is a Great Problem Solver and a Great Commander who is calling every born-again believer to arms, to fight for the cause, the only cause worth fighting for -- the cause of good vs. evil, of heaven vs. hell -- the cause of Jesus Christ. And nothing can stop the church, but the church itself!

The first step in the answer to this challenge, which is the foundational purpose and aim of this book, is stated in the following paragraphs taken from, "The School of Obedience" by Andrew Murray. The excerpt from this book is included here since it addresses the greatest task facing the church as the sun sets on the final harvest, and I would like to tap into the insight and perspective of another author, a voice from the 1800s, to help establish the foundational theme for this book.

-- From "The School of Obedience" by Andrew Murray
Obedience to the Last Command

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations.

Mark 16:15 Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

John 17:18 As Thou didst send Me into the world, even so send I them into the world.

Acts 1:8 Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be My witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

All these words breathe nothing less than the spirit of world conquest. 'All the nations,' 'all the world,' 'every creature,' 'the uttermost parts of the earth,' -- each expression indicates that the heart of Christ was set on claiming His rightful dominion over the world He had redeemed and won for Himself. He counts on His disciples to undertake and carry out the work.

Christ does not teach or argue, ask or plead: He simply commands. The command was passed on, and taken up into the heart and life, as meant for all ages, as **meant for every disciple**.

How terribly the Church has failed in obeying the command! How many Christians who hear of it, but do not in earnest set themselves to obey it! And how many who seek to obey it in such way and measure as seems to them fitting and convenient.

We have professed to give ourselves up to a whole-hearted obedience. Surely we are prepared gladly to listen to anything that can help us to understand and carry out this our Lord's last and great command: the gospel to every creature.

I. Accept His Command.

There are various things that weaken the force of this command. There is the impression that a command given to all and general in its nature is not as binding as one that is entirely personal and specific; that if others do not their part, our share of the blame is comparatively small.

II. Place Yourself at His Disposal.

The last great command has been so prominently urged in connection with Foreign Missions that many are inclined exclusively to confine it to them. This is a great mistake. Our Lord's words, 'Make disciples of all nations; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you,' tell us what our aim is to be -- nothing less than to make every man a true disciple, living in holy obedience to all Christ's will.

III. And Begin at Once to Act on Your Obedience.

In whatever circumstances you are, it is your privilege to have within reach souls that can be won for God. Look upon yourself as redeemed by Christ for His service, as blessed with His Spirit to give you the very dispositions that were in Himself, and take up, humbly but boldly, your life calling, to take part in the great work of winning back the world to God.

Introduction

Let each of us follow our Leader, receive from Himself our orders as to our share in the work, and never falter in the vow of obedience that has given itself to **live wholly for His will and His work** alone.¹

We Belong to Him

1 Cor. 6:19-20

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?***

*20 **For ye are bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*19 Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? **Your own body does not belong to you.***

*20 **For God has bought you with a great price.** So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because he owns it. TLB*

I. Dominion - Introduction

*They that do know their God (Relationship)
Shall be strong and do exploits (Dominion)*

Daniel 11:32

1. Dominion - Doing God's Will and Work

From the beginning of time, God's purpose for creating man included **relationship**, however it was much more than that. It was to establish a partnership with Himself, and give man **dominion** to carry out His mission, His will and His work on earth.

Dominion means to prevail against, to reign, to rule in a kingdom or a domain.

There is the kingdom of this world and there is the Kingdom of God. It is God's plan for us, His children, to prevail against His enemies -- the kingdom of this world, the god of this world, satan. God wants us to rule and participate with Him in His domain, His Kingdom business.

Mark 16:20

*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word** with signs following. Amen.*

If we are going to rule and reign with Him on this earth in the by and by, then we must rule and reign with Him in the here and now.

DOMINION – INTRODUCTION

Rev. 20:6

*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, **and shall reign with Him a thousand years.***

God's plan has never changed. Man was made to rule the earth for God -- to have dominion, authority and power. He was to reflect the glory of God, revealing God to those who did not know Him. He said, "Adam you have dominion. You are in charge of My mission, My purpose, My will, and My work on earth."

God's decision to do nothing on earth except through man is a wonderful truth. In making this choice, God placed Himself in a relationship that He would need man to carry out His work and will.

God needs man; man needs God. Those who say God doesn't need you or me, don't understand the key principle of relationship. And that is, both parties must have a mutual need and a dependence on one another. Otherwise, it is one-sided and not a valid relationship.

I can rejoice in the fact that God needs me and depends on me to carry on His work. And, Oh God, I need you. I need Your help and wisdom to work out impossible situations and problems in my life that I could not solve in a lifetime.

- **God created this earth and He owns it, but He has assigned it to man to govern and rule. He has chosen man to be the intercessor here, to carry on His work, His will and purpose.**

Ps. 115:16

*16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: **but the earth hath He given to the children of men.***

16 The heavens belong to the Lord, but He has given the earth to all mankind. TLB

16 the earth He has assigned to men. MOF

God has put man in charge on earth, for God, with God and under God. God created man in His image because He wanted a son who would:

- Look like Him.
- Think like Him.
- Love what He loves.
- Hate what He hates.
- Do His will.
- Carry on His mission and His business.

He assigned man to govern the earth. Man is God’s intercessor in the battle against God’s enemies and to seek and save the lost.

God made Adam in His image, He put His breath in Him, He put His glory on him, and then He told him: “I am giving you dominion. You are in charge. You are My agent to carry out My mission and work on earth. You are My hands, My feet, My eyes, My ears, and My mouthpiece on the earth.” King David declared this awesome concept in his writings:

Ps. 8:3-6

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

*5 For thou hast made him **a little lower than the angels**, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.*

*6 Thou madest him to have **dominion** over the works of thy hands; thou hast **put all things under his feet**:*

Ps 8:5 Man made a little lower than deity.

5 For thou hast made him but little lower than God, and crownest him with glory and honor. ASV

DOMINION - INTRODUCTION

5 Yet you made him inferior only to yourself; you crowned him with glory and honor. TEV

- **Man is much more valuable to God than angels. When the angels committed one sin, God did not lift a finger to recover or save them, but instead He cast them out of heaven to be doomed forever.**
- **But one man sinned, and God promised that He would come and die for him.**

Jude 6

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Man is a beloved son of God. In the New Testament we are His bride, His love. He loved us so much that He suffered, shed His blood and died for us.

We are important to God. God needs us and we surely need Him. This is a great partnership and a great relationship.

- **God's purpose for creating man in the beginning and His purpose for the New Testament Church are the same.**

The two purposes for which God created man are:

1. **Relationship** - many Scriptures describe God's roles in **relationship** with man:
 - Father / Child
 - Bride / Groom
 - Master / Servant (love slave)
 - Friend / Friend
2. **Dominion** to carry out His mission and His work on earth.
(Genesis 1:26, Psalms 8:3-6)

Apostle Paul’s writings in Ephesians 4:11-12 identify the same two purposes for which Jesus created the New Testament Church to:

1. **Perfect the saints** (Relationship)
2. **Equip the saints for the work of the ministry** (Dominion)

This speaks of dominion to complete the mission and work that Jesus started and exemplified on earth for three and one half years. Jesus said that His purpose and mission for coming to this world involved two things:

- Destroying the works of the devil. (John 3:8)
- Seeking and saving the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Eph. 4:11-12

11 And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the:

(1) Perfecting of the saints,

*(2) For the **work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Eph. 4:12

12 For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, NKJV

12 To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. NIV

12 For the equipping of the saints for the work of service. NASU

We have well accepted **relationship** as the first purpose for which God created man. Relationship with God brings the blessings of God in our lives. But we have understood less about the second purpose, **dominion** -- to carry out His purpose, will and work on earth.

While relationship brings God’s blessings; fulfilling the role of dominion brings His favor. Everyone wants to be in relationship with God to receive His blessings, but fulfilling the dominion role

DOMINION - INTRODUCTION

as a son of God is also a part of His eternal purpose and will for man.

We see the importance of this second purpose in the teachings of Jesus:

1. Jesus was asked two times: “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” His answer in both cases was minister to those who are in need. (*Matt. 22:36, Luke 10:25*)
2. Jesus was asked: “*Which is the greatest commandment?*” His answer:
 - ***Love the Lord thy God*** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (**relationship** with God).
 - ***Love thy neighbor*** as thyself. (**dominion** - carrying out God’s mission by ministering to your neighbor). Jesus defined our neighbor as anyone in need (parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29).
3. Jesus’ teachings in the parable of the talents given to the servants (Matt. 25:14). When the master returned from a long journey, he demanded an accounting of what they had done with his resources. Those who gained additional talents were commended by the master. The servant who maintained only his original talent was cast into outer darkness.
4. The **dominion** role of man is greatly emphasized by:
 - The last commandment, the Great Commission of Jesus before He left this earth: “**Go** into all the world (global) and tell the good news to everyone (personal)”.
 - The first question to be asked at the Judgment: “**Did you go? Did you minister to those in need** (the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison)?”

2. Dominion - Physical and Spiritual

The Old Testament is a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

Understanding how God deals with man in our day can be understood more easily by looking at how He dealt with the physical nation of Israel in the Old Testament. We can better understand spiritual concepts when we look at God's expectations, requirements, and dealings with the physical nation of Israel and their enemies in the Old Testament.

2.1 Dominion - Old Testament (Physical)

- A **physical nation** (God's chosen people).
- A **physical kingdom** with physical kings.
- A **physical priesthood** with physical priests.
- A **physical anointing**.
- **Physical battles** with physical dominion.
- A conquest for **physical land and territory**.
- **Physical armies** that clashed and fought.
- **Physical enemies** to fight.
- **Physical soldiers** to fight the enemies of God.

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- **Physical warfare** with physical weapons.
- The blood covenant involved **physical circumcision**.
- The laws of God were **physically written on stone**.
- A **physical tabernacle** with three parts: (outer court, holy place, holy of holies).
- A **physical veil** that separated the holy place from the most holy place.
- **Physical sacrifices** with animals (bulls, lambs, goats).
- **Physical restoration** of the children of Israel to the physical place of their forefathers.
- **Physical death** for an entire generation unwilling to get involved in God's purpose and will to drive out the enemy and possess the land.

2 Chron. 20:15, 17 It was God's battle.

15 *And He said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; **for the battle is not yours, but God's.***

17 *Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: **for the LORD will be with you.***

The battle is not ours, it is the Lord's. But we are soldiers in God's army, and we must partner with Him to secure the victory. We see this repeatedly with the children of Israel in battle with the heathen nations.

2.2 Dominion - New Testament (Spiritual)

- A **spiritual nation** (God's chosen people).
- A **spiritual Kingdom** with spiritual kings.
- A **spiritual priesthood** with spiritual priests.
- A **spiritual anointing**.
- **Spiritual battles** with spiritual dominion.
- A conquest for **spiritual land and territory**.
- **Spiritual armies** that clash and fight.
- **Spiritual enemies** to fight.
- **Spiritual soldiers** to fight the enemies of God.
- **Spiritual warfare** with spiritual weapons.
- The blood covenant involves **spiritual circumcision** (baptism).
- The laws of God are **spiritually written on the hearts of men**.
- A **spiritual tabernacle** with three parts: (body, soul, and spirit).
- It is the **veil of the soul that separates the flesh and the spirit**.
- A **spiritual sacrifice** of our lives, worship and praise to God.
- **Spiritual restoration** of God's people to the place of our forefathers, to the apostolic ministry of the first church in the Book of Acts.
- Is it **spiritual death** for those who do not get involved in God's purpose and His will on earth?

Spiritual Kingdom and Battle

Every born-again believer is a part of a spiritual Kingdom and is engaged in a spiritual battle.

2 Cor. 10:4-5

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

DOMINION - INTRODUCTION

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Tim. 2:3-5

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that He may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is He not crowned, except He strive lawfully.

Eph. 6:11-18 Starts with put on the whole armor, and ends with praying always.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

God's Laws and Principles:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| - Are timeless | - Old and New Testament |
| - Are unchangeable | - They never change over time |
| - Are infallible | - They are pure and true |
| - Are irrefutable | - They cannot be revoked |
| - Are like a lighthouse | - They keep shining and pointing the way |

These laws and principles operate aside from our understanding or acceptance.

Therefore, we can confidently look to both the Old and New Testaments to better understand God's ways, how He deals with man; and what He expects of man.

- **God does nothing on earth except through man. You need Him. He needs you. God needs you and me to come to His help in His battle. Looking back in the Old Testament, those who came to His help were blessed, and those who did not come to His help were cursed.**

II. Dominion - Old Testament

- ***Man needing God's help (Relationship)***

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence
cometh my help. Psalms 121:1*

- ***God needing man's help (Dominion)***

*Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, because
they came not to the help of the LORD. Judges 5:23*

1. Dominion - Old Testament Experiences

This chapter is a reminder of familiar Old Testament examples of the children of Israel going beyond their role of relationship with God and stepping into the second purpose and role for which God created man.

Israel's Relationship with God

The children of Israel were in relationship with God in the Old Testament because they inherited the covenant relationship that God had made with Abraham, their father. When they were fulfilling their part of the covenant, they were involved in the dominion role of doing God's will and work. When they were faithful to God, they enjoyed His favor.

Israel's Dominion Role

God's plan was to partner with man and empower man to carry out His mission, His will and His work on earth. Throughout the Old Testament history it was God's will for Israel to:

- Wage war and join in the battle with God against His enemies.

DOMINION - OLD TESTAMENT

- Be involved in conquest to claim the territory promised to their forefathers.
- Be a channel for the rest of the earth to be blessed.
- Allow God to work through them to display His mighty power as a witness to the heathen nations.

Gen. 15:18

*In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **Unto thy seed have I given this land**, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:*

Gen. 13:14-17 God gave Abram the land, but he had to walk through it and possess it.

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

*17 Arise, **walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.***

Ex. 23:30-33 Driving out the enemy was a partnership of man and God.

*30 By little and little **I will drive them out** from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.*

*31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and **thou shalt drive them out before thee.***

32 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their Gods.

33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their Gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

Old Testament Experiences

Deut. 11:22-28

22 For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

23 Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

25 There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

*26 Behold, I set before you this day a **blessing and a curse**;*

*27 A **blessing**, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:*

*28 And a **curse**, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day.*

Projecting the Old Testament into the New Testament

The entire Israelite history is a type of the redemption of mankind by Jesus Christ. The deliverance of the Jews from their enemies is a symbol of the great deliverance of people in the world from the powers of satan. Israel's history tracks the New Testament Church (born on the day of Pentecost) through its decline after the first century, the Dark Ages, and its restoration that began in the early 1900s. Refer to Chart B-5 in the Addendum Volume.

It is God's will for us to be a part of the restoration of the church today, and involving ourselves in a dominion role in the last day harvest. To do this, we must be willing:

- **To go beyond where we have been before into new places in the Spirit.**
- **To be led by the Spirit:**
 - Allow the Spirit to be more dominant in our lives through a closer relationship with God.
 - Allow the Spirit to **lead us into the dominion role** of

DOMINION - OLD TESTAMENT

doing God's will and work. God only claims us as a son if we allow His Spirit to lead us. The Spirit will always take us further into His mission, His purpose, His will and work.

Rom. 8:14

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. NLT

14 God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! BCL

- **To better understand this, let us examine the Old Testament experiences and how God worked through His chosen people to accomplish His purpose, His will and His work.**

Gal. 3:24

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. NKJV

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed (types and shadows). The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Many things that happened in the physical in the Old Testament are revealed as spiritual concepts and examples for us to follow in the New Testament Church today. A brief example of this follows.

Old Testament Experiences

Old Testament	New Testament
Nation of Israel a physical nation of God's chosen people.	New Testament Church is a spiritual nation of God's chosen people.
Tabernacle in the wilderness with three parts - outer court, holy place and most holy place. God's Spirit dwelt in the tabernacle in the most holy place, in the ark of the covenant.	Our approach to God and the plan of salvation (repentance, baptism and the infilling of the Spirit). We are the tabernacle -- the dwelling place for His Spirit. Like the tabernacle, man is made up of three parts - body, soul and spirit.
Deliverance and exodus from Egypt.	Deliverance from sin and separation from the world.
Restoration of Israel to the land of their forefathers. Entering the Promised Land, driving out the heathen and claiming the inheritance of their forefathers.	Restoration of the New Testament Church and Christians to the apostolic revival, miracles and ministry of our forefathers in the first century church in the Book of Acts. Turning our cities and world upside down. Spiritual maturity -- living, praying, and walking in the Spirit, and progressing to a place in the Kingdom of God where we are fulfilling His will and purpose for our lives.

Heb. 8:5

*Who serve unto the **example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to **make the tabernacle**: for, see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

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Heb. 10:1

For the law having a shadow of good things to come...

1 Cor. 10:1, 6

*1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*

1 Cor. 10:11

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

These things were written for us to understand how God deals with man and what He requires of man.

1.1 God's Purpose for His Chosen People Israel

- To be a channel of blessing to the whole world. They were blessed to be a blessing.
- It was God's will not only to bless Israel through their relationship role, but to bless others through them fulfilling their dominion role.

Gen. 18:18

*Seeing that Abraham shall surely **become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?***

Gen. 22:17-18

*17 That **in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed** as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*

*18 And in thy seed shall **all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Gen. 26:4

*And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed **shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.***

1.2 Israel's Restoration of the Word

- **Restoration of the walls of Jerusalem and the reading of the Law:**
 - The walls of Jerusalem lay in ruin for many years and had just been restored.
 - The opposition of the enemy to this restoration effort had been defeated.
 - The reading of the Word of God -- long neglected had just been restored.
 - The people responded to the Word of God with weeping and repentance.

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- **Their hunger for and response to the reading of the Law.**

Neh. 8:8-12

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.

12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth,

- **God's commandment: when in a position of relationship and blessing, rejoice; but do not forget the needy.**
 - Rejoice in the Lord, enjoy your **relationship** with Him, feast on His blessings.
 - Fulfill your **dominion** role by ministering to those in need and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared. This brings the joy of the Lord.

1.3 Israel's Fear Vs. Faith in Their God

- **God cursed an entire generation to die in the wilderness because of their fear and unbelief.**
- **God had miraculously delivered the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage with a mighty display of His great power. They were living with God's blessings and His miraculous provision:**
 - The Red Sea rolled back for miles, and dry land allowed several million Israelites to cross in just a few hours.

Old Testament Experiences

- Their enemies, the Egyptian army, were all drowned in the Red Sea.
 - A pillar of cloud led and shaded them from the hot desert sun during the day.
 - A pillar of fire gave them light and heat at night.
 - Manna was provided for their food.
 - Drinking water flowed from the rock.
 - There was a miraculous provision for their clothes and shoes.
- **Israel, God's chosen people, came out of Egypt through the Red Sea. But they were unwilling, (their will, their thinking, their ways) to step into the dominion role to follow God's purpose.**
 - **They received His blessings of food, clothing, and shelter, but God was grieved with them for 40 years. They had His blessings without His favor, and an entire generation was cursed to wander in the wilderness until they died. This was recorded three times in Scripture.**

Num. 14:28-30, 32-38

28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

*29 **Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness;** and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,*

*30 Doubtless **ye shall not come into the land,** concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

*32 But as for you, **your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.***

*33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, **until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.***

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

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35 *I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness **they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.***

36 *And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,*

37 *Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, **died by the plague** before the LORD.*

38 *But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.*

Ps. 95:7-11

7 *For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,*

8 *Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*

9 *When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.*

10 ***Forty years long was I grieved with this generation,** and said, A people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:*

11 *Unto whom I swear in **my wrath** that they should not enter into my rest.*

Heb. 3:15-19

15 *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

16 *For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.*

17 *But with whom **was he grieved forty years?** was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?*

18 *And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?*

19 *So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

- **Physical death occurred in the wilderness because they were not willing to believe God and take the risk to fulfill His purpose for their lives.**

- Does it mean spiritual death to those who are willing for God to deliver them from their pain of bondage and sin,

but not willing to do His will and work?

- Do we just want the Father's blessings of provision for our needs, or do **we want His favor** that comes from being willing to partner with Him in His business?
- **Joshua and Caleb received God's favor because of their willingness to step into the dominion role to follow God's will for entering the Promised Land.**
- **They were the only ones over age 20 allowed to go into the Promised Land. God preserved their health and strength for 40 years while wandering in the wilderness until the unbelieving generation were dead.**
- **Joshua was chosen to replace Moses as the leader of Israel and Caleb was given Hebron for an inheritance.**

Josh. 14:7-14

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

DOMINION - OLD TESTAMENT

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

*14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he **wholly followed the LORD** God of Israel.*

1.4 Israel's Dominion – A Display of God's Power

- **The heathen witnessed the miraculous works of Israel's great God.**
- **When Israel crossed Jordan into Canaan fulfilling God's will, the heathen began to talk about their great God.**

Josh. 2:10-11

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

*11 And as soon as **we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.***

Josh. 5:1

*And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, **that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.***

- **Our hurting generation needs to hear of the marvelous, miraculous, and wonderful power and works of our great and mighty God. This will happen when we are willing to die to self and step into the dominion role of allowing God to work through us to do His will and work, as a witness to a lost world.**

1.5 God Fights for His People Israel

- **King Jehoshaphat faced overwhelming odds of the enemy.**
- **He fasted, prayed and sought for a word from God.**
- **God told him, “*The battle is not yours, but God’s. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle*”.**
- **They still had to obey God and march as soldiers to the battlefield, but God fought the battle as they sang and praised Him.**

2 Chron. 20:2-3, 12, 14-15, 17, 21-22

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, *There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi.*

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, **Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.**

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

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22 *And when **they began to sing and to praise**, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and **they were smitten**.*

- **The shepherd boy, David, had the same message years earlier -- the battle was not his but it was the Lord's.**

1 Judg. 17:43, 47

43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

*47 And all this assembly shall know that the **LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's**, and he will give you into our hands.*

- **Likewise, we must seek God through our relationship with Him, and then take dominion with steps of action into the battlefield.**
- **When God sees our faith, He will fight the battle, and the victory will be won by Him working with us and through us.**

1.6 Deborah and Jael - Women Leaders in Battle

- **It was God's battle, but He demanded that they help Him.**
- **Deborah, a prophetess, showed great inspiration in taking the lead role of dominion by starting the battle.**
- **The Lord worked with the army of Israel to discomfit the enemy.**
- **Another woman, Jael, took dominion in completing the victory killing Sisera, the captain of the enemy's army, with a hammer and a nail.**
- **The angel of the Lord pronounced a bitter curse on those who did not fight in the battle and came not to the help of the Lord.**

Old Testament Experiences

Judg. 4:4, 6, 15, 21, 23, 24

*4 And **Deborah**, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.*

*6 And she sent and **called Barak** the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?*

15 And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

24 And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

Judg. 5:23-24

23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

- **One of the strongest warnings in Scripture, regarding those unwilling to fulfill their dominion role, are the words of the angel of the Lord and his shocking message:**
“Curse ye Meroz, curse ye bitterly; because they came not to the help of the LORD”.
- **The battle was God’s battle, but He needed warriors and expected them to do their part. He was angry and placed a curse on them because they didn’t come to the help of the Lord!**

DOMINION - OLD TESTAMENT

Here are two opposite responses to those who got involved in the battle (fulfilling their dominion role) and those who did not:

- **One is cursed for being neutral:**
 - Doing no wrong, just doing nothing.
 - Neutral - taking no risk (lukewarm about the Father's business).
 - Not inconveniencing themselves to become involved in the battle.
- **One is highly blessed for active involvement in the battle.**

A woman, with just a hammer and nail, like David with a sling and stone, secured the victory. God used two women in a dominion role for a great victory. Normally this role in Old Testament battle would be reserved for men. Thank God for women who will exercise dominion and step into the battle to be used by God.

To all the Godly women in the New Testament Church, I salute and commend you -- you are very valuable. There is no limitation to your taking dominion in the Kingdom of God. We need you and God needs you.

1.7 David - Man After God's Own Heart

- **The only one referred to as, "The man after God's own heart".**

Something very special was in David's life that we need to understand and reach for in our own lives. God referred to David as, "*A man after Mine own heart,*" because of:

- His great **relationship** with God.
- His willingness to step into the **dominion** role of doing **all** the will of God (even when that meant risking his own life).

There are 62 chapters in the Old Testament devoted to his biography. His name is mentioned 1,085 times in the Old

Testament and 58 times in the New Testament. There are more pages of the Bible dedicated to the life of David than any other person. His name is mentioned more than any other Bible character. Entire books could be written about David, and what is included here is a brief summary of the highlights of his life.

He is referred to by God, in a loving way, more than any other. There is no one else in the Bible with the name David. He is the one whom God says I cannot forget. Hundreds of years following his death, God is still saying: *“Because of David’s sake”*. No one in Holy Writ is mentioned so many times by God, by the Old Testament prophets, and by the New Testament writers. There is no one referred to so many times as being in the lineage of Jesus.

The first verse in the New Testament refers to **Jesus Christ as the Son of David**. The writers of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke) take pains to point to Jesus’ descent from David. The crowds and even the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of David and the Messiah of Israel. (Matt. 12:23; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15)

David’s life, more than any other character in the Bible, epitomizes and summarizes what this book is about: **relationship** and **dominion**. David captured God’s favor because of his **relationship** with Him (through praise and worship) and the **dominion** role in his life (fulfilling all of God’s will).

God loves us all the same because He is our heavenly Father. He does not love us less when we fail to do His will, and He doesn’t love us more when we do. But He does not favor us all the same. We individually choose to have a closer relationship with God and do His will. Joseph chose to have a closer relationship with his father than his brothers did, and thereby obtained his favor. John, the apostle who leaned on Jesus’ breast, chose to have a closer relationship with Jesus, and became the one privileged to receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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God does not favor us all the same. His favor results as we step into the **dominion** role to carry out His desires, His mission, His work and His will on earth. This is true in a natural father / child relationship. We love our children the same, whether they do what is right or not. We will never quit loving them and we will continue to give them good gifts because of our relationship with them.

But we must not confuse the blessings of God with the favor of God. You can love a child without their being in your favor, because they are not doing what you want them to do. The same is true with our heavenly Father. King David speaks about this, referring to God, "*He liked me*".

1 Chron. 28:4

*4 Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father **he liked me** to make me king over all Israel:*

*4 . . . **It was his pleasure to take me** and make me king over all Israel.*
GNT

*4 . . . **the LORD was pleased to make me king over all Israel.** NLT*

Acts 13:22-23

*22 ...he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, **which shall fulfil all my will.***

23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Ps. 40:6-8

*6 It isn't sacrifices and offerings that you really want from your people. Burnt animals bring no special joy to your heart. But you have **accepted the offer of my life-long service.***

7 Then I said, "See, I have come, just as all the prophets foretold.

*8 And **I delight to do your will**, my God, for your law is written upon my heart!"*

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Ps. 143:10

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Acts 13:36

*For David, after he had **served his own generation by the will of God**, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:*

David was anointed three times. The first was a private anointing which included only his family. The second time was a public anointing to be king over the two tribes of Judah, and lastly, a special anointing to be king over all twelve tribes of Israel.

- **There must first be a private anointing on our lives, that comes from pursuing a closer relationship with God, that precedes a public anointing to fulfill our dominion role -- affecting the lives of others.**

He had at least two private victories with no one else around when he killed the lion and the bear. There must be a private victory in our lives that precedes a public victory. This personal victory is over self and over satan, the one who goes about as a roaring lion. These private victories prepared David for a public victory against Goliath with the army of Israel looking on. We must like David take dominion over satan, doing hand-to-hand combat with the roaring lion.

From the earliest days of David's life, there are two significant things that brought God's blessings and favor:

- **Relationship brought God's blessings.**
- **Dominion brought God's favor.**

David's Relationship with God

As a shepherd boy, alone with his sheep on the hills of Bethlehem, David developed a relationship with God with his worship and

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praise. This continued throughout his life. We see this repeatedly in the Psalms:

- David talking to God and God talking to David.
- David loving God and God loving David.
- David trusting God and God trusting David.

All of this was driven by his hunger for God.

David's love for God was reflected in his great love for the house of God. If we are not faithful to God's house, there is a problem with our love for God. If we go to work or other places, in the same situation that we stay home from church, our love relationship is not in tune with God. David referred to the house of God as the most important place on earth:

Ps. 84:10

10 A single day spent in your Temple is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a doorman of the Temple of my God than live in palaces of wickedness. TLB

10 One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches. I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin. BCL

David's relationship of love and worship to his great God is shown in his building a tabernacle for worship with singers and instruments and a place for the ark of the covenant to be close to him in Jerusalem. The Tabernacle of David is referred to long after his death by the Old Testament prophets and New Testament writers.

Jerusalem, the holy city, is referred to as the city of God and the city of David. God's love for David is shown when He says: "*For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake*". (2 Kings 19:34; 2 Kings 20:6; Isa. 37:35; Isa. 38:6)

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When God chose to come into human existence, to redeem man, He chose Bethlehem, the city of David's birth and childhood.

Luke 2:4

*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the **city of David**, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*

Luke 2:11

*For unto you **is born this day in the city of David a Saviour**, which is Christ the Lord.*

There are many Scriptures in the Psalms that speak about David's relationship with God, particularly trusting God. Trust is a key concept in a relationship. The word *trust* is mentioned 50 times in the Psalms.

Ps. 37:3-5

*3 **Trust** in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

*5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; **trust** also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

David's Dominion with God

When God needed a man to meet the challenge of the enemy, who was blaspheming the name of God; when every warrior in Israel's army was afraid to meet the challenge, David, a young boy, stepped forward to do God's will. David didn't let God down and God didn't let him down.

First, David developed a beautiful **relationship with God** as a shepherd, and then a partnership of **dominion with God**. Against tremendous odds, many great victories were won.

The battle with Goliath was only the beginning of David pursuing greater levels of **dominion** over the enemy. And this is seen in

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the many victories that King David won in leading the children of Israel in battle against the enemies of the Lord.

David as a king, knew a lot about dominion in a natural kingdom. But he also experienced and wrote about the dominion that God gives to man to do His will and work on earth.

Ps. 8:4, 6

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

*6 Thou **madest him to have dominion** over the works of thy hands; thou hast **put all things under his feet**.*

Doing the work and will of God is synonymous with the **dominion** role that God wants all His children to claim and experience. The fact that he did **all of the will** of God is the key to his being the man after God's own heart.

God's great love for David is due to David's great love for God. When that is experienced in the life of a child of God, there follows a willingness and gladness to do God's will -- all of God's will. Conversely, our unwillingness to do all of God's will comes from an incomplete love for God. God is looking for: "**A man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will**" -- a man who not only wants a relationship with Him, but wants to fulfill his dominion role.

King David miserably failed with sins of adultery and murder for which he paid dearly. David should have been stoned according to the Law. But David's great favor with God caused Him to reach across the Dispensation of the Law, where there was a penalty of death, and extend to him the mercy and grace available on this side of Calvary. David was quick to repent as shown in his pleadings with God.

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Psalms 51 is one of David's prayers of repentance. In verses 1-12 we see his longing for the restoration of his **relationship** with God. When his relationship with God is restored, he acknowledges in verse 13 that God will again use him in the **dominion** role of doing His will to teach transgressors and convert sinners.

Ps. 51:1-4, 7, 9-13

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

- **Oh God, our desperately lost generation needs some Davids who will say, "Is there not a cause?" Our generation needs Christians who will rise up with righteous indignation in a dominion role to defeat the enemy, and to rescue souls that are held in bondage by the enemy of their soul. Our hurting and hopeless generation needs some giant killers!**

1.8 Samson - God Uses the Strongest Man

- **At this time, the Philistines had dominion over the nation of Israel.**
- **Relationship - a weakness in Samson's relationship with God cost him his life in fulfilling his destined dominion role.**
- **Dominion - Samson was used as a deliverer from the dominion of God's enemies - the Philistines.**

An angel announced to Samson's parents his birth and mission of dominion to deliver Israel from the Philistines. There was a special anointing on Samson's life that enabled him to perform superhuman feats and exploits.

Judg. 14:4-6

4 But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Like David, Samson had a private victory, when the lion (a type of satan) roared against him. Again, hand-to-hand combat alone with the enemy preceded public warfare and victory on the battlefield.

Samson apparently was not willing to step into his God-given destiny for dominion. God used another method to thrust him into the battle against the enemies of God, but he lost his life. Sometimes God uses drastic measures to bring us into His will and purpose.

Private victories and private anointings are needed for us to exercise dominion over the enemy. They prepare us for the next step into the public arena with dominion and authority in the name of our God.

We need to pray for the crippled and the sick in alley ways, homes, and other private places to test and develop our God-given dominion and authority. After these private victories and private anointings, like Samson and David, we will be equipped with faith and confidence for exercising dominion in the public arena.

1.9 Four Lepers - God Uses the Weakest Men

- **God used the weakness of man to defeat the Syrian army.**
- **The city of Samaria was surrounded and besieged by the Syrians, cut off from food and supplies. The people of Israel were starving, eating their own children.**
- **God used four leprous, incapacitated and dying men to defeat the enemies of God and bring victory to an entire city.**

2 Kings 7:3-9

3 And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there.

6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

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7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.

*8 And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and **hid it**.*

*9 Then they said one to another, **We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace:** if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.*

2 Kings 7:19-20

*19 And that lord answered the man of God, and said, **Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be?** And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.*

20 And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

- **The stirring message in the famine of Samaria is still applicable today. As born-again believers, we are in the same situation as the four lepers.**
 - We have received enough spiritual provision to sustain not only our lives, but the lives of many others.
 - God help us to respond to the challenge like the four lepers.
 - We do not well if we keep all this to ourselves.
 - If we do not share, some evil will come of us.
 - Let us feel God's compassion for those who are in need.
 - The endtime prophecy of great deliverance and revival must be received and believed, or judgment may fall on us like the king's servant who said: "*Now, behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be?*"

When we read of supernatural feats and accomplishments by great men of God, we often feel inadequate and doubt that God could use us in a similar way. That is a lie of satan. Surely if God used leprous dying men in a dominion role to defeat the large and imposing enemy, and bring a great victory to a desperate and impossible situation, He can use you and me. The only requirement is our availability and desire to serve God, by ridding ourselves of the fear and risk of taking action, when the cause of God is at stake.

1.10 Queen Esther - Willing to Risk Her Life

- **Used by God to preserve the Jews from a plot of destruction.**
- **She took dominion to win a great victory over Haman and the enemies of the Jews, who plotted to annihilate the entire Jewish nation.**

Est. 4:12-16

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

*13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, **Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.***

*14 **For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and** who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

*16 **Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.***

- **Esther was safe inside the palace as the queen, unidentified as a Jew.**
- **Mordecai instructed Esther to move out of her seemingly safe place and step into the battle or:**

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- God will send a deliverance from another place.
- You and your father's house will be destroyed.
- You may have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.
- **Esther's response to this desperate situation was to call a fast, pray and take action, despite the risk to her life in approaching the king: "If I perish, I perish" -- the cause is bigger than me and is worth dying for.**
- **The clear message in Esther's day is still applicable:**
 - Born-again believers are in the same position as Queen Esther (safe in the Kingdom of God).
 - Unless we get involved in the mission and the battle, God will send deliverance from another source, but we and our family may be lost.
 - May our response be that of Esther's -- willing to die for the cause.

1.11 Gideon - God Uses the Least Qualified Man

- **Used by God to deliver Israel from the dominion of their enemy, the Midianites.**
- **Israel, because of their sin, had been subservient to their enemies, the Midianites, for seven years. The Midianites were stealing their crops and cattle. Israel, in great distress and impoverished, were in need of deliverance.**

Judg. 6:1-6

1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

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4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

Gideon's willingness to align himself with God's purpose for Israel at that time is apparent in Scripture:

- **The burden of Gideon's soul.**

Judg. 6:13

And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles, which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

- **Aware and confessing his own weakness.**

Judg. 6:15

*And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my **family is poor** in Manasseh, and **I am the least in my father's house.***

- **He was humble, making him a man of valor in God's sight.**

Judg. 6:12

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

- **He destroyed the idols in his life.**

Judg. 6:25-26

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

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26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

- **The Spirit of God moved mightily upon him.**

Judg. 6:34

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him.

- **The enemy confessed the power of God through Gideon.**

Judg. 7:13-14

13 And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary" by BibleSoft

The sword which is to pierce must first be sharpened; the intelligence which is to guide must first be enlightened; the arm which is to prevail must be strengthened; the spirit which is to triumph over difficulties and obstacles must be awakened, and fed, and sustained. The work to which Gideon was called was no common work. A nation to be upheaved from the lowest vassalage of spiritless slaves and dejected helots into victory and freedom; another nation to be dragged down from power, and possession, and supremacy, and dominion, with no apparent instruments with which to affect it.

And who was Gideon? The least considered member of a poor family, of a divided tribe, of which no name was famous in the annals of his country; a man unknown and unheard of, whose occupation was to thresh corn stealthily, lest the Midianites should take it; a man thought nothing of by his own countrymen, and contemptuously overlooked by his foreign masters. There was no danger that Gideon would be credited with the work of

deliverance as an achievement of his own originality and innate power.

But he was the chosen instrument for delivering Israel. **He must then be prepared.** And two things were necessary. One to awaken in him a thorough trust in God. But it was also necessary to inspire him with a proper trust in himself. As long as he thought of himself only as the drudge of the family, a thresher of wheat, a skulker by the wine-press; as long as he felt himself one of a degraded caste, as long as he had no hope, no spirit, no sense of having a mission, he would and could do nothing great. The man, the warrior, the captain, the deliverer, the hero, the martyr, must be aroused within him. And so the voice of God addresses him, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. Go in thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite Midian as one man.

The Divine side of human history.

This section reveals an extraordinary change in the whole aspect of things in Israel. At the beginning of the chapter we see the people utterly cowed before their enemies, skulking in caves and dens and hiding-places, while their insolent masters take possession of their land, their food, their substance, and all that they had. For seven years had this state of things endured. It had become a matter of course that, when the season came, the Midianites and their allies should swarm across the Jordan, cover the land, devour everything, stay as long as they pleased, and then return unresisted to their own country. But at the close of the chapter a change, like the sudden melting of the snow in the spring, has taken place.

There are indeed the same Midianite hosts, 'like grasshoppers for multitude, and their camels without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude' (Judges 7:12); there are the same kings in all their pride of power, and the same princes as greedy as ravens for their prey, and as hungry as wolves in pursuit of the spoil (Judges 7:25). But when they reached the well-known plain of Jezreel, instead of tame submission, instead of the frightened people running like rabbits to their holes, they find a

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nation in arms. 32,000 men were at the feet of their leader. Instead of running, hiding, and yielding, there was arming, and combining, and defiance throughout the land. Now what was the cause of this great change? The respective numbers of the Midianites and Israelites were the same, the respective qualities of the nations were the same, the shape of the ground was the same, the resources of the two peoples were the same; whence the difference?

The difference lay in the motive power of the will of God. Before, His will was to give Israel up into the hands of Midian to punish their idolatry; now, His will was to deliver them on their true repentance. What regulates the world is the motive power of the will of God acting upon and through the wills and the capacities of men.¹

- **When the children of Israel got their relationship with God right, through their actions of repentance and destroying their idols, they were then able to step into the dominion role defeating their enemies -- the enemies of God.**
- **The story of Gideon illustrates that God doesn't look for natural giftings or talents when He performs the supernatural through His people. He just looks for those with humility and faith who are obedient and willing to do His will and work.** (Refer to the Addendum Volume, Chart F-1 The Path to Dominion in the Supernatural).
- **God does not need great numbers to do His work or defeat a large imposing enemy. He can work with few or many.**
- **Another encouraging thing we see in this story is how quickly our God can change a hopeless situation, a long term problem, a seemingly lost battle, into a great deliverance and complete victory.**

- **Initially Gideon was afraid, but God patiently gave him training to overcome it. The Scripture describes Gideon as afraid and a doubter, questioning God, with an inferiority complex, unsure whether or not he was dreaming when the angel appeared. He took a companion with him to the camp of the enemy, because he was afraid to go by himself.**
- **The wonderful message from this story is that the obedience of a few can bring great victory to many!**

“If God be for us who can be against us?”

“For there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.”

“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: What can man do unto me?”

1.12 Nehemiah - Restoration of Jerusalem

- **Used by God in a dominion role to bring restoration to Jerusalem with the rebuilding of the walls and the defeat of the enemies that plotted to stop their work.**
 - He was safe in the king’s palace.
 - God placed him in this key position and gave him a burden for Jerusalem.
 - He prays, fasts and begins to repent for the Jewish nation.
 - In the dominion role, he acted on his burden and began rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
 - God honored Nehemiah’s actions by working a miracle of restoration.

Neh. 1:3-9

3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

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4 *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

5 *And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*

6 *Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and **confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.***

7 ***We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.***

8 *Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*

9 *But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

Neh. 2:2-5

2 *Wherefore the king said unto me, why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,*

3 *And said unto the king, let the king live forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?*

4 *Then the king said unto me, for what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.*

5 *And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, **that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.***

Neh. 4:14, 16, 17

14 *Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and **fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.***

*16 And it came to pass from that time forth, that the **half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons.** KJV*

*17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with **one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.***

Neh. 4:17

*The common laborers held a **tool in one hand and a spear in the other.** MSG*

Neh. 6:15-16

*15 So the wall was finished in the **twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.***

*16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that **this work was wrought of our God.***

- **Restoration of the church and the born-again believer will come like it did for Nehemiah through prayer, fasting, a burden for the Kingdom of God, and then taking anointed actions of dominion.**
- **Similar to Nehemiah's day, the Lord's work of restoration will not go unchallenged by the enemy. We must fight for our sons, our daughters, our wives and our brothers (saved and unsaved). And we must, like they, engage in the battle and the work with a sword in one hand and a sickle in the other.**

1.13 Daniel - God's Man in a Foreign Land

- **Daniel is remembered for his close relationship with God.**
 - He prayed consistently three times a day, even when it was against the law of the king, and a risk to his life. The archangel Gabriel was dispatched to tell Daniel he was greatly beloved by God.

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- **God used Daniel in dominion over the Babylonian enemies and the awakening for the restoration of Israel.**
- **Daniel was known for his dominion with God in fulfilling God's purpose and will. This included dominion over lions, a type of satan and his kingdom.**
 - Daniel will be remembered for his deliverance -- not from the lions den -- but deliverance in the lions den.
 - Daniel also fulfilled the will of God in a heathen land under difficult circumstances.
 - Daniel received revelation that it was time for restoration of Israel back to their homeland after 70 years of captivity.
 - The wheels of restoration of Israel were set in motion through Daniel's burdened prayer, fasting, and repenting for Israel.
 - Daniel's favor with God is demonstrated dramatically when He sent a heavenly messenger at least three times and announced to Daniel, ***"Oh Daniel, greatly beloved"***.
 - Daniel is the only one recorded in Scripture where both archangels, Gabriel, the messenger angel, and Michael, the warring angel, got involved in bringing an answer to his prayers.

Dan. 6:7, 10, 19-22 Daniel praying three times a day.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

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20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?**

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, *O king, live forever.*

22 **My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:** forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Dan. 9:2-5, 21-23 Revelation and prayer for time of restoration.

2 In the first year of his reign **I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.**

3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by **prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:**

4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and **made my confession**, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

5 **We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:**

21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man **Gabriel**, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; **for thou art greatly beloved:** therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Dan. 10:2, 3, 10-13

2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

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*11 And he said unto me, **O Daniel, a man greatly beloved**, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.*

12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

*13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, **Michael**, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

Dan. 10:18-19

18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

*19 And said, **O man greatly beloved**, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, let my lord speak; thou hast strengthened me.*

Daniel was safe in his position in the kingdom of Babylon, but he risked his life to pray. His victory in the lions den, like David and Samson represented a private victory over satan, the roaring lion. Daniel received God's blessings through relationship, but he received God's favor through the dominion role in doing God's will -- "**Oh Daniel, greatly beloved**".

Like Daniel, we need to pray for an understanding of the times. The calendar, the world news and the prophetic time clocks of God's Word point to the last of the last days. It is now time for complete restoration of the apostolic ministry of the Book of Acts.

Following Daniel's example we must claim the promise of restoration through our burdened prayer and fasting, thus lifting our relationship with God to a higher level. Our faith and apostolic action with dominion in Jesus name, will bring restoration and the resulting great endtime harvest of souls.

1.14 Moses - God Uses the Meekest Man

- **Restoration of Moses' vision preceded dominion over the Egyptians.**
- **He partnered with God for Israel's deliverance.**

The Israelites had lived in Egypt for many years enslaved to the Egyptians. Pharaoh, a type of satan, had dominion over the people of God for many generations. They were out of God's will because God's plan is for His people to have dominion on this earth.

As long as Joseph was alive, the children of Israel had been treated favorably. But they had become too comfortable to return to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God allowed great oppression from the Egyptians to initiate their desire for dominion over their enemy and a subsequent exodus from Egypt to Canaan.

Ex. 3:2, 4-5, 7-10

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: And he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, God said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

*7 And the LORD said, **I have surely seen the affliction of my people** which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;*

*8 And **I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, And to bring them up out of that land unto a good land And a large, unto a land flowing with milk And honey; . . .***

*9 Now therefore, **behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: And I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.***

*10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou **mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.***

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Ex. 6:4-8

4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, God I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, And I will rid you out of their bondage, And I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, And with great judgments:

*7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: And ye shall know that **I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.***

8 And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, And to Jacob; And I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

Restoration of the vision of one man can bring restoration to many. Everything physical or spiritual is created twice, first in the mind as a vision and a concept, and then in reality. Faith is what connects the current reality to the future vision -- reaching for the invisible and believing for the impossible.

Most significant visions have a life cycle: conception, birth, time and circumstance and death of the vision before it is resurrected and realized. Our great God is a **God of resurrection and restoration of visions**. He wants to restore our visions -- visions that may have been dreamed many years ago and possibly buried beneath unfavorable circumstances for many years.

Restoration of Israel from Egypt began with the restoration of the vision of Moses that had been buried 40 years in the sand of the Sinai Desert:

- Restoration can only come when our vision is restored.
- Do you have a vision that has been buried? We are serving a God of resurrection -- resurrection of visions -- restoration of dominion in His Kingdom.

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The devil will try to stop the one who has a vision of restoration:

- Pharaoh (type of satan) killed all the boy babies just to kill baby Moses.
- King Herod killed all the boy babies in his attempt to kill baby Jesus.
- Apostle Paul refers to fighting the beasts at Ephesus as he reached to claim a great vision of revival.

It was a sharp demotion from Pharaoh's palace to the wilderness. The shepherd's life vs. the brilliant future in the palace of Egypt tested Moses and prepared him for the lead role in dominion over their enemies. The greater the promotion, the greater the test.

The children of Israel groaned under the taskmasters of Egypt. God listened to their cries and searched for someone willing to step into a dominion role. Moses had abandoned hope of Israel's deliverance. He was willing to spend the rest of his days on the backside of the desert; but God had something else for him to do.

Moses was comfortable as a shepherd, a vision-ending career without risk. But God tested and humbled Moses for the task ahead. It is always God's will to deliver His people and to restore them to the place of dominion, pursuing His eternal purpose for their lives.

During the first 40 years, Moses learned to be somebody. The second 40 years Moses learned to be nobody, experiencing the death of a vision. The third 40 years Moses learned to serve everybody in a dominion role.

Restoration of a nation started with one man, Moses. His call of dominion had far reaching effects that would preserve their destiny. Restoration of one vision resulted in the restoration of the visions of millions of Israelites who may have otherwise died under the cruel hand of Pharaoh (satan).

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Some of us have spent many years living for God -- years that have prepared us for this last great harvest before the end of all things - - the last stand of good vs. evil. Our best days are before us. Everything that has happened to us has prepared us for now and the few short days before the coming of Christ.

Moses was 80 years old now, past his usefulness in a challenging venture as far as the world was concerned. But regardless of how old we are, we must be prepared like Moses to say, "yes" to our destiny of dominion that God has purposed and willed for us.

God's greatest desire is for us to go beyond just a relationship with Him and to answer the call like Moses, the call of destiny for dominion and authority in carrying out His mission.

God has heard the groaning of our generation and has seen the oppression from the cruel taskmaster, the god of this world. And today He hears what He heard in Moses' day, and I paraphrase the Scripture:

Ex. 3:9

*Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of **(this last generation)** is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith **(satan)** oppresses them.*

Ex. 6:5-6

*5 And I have also heard the groaning of **(the lost generation of the 21st century, whom satan, the god of this world)** keeps in bondage.
6 Wherefore say unto **(this hurting generation)**, I am the Lord God and I will bring you out from under the burdens of **(the kingdom of satan)**, and I will rid you out of **(his)** bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm.*

God is searching for dedicated men and women who will respond to His call of dominion -- dominion over self and the power of satan, as well as dominion to reach the lost and dying of this generation.

- **Moses not only had a burning bush experience, he became a burning bush -- consumed with the fire of the will and purpose of God. He became consumed with a cause bigger than his will, his plans and his comfort.**

When an animal sacrifice was accepted in the Old Testament, it was consumed by fire. Now in the New Testament, it is our bodies, our lives that are the living sacrifice.

Rom. 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

I And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?
NLT

- **Oh God, give us a burning bush experience like Moses. Let our sacrifice be pleasing so that Your fire will fall and consume us, causing us to become a burning bush -- consumed with the purpose and will of God.**
 - Consume my will so that Your will may be done.
 - Consume my mind with Your thoughts.
 - Consume my emotions so that I will feel Your love and compassion for lost souls.
- **We will then experience the fire of the Holy Ghost that will bring an excitement and a higher level of Christian living and service, beyond anything we have previously experienced or dreamed.**
 - He has first place in our lives, and what is in second place is not even close. We know He is number one in our lives, and He knows He is number one in our lives.
 - There is a spiritual euphoria in our lives completely immersing us in His will.

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- **The life of Moses is a beautiful story epitomizing the fulfillment of God's purpose for man -- relationship and dominion.**

Relationship - He talked to God face to face.

Ex. 33:11

And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

Dominion - He exercised tremendous courage in fulfilling God's will and work in dealing with Pharaoh and leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Deut. 34:10-12

*10 And there arose **not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses**, whom the LORD knew face to face,*

11 In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land,

12 And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

The Death of Moses is a Beautiful Story

Even in the death of Moses is a beautiful story often overlooked. Although he was not allowed to enter Canaan, the Promised Land, he went to the Promised Land -- heaven. The next time we see him in Scripture, he is standing with Jesus and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration.

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary" by Biblesoft

Deut. 34:1-12 -- The Death And Burial Of Moses.

We have in this concluding chapter the remarkable account of the death and burial of Moses. He had, as we have seen, blessed the tribes; he had laid his hands on Joshua (ver. 9), and thus ordained him, so to speak, to the leadership; he had given his manuscripts to the priests to be deposited in the ark; and now all that remains for him to do is to take the course God indicated to the mountain-top, see the Promised Land, and die.

Let Us Notice The View Of Canaan And Of Life From The Mountain-Top. It is evident, we think, that Moses went up the mountain without an escort. He was going up to hold high communion with God, as he had done on Sinai. Mountain-tops are favorite places for communion with God in the case of busy men like Moses and our Savior (Luke 9:28). It was a sublime solitude, filled with the presence of God. Sooner or later, God draws his servants upwards out of the bustle of life to have special communion with him and finish their course with joy.

Jonathan Edwards notices, in his 'Notes on the Bible,' that 'God ordered that Aaron and Moses should go up to the tops of mountains to die, to signify that the death of Godly men is but an entrance into a heavenly state. There may have been an element of sadness in Moses dying on the threshold of the Promised Land; but there was an element of glory in the death-bed among the mountains.

God In His Love Not Only Took Charge Of The Dying But Also Of The Dead. He died with God; and God buried him. No wonder the poetess calls it 'the grandest funeral that ever passed on earth.'

‘And had he not high honor?
The hill-side for his pall;
To lie in state, while angels wait
With stars for tapers tall;
And the dark rock-pines, like tossing plumes,
Over his bier to wave;
And God’s own hand, in that lonely land,
To lay him in the grave!’

This disposal of the body, as well as of the departed spirit, was surely a significant act on the part of God. He took the matter as completely out of the hands of Israel, as in the Resurrection our Lord’s body was taken out of the keeping of the Roman guard. Was it not to indicate that the body as well as the soul is to share in the redeeming care of God, and so far an earnest of the resurrection?¹

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- **When our lives fulfill God's purpose for relationship and dominion, like that of Moses, there is beauty even in our death.**

Ps. 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Num. 23:10

10 Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

10 Let me end my days like one of God's people; Let me die in peace like the righteous. TEV

1.15 Isaiah's Revival of Relationship and Dominion

- **When King Uzziah died, the arm of flesh that Isaiah had been depending on was taken away.**
- **Then Isaiah's relationship with God was renewed and elevated to a new level.**
- **He then willingly accepted the dominion role answering the call of God. God asked, "Who will go?" Isaiah answered, "Here am I send me."**
- **Then He received a greater revelation of God and became one of the greatest prophetic voices of the Old Testament pointing to the coming Messiah.**

Isaiah was a man called of God, a prophet, and a priest who performed priesthood duties in the temple. As the son of Amos, he knew all about the sacred place, having performed those functions numerous times. He served through the reign of four monarchs. But of all the kings whom he served, King Uzziah was to him the greatest of all.

King Uzziah was second only to David in military might. He had invented very powerful weapons of war and cannons that could shoot stones from the walls of the cities. He was a great military

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warrior and served as the monarch of Israel for many years. When his name was spoken the nations of the world trembled because of his military strength. During his reign, Judah developed into a strong commercial and military state. Yet during this time period Judah witnessed a spiritual decline.

Isaiah felt extremely secure under the leadership, friendship and protection of this king, because his name was revered. But Isaiah's relationship to Jehovah God was not complete, because he relied on the arm of flesh. He was trusting too much in a powerful earthly king and not enough in the heavenly King.

When it comes to the Kingdom of God and our relationship with God, it is very dangerous to depend on human strength. It will displease God, affect our trust in Him and weaken the leading of His Spirit in our lives. God desires a relationship with His children of complete trust and confidence in His ways, in His wisdom and in His ability.

Isa. 31:1

Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Jer. 17:5

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

After King Uzziah's death, Isaiah stopped by the house of God. Isaiah chapter 6 describes his life-changing vision and encounter with God.

Isa. 6:1-8

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

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3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

*5 Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone**; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

*7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, **Lo**, this hath touched thy lips; **and thine iniquity is taken away**, and thy sin purged.*

*8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and **who will go for us**? Then said I, **Here am I; send me**.*

-- From Author Unknown

ISAIAH'S VISION - A Vision we all must experience from time to time.

Isaiah 6:5 **Woe**, a word of confession.

Isaiah 6:7 **Lo**, a word of remission.

Isaiah 6:7 **Go**, a word of commission. Five hundred years later, "Go" is still the most important word of Jesus in His great commission to every born-again believer.

- It was an **upward** vision: He saw the **Lord** in His holiness and glory.
- It was an **inward** vision: He saw **himself** and his need to repent and deepen his commitment and **relationship** with God.
- It was an **outward** vision: He saw the world, the needs of others and a calling to step further into the **dominion** role.
- It was a vision of **height**: The Lord high and lifted up.
- It was a vision of **depth**: The recesses of his own heart that need to be cleansed and changed.
- It was a vision of **breadth**: A world with needs that must be met.
- It was a vision of **holiness**: A holy God with the angels crying 'Holy, Holy'.
- It was a vision of **helplessness**: 'I am undone.' (man's needs).

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- It was a vision of **help requested**: ‘Who will go?’ (God’s needs).²

Like Isaiah, a vision from God will first bring an inward look, which will bring an inward revival with inward fruit, and a greater **relationship** with God. Then God’s burden and call will bring an outward look with an outward revival and outward fruit (ministering to the needs of others) and a greater step into the **dominion** role of doing God’s will and work. The greater our inward look -- inward revival with inward fruit; the greater will be our outward look -- outward revival with outward fruit.

Isaiah’s Revelation

After Isaiah’s vision and life-changing reaction to the call of God, his ministry took a dramatic change. At the beginning of the very next chapter, he gets a glimpse of Jesus, the promised Messiah and writes: “*Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*”

After that we see again and again in his writings through the telescope of prophecy, an unfolding revelation of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ:

- Isa. 9:1-2 His ministry in Zebulun, Naphtali, Galilee.
- Isa. 9:6 Unto us a child is born.... His name shall be called wonderful, counselor.
- Isa. 11:1 A rod out of the stem of Jesse.
- Isa. 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding.
- Isa. 25:6-12 Will swallow up death in victory.
- Isa. 29:18 The deaf shall hear, eyes of the blind shall see.
- Isa. 35:4-6 Be a healer and savior and do miracles.
- Isa. 40:3-5 Someone will prepare for his coming.
- Isa. 40:10-11 He will be a shepherd who tends His sheep.

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- Isa. 42:1-4 Be a servant of God.
Isa. 42:6 Be a light to the Gentiles.
Isa. 50:7 Will be beaten and spat upon.
Isa. 52:14 Be mistreated more than any man, hardly recognized.
Isa. 53:1-3 Be despised and rejected.
Isa. 53:4 Bear our grief and carry our sorrow.
Isa. 53:5 Wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities.
Isa. 53:7 Led as a lamb to the slaughter, accused, would not open His mouth.
Isa. 53:9 Buried with the rich.
Isa. 53:10-11 Made an offering for sin.
Isa. 53:12 Make intercession for the transgressors.
Isa. 55:4-5 Call those who were not His people (Gentiles).
Isa. 59:16-20 The Redeemer will come out of Zion.
Isa. 60:1-3 Darkness shall cover the earth. Nations shall walk in the light of the Lord.
Isa. 61:1-2 This was Jesus' mission statement that He referred to in Luke 4:16-21.

*1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*

- **New levels of relationship with God will always bring new levels of revelation of God and new levels of dominion in doing His will and work.**

III. Dominion - New Testament

The Two Commandments:

- *Love God with all your heart (Relationship)*
 - *Love your neighbor as yourself (Dominion)*
Ministering to their needs
-

1. New Testament Dominion - Introduction

This section is a summary of the New Testament teachings of God's purpose and will for His people, to go beyond their role of relationship with Him, and assume the dominion role to complete His mission in doing His will and work.

The Believer's Relationship with God in the New Testament

In the New Testament Church, we become a participant in a covenant relationship with God, when we are born again of the water and Spirit. The new birth experience makes us a part of His Kingdom and His family as a son of God. He is our Father, we are His sons. This is the New Covenant foretold in the Old Testament.

Jer. 31:31-33

*31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **New Covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

*33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will **put my law in their***

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inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Believer's Dominion Role in the New Testament

Throughout the history of Israel in the Old Testament it was God's will for them to have dominion to carry out His plan. Under the Old and New Covenants, God's will has always been for His people to participate in a dominion role. He wants us to partner with Him to carry out His mission and work to:

- Wage war and join in the spiritual battle against the kingdom of satan.
- Be involved in a spiritual conquest to reclaim spiritual territory -- restoration of apostolic ministry as in the Book of Acts.
- Be a channel to bless the rest of the earth.
- Allow God to work through us, revealing His mighty acts of power and love as a witness to the lost in our hurting world.

2. *Our Role as Sons of God*

Although God created man for a wonderful relationship of love, communion and trust, His higher purpose was to empower man with dominion and authority to represent Him on earth.

He is our heavenly Father and when we are born again of the water and Spirit we become His sons. As His sons we not only inherit His wonderful blessings and promises, but we also inherit His business. It is His desire that we would be partakers of His divine nature.

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The nature and traits of a father are passed down to his son. God created man in His image because He wanted a son that would look like Him, act like Him, love what He loves and hate what He hates. Now, it is the Father's will for us as sons of God to do what He did while here on earth, and do it like He did it. Jesus, who was Jehovah God of the Old Testament tabernacled in flesh, came

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to this earth to become the supreme sacrifice for sin, and also to example in His ministry His will for our lives.

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall He do also; and greater works than these shall He do; because I go unto my Father.

If we are to partner with God in a dominion relationship as sons of God, we **must first receive the confirmation** that Jesus, as Son of Man, got at the Jordan River just before He began His miracle ministry.

Voice from Heaven and Revelation at the Jordan River

Matt. 3:16-17

16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

*17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.*

Mark 1:11 (Luke 3:22)

*And there came a voice from heaven, saying, **Thou art my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.*

Voice from Heaven and Revelation at the Mount of Transfiguration

Mark 9:7-8 (Matt. 17:5, Luke 9:35)

*7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear him.***

8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

2 Peter 1:16-18

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

Our Role as Sons of God

*17 For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Voice from heaven and revelation at the Jordan River and mount of Transfiguration.

What Jesus heard: ***“Thou art My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”***

What others heard: ***“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear Him.”***

- **When our heavenly Father is pleased with us as His beloved sons, there will be a witness of the Spirit in our lives: “*Thou art My beloved son*”. There will also be a witness to the world: “*This is My beloved son, hear him*”. Others will see and feel the effects of the power of God in our lives.**

-
- *God hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ
(Relationship)*
 - *He hath given us the ministry of reconciliation
(Dominion - reaching the lost)*

II Corinthians 5:18

3. *God and Man Dominion Roles*

If we are to be partakers of **His divine nature as sons of God**, then we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus, fulfilling and completing His mission. We will be partners with Him in the dominion roles that He intends for us to fulfill, to carry out His purpose and plan on earth.

2 Peter 1:4

*4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature** ...*

*4 ... and that you will **share in his divine nature**. NLT*

*4 ... and to **give us his own character**. TLB*

John 1:12

*But as many as received him, to them **gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name.*

God wanted us to understand this partnership, so the Bible describes our great Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in **dominion roles** to which we can relate. Dominion denotes authority, power, and actions to carry out a mission.

The Old Testament mirrors God's plan and will for us as born-again believers in the New Testament. Born again of the water

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and Spirit, we became sons of God. And He has empowered us to complete His work and business here on earth.

Our Heavenly Father is:	It is His will for us as sons of God to be:
The Great Physician , the great healer of the complete man: body, soul and spirit.	A physician healing the hurting of our generation.
The Great Commander , a billion Star General, in the war against satan and sin.	A soldier engaging in spiritual warfare against the kingdom of satan, and to fight the good fight of faith.
The King of Kings , the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent ruler of the universe.	A prince serving in His Kingdom with dominion over the prince of this world, satan.
The Great High Priest , the great intercessor that once and for all offered the atoning sacrifice for our sins.	A priest , a holy man, an anointed man to serve as an intercessor to our lost world.
The Lord of the Harvest .	A harvester in His harvest field.

In the Old Testament there were a few holy men chosen to be priests and a few special anointed leaders. But it is different today in the New Testament Church -- every born-again believer is a holy anointed man or woman. As sons of God we can take dominion like David, Samson, Daniel, Esther, Moses and others. The New Testament Church must assume the inheritance of His business and duplicate the ministry of dominion that Jesus exemplified for us on earth for three and one half years.

3.1 Great Physician / Physician

Our heavenly Father, the Great Physician, desires that we follow in His steps ministering to the needs of the sick, the hurting and the lost. We are the physicians whom He has commissioned to attend to human needs.

When a doctor receives his certificate, he announces it to the world. When we are born again of the water and the Spirit, we receive our commission as a physician, and the world should know as well.

Luke 4:18 The Great Physician's mission statement.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to **preach the gospel** to thee; He hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to preach **deliverance to the captives**, and **recovering of sight to the blind**, to **set at liberty** them that are bruised,*

Luke 5:30-32 Jesus referred to Himself as a physician attending the sick.
30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against His disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

*31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a **physician**; but they that are sick.*

*32 I came not to call the righteous, but **sinners** to repentance.*

Jesus the Great Physician

The gospels record 33 miracles of Jesus, 63 times as follows:

- 18 in Matthew
- 18 in Mark
- 19 in Luke
- 8 in John

Jesus provided healing for the complete man: body, soul and spirit. He ministered to physical needs first, and then to spiritual needs.

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they

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should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Jesus Commissioned Other Physicians to Carry on His Business

The 12 disciples represent the fivefold ministry.

Matt. 10:5, 8

*5 These **twelve** Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:*

*8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:** freely ye have received, freely give.*

Luke 9:1

*Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and **authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.***

The 70 represent the laity, every born-again believer.

Luke 10:1, 9, 17, 19

*1 After these things the Lord **appointed other seventy** also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*

*9 And **heal the sick** that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

John 14:12

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **greater works** than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

Mark 16:17-18

*17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they **cast out devils**; they shall speak with new tongues;*

*18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall **lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

The Apostles Carry on the Physician Business of Jesus

Mark 16:20

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Acts 5:12

*And by the hands of the apostles were many **signs and wonders** wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.*

Acts 4:29-30

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

*30 By stretching forth **thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders** may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*

Acts 5:15

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

James 5:14-15

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

The Sick and Hurting

Jesus, the Master Physician, who heals broken hearts, broken bodies and broken spirits, has placed this work in our hands. The world desperately needs a physician for their physical wounds, as well as the wounds of their mind and emotions, and the needs of their spirit. The world is full of people crying out in despair and hopelessness -- desperately in need of deliverance, healing and salvation.

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Jer. 8:20-22

20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

*22 **Is there no balm in Gilead**; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?*

20 “The harvest is finished, and the summer is gone,” the people cry, “yet we are not saved!”

21 I weep for the hurt of my people. I am stunned and silent, mute with grief.

*22 Is there no medicine in Gilead? **Is there no physician** there? Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people? NLT*

Does anyone hear our generation crying for help -- help from a caring physician? There is a remedy, there is a balm in Gilead to heal and restore. But there must be those who know the remedy and will assume their responsibility as a physician.

The Great Physician is hearing the desperate cries of a hopelessly lost world. He is listening and looking at the great need, and He is seeking for help. He is now calling for His sons who enjoy a great relationship with Him to assume their dominion role as a physician. He is calling every available believer into action as a caring, compassionate physician -- one like the Good Samaritan who will love their wounded neighbor and go to where they are (physical, emotional and spiritual location) and minister to their needs.

3.2 Great Commander / Soldier

Our heavenly Father is the Great Commander in the war against the kingdom of satan. As His son, we are called to be a soldier serving in the army of the Lord and fighting in His battle.

Soldier of the Cross - The Weapon of Prayer, Fasting and the Word (Spirit and Truth)

Prayer and fasting energizes and empowers our spirit with His Spirit. The Word of God is the truth that guides our lives. When we consume it, it begins to consume us. Combined with prayer and fasting, we are energized to fight the good fight of faith exercising dominion and authority over every evil force.

Mark 9:28-29

28 And when He was come into the house, His disciples asked him privately, why could not we cast him out?

29 And He said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Eph. 6:11-13, 18 Starts with put on the whole armour and ends with praying always.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2 Cor. 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

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5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Cor. 10:4-5

*4 I use **God's mighty weapons**, not those made by men, **to knock down the devil's strongholds**.*

*5 These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding him. **With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God and change them into men whose hearts' desire is obedience to Christ.***
TLB

2 Cor. 4:3-4

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

*4 In whom **the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

3 ...the Good News we preach is hidden to anyone, it is hidden from the one who is on the road to eternal death.

*4 **Satan, who is the God of this evil world, has made him blind, unable to see the glorious light of the Gospel that is shining upon him or to understand the amazing message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is God.*** TLB

Acts 26:17-18

*17 ... Yes, **I am going to send you** to the Gentiles.*

*18 ... **to open their eyes to their true condition** so that they may repent and live in the light of God instead of in satan's darkness, **so that they may receive forgiveness** for their sins and **God's inheritance** along with all people everywhere whose sins are cleansed away, who are set apart by faith in me.* TLB

1 John 5:19

*We know that we are children of God and that **all the rest of the world around us is under satan's power and control*** TLB

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1 John 3:8

*For this **purpose** the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil.***

Luke 13:16

*And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years,** be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*

2 Cor. 4:4

*In whom **the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

2 Tim. 2:26

*And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, **who are taken captive by him at His will.***

2 Tim. 2:3-4

***3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**
4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;
that He may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

1 Tim. 1:18

*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest **war a good warfare;***

This is referring to a war, a spiritual war involving spiritual battles. This is the same enemy in a war that has been waged through the centuries between right and wrong, between the forces of good and evil. The lost of our cities will be rescued and saved as we engage in warfare that involves prayer and fasting and ministering to needs.

Our cities will be impacted through the two arms of the church -- the Prayer Ministry and the Compassion and Care Ministry. The Prayer Ministry provides direction and power; while the

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Compassion and Care Ministry mobilizes us to affect lives and minister to the needs of people.

The lost are bound and blinded by satan and cannot help themselves. Spiritual warfare is required to destroy satan's bondage that has bound men and kept them from coming to God and being saved. Spiritual battle must be waged to destroy satan's strongholds and bring freedom to captives. Jesus won the victory at Calvary, but we must complete His mission and enforce the victory through prayer (relationship with God) and care (dominion - relationship with man in need).

Our Weapon of Prayer Against the Kingdom of Satan

Is your weapon of prayer a pellet gun? Is it an antique muzzleloader hanging over the fireplace, a relic of the past? Is it a machine gun or a cannon? Is it a laser-guided bomb -- sending the warhead to the exact target?

- **How much damage are we causing to satan's kingdom? How deeply are we involved in rescuing lost and dying souls? That depends on whether we are fulfilling God's will for our life in our dominion role as a soldier in the war against the kingdom of evil and darkness.**

3.3 King of Kings / Prince

Our heavenly Father is the King of Kings. As His sons we have been given the authority and power of a prince to perform His Kingdom work.

My Father is a King, and as the child of a King, I am a prince. He has willed His Kingdom work and business to us, and granted us the dominion, authority, and the power of attorney to execute His mission. Assuming this role of authority in His Kingdom, however, is a process.

The Birth of a Prince

Assuming the role of a prince **will not come with entitlement** just because we are the son of the King. It will take wrestling with God in prayer and we will not be praying, “Lord change my situation”, but we will be praying, “Lord change me”. We must have an encounter of the changing kind where there is a breaking in our life, and a rending of the veil of self (our will, our mind, and our emotions).

Gen. 32:24-26

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

It sounds wonderful to inherit and step into the role of a prince. But it does not happen that way. It involves a process that is designed by the King of Kings for His sons. Becoming a prince is a process resulting in death to self and allowing Him to rule and reign in our lives. Becoming a prince that has power with God

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and man will most likely happen like it happened to Jacob as we become desperate for a transforming touch.

Jacob lived many years with his own plans and abilities. Aside from God's plan, he remained, "Jacob". But when he faced a crisis of the heart, it was he that needed to be changed, not his circumstances.

He separated himself from everyone and everything to meet with God alone. He wrestled for the real blessing of God, not one of his own making. The blessing he had received many years before was with the blessing he had worked out his own way. Through his desperation, the true blessing from God would come. His desperation said: "I cannot let you go because I cannot continue without this blessing, without a change in my life". That is the same hunger and desire that will bring a breakthrough change in our lives.

Then the blessing came in an unexpected way when the Lord's divine touch did not delight him, nor bless him -- but rather it crippled him. It broke him of his own ways and will. From that day forward, Jacob walked with a limp, a sign that denoted the day when he met face to face with the Lord and lived. Yet Jacob didn't live, for on that day Jacob died and Israel, a prince was born.

Gen. 32:27-28

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

*28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: **for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.***

This kind of breakthrough change will come to us, not just by death to sin, but something even more difficult, and that is **death to self.**

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Death to Self:	Alive to Christ:
My will	For His will to be done
My ways	For His ways to be followed
My thoughts	To have the mind of Christ
My emotions	To have His love and compassion for the lost and dying

Self must be broken and permanently handicapped like Jacob, so His Spirit can rule and reign in my life.

“Oh God, let us hunger for an encounter of the changing kind, that will bring a breakthrough change -- **death to self and alive to Christ**. It will take the same transforming power of Your Spirit that saved us from a world of sin, to continue to bring breakthrough changes in our lives.”

This dramatic change in Jacob’s life from one night alone with God, foreshadowed the process of the cross. The cross is something painful coming against you to change you. It is fiery trial that identifies and removes the impurities in the gold.

The cross is one of the greatest paradoxes in the Kingdom of God. There are many tears as we can only find comfort in talking to God, the only One who understands. He is the only One who knows what is going on in our lives, because it is His plan. And in retrospect we better understand why and what was going on -- that the trial, the cross has changed us.

- **The cross that we have resisted and feared, has been our friend and it has become a bridge to the next phase of the will of God in our lives.**
 - The heat of the fiery trial has burned out some things in our

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life.

- The impurities in the gold have been melted and removed.
- Our dreams have died and God's dream is born.
- Our candle has been blown out and His light is shining in and through our lives.

Like Jacob, a prince is born, a prince that has power with God and man.

Dominion Over the Prince of this World

Satan is referred to in Scripture as the prince of the power of the air and the prince of this world. With my Father's authority and name, I have dominion as a child of the King, and as a prince to overcome and defeat satan. And when my **relationship** with God is right, then like King David describes in Psalms 91, I can assume the dominion role of a prince to tread upon, "...*the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan*", Rev. 20:2.

Ps. 91:13

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Luke 10:19

*Behold, I give unto you **power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

-- From "Worship His Majesty" by Jack Hayford

He has made us kings under the King of Kings. Most literally, the text describes us as a kingdom of priests, or to use Peter's words, "*a royal priesthood*", 1 Peter 2:9. Kings have to do with ruling, with kingdoms, with authority and, very often, with warfare. Too seldom has worship been seen as related to spiritual warfare and conquest. But worship is intended to introduce God's Kingdom power throughout the church and to extend that power through the church.

God's own Word clearly reveals that He was creating people not so much for fellowship as He was establishing them for rulership - granting us a relationship with our Creator that would give us the ability to carry out our intended role on earth: to become rulers.

God's purpose for creating man and woman, while including fellowship, was definitely much more. God was inviting us into partnership with Him. We were being made kings and our dominion was to be all the earth. The dimensions of God's domain and ours were vastly different. God was and is Creator and Ruler of the entire universe, while we were created to be rulers over one planet (see Ps..115:16).

But there is no escaping one awesome fact: Without jealousy for His own power and at great risk and potential cost to Himself, God not only created a being with certain capacities much like His own, but He also welcomed the creature into a kind of co-regency - at least insofar as Earth was concerned. The privilege of rulership was our assigned role, but resource for its performance was dependent upon a foundational relationship. Our rule was to be sustained by our worship of Him.¹

The Glory of the King

The word "king" brings to mind: regal, royalty, honor, majesty, glory, power, and dominion.

1 Peter 5:10-11

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

*11 To him be **glory and dominion** for ever and ever. Amen.*

Jude 1:25

*To the only wise God our Saviour, be **glory and majesty, dominion and power**, both now and ever. Amen.*

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- **The King of Kings is the source of all glory and He won't share it with anyone else. He wants us to be a carrier, reflecting His glory through us to a dark world. Only when we do His will, does our life glorify the King of Kings.**

Isa. 60:1-3

*1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the **glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.***

*2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and **his glory shall be seen upon thee.***

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Ps. 96:3

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

Ps. 8:4-6

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

*5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast **crowned him with glory and honour.***

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

1 Thess. 2:12

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

2 Cor. 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Peter 1:2-4 Partakers of His divine nature and glory.

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The Urgency of the King's Business

Luke 10:4

4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

4 And don't waste time along the way. TLB

4 "Don't loiter and make small talk with everyone you meet along the way." BCL

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary" by Biblesoft

Luke 10:1-24 -- The Mission of the Seventy

They are to give themselves unreservedly to the King's business. The instruction, 'Salute no man by the way,' does not advise any discourtesy, but as the Eastern salaams are protracted pieces of etiquette, they are to show so clearly that their 'King's business requireth haste,' that such cumbrous formalities must be dispensed with. A great thing gained if the Lord's servants are so concentrated upon their work that nothing is allowed in the least degree to interfere with it. God's work must be paramount.²

The King's business is unique -- superseding all others. There is no comparison to anything else, because His Kingdom is on a different plane, a different planet, a different world, and a different universe. The Kingdom of God, of which every born-again believer is a part, holds a place in time and history and importance that every other kingdom, past, present and future, pales in comparison. What a wonderful privilege to be a part of the business of the Father's Kingdom.

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Rom. 8:17

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

17 But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.
NLT

If we are to inherit the glory of His treasures and pleasures of heaven, we must assume the inheritance of His mission and business on earth today.

- **If we are going to rule and reign with Jesus Christ as the old song says “In the Sweet By and By”, then we must rule and reign with Him in the “here and now”.**

3.4 Great High Priest / Priest

Your heavenly Father is the Great High Priest, and it is His will for you as His son to fulfill your role in His royal priesthood as a holy, anointed priest to serve Him and His lost world.

1 Peter 2:9

*9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:*

*9 But you are the chosen race, **the King's priests**, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into His own marvelous light. TEV*

*9 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the **high calling of priestly work**, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you. BCL*

1 Peter 2:5

*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

He is the Great High Priest who “*can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities*”. When Jesus died at Calvary, the veil in the temple (where only one priest could go once a year) was torn into. Now we have access to the shekinah glory and power of God for ourselves and as intercessors on behalf of a lost world.

In the Old Testament the priest stood between God and the people of God, representing man to God and God to man. In the New Testament this is no longer needed since man can now have a relationship directly with God. The purpose of the New Testament priesthood is intercession -- interceding in prayer to God for the lost and ministering to their needs.

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Old Testament Vs. New Testament

Old Testament	New Testament
God anointed a few holy men	Every believer anointed for the priesthood
Israel was a nation with priests	The New Testament Church is a nation of priests
One tabernacle for God's Spirit to dwell in	Every born-again believer is the tabernacle of God's Spirit
One holy day, the Sabbath	Every day is a holy day

It is the will of our heavenly Father, the Great High Priest, for every one of us, as sons of God, to be a priest (an intercessor -- a go-between). This is the ministry of reconciliation -- reconciling the world to Christ.

2 Cor. 5:17-18

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (Relationship with God).

*18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the **ministry of reconciliation**; (Dominion to do the Father's will and work).*

-- From "The Two Covenants" by Andrew Murray

The Covenant of an Everlasting Priesthood.

ISRAEL was meant by God to be a nation of priests. They became a nation with priests, and one tribe was specially set apart to embody and emphasize the priestly idea. They were to be the channels through whom God's knowledge and blessing were to be communicated to the world.

Like the tribe of Levi, all of God's people, under the New Covenant, are a royal priesthood. The right of free and full access to God, the duty and power of mediating for our fellowmen and being God's channel of blessing to them, is the

inalienable birthright of every believer. Owing to the feebleness and incapacity of many of God's children, their ignorance of the mighty grace of the New Covenant, they are utterly impotent to take up and exercise their priestly functions.

Even the New Covenant is in danger of being abused by the seeking of our own happiness or holiness, more than the honour of God or the deliverance of men. Even where these are not entirely neglected, they do not always take the place they are meant to have -- that first place that makes everything, the dearest and best, secondary and subordinate to the work of helping and blessing men. It is this the world needs nowadays - men of God in whom the fire of God burns, men who can stand and speak and act in power on behalf of God. Love, work, pray, believe, as one whom God has sought and found to stand in the gap before Him. Sacrifice yourself, live and die for your fellowmen.³

-- From "In the School of Prayer" by Andrew Murray

An holy priesthood or the ministry of intercession.

As every son of Aaron, so every member of Jesus' body has a right to the priesthood. But not everyone exercises it: many are still entirely ignorant of it. And yet it is the highest privilege of a child of God. A priest is a man who does not at all live for himself. He lives with God and for God.

This is the high calling of every believer. 'Such honour have all His saints.' They have been redeemed with the one purpose to be in the midst of the perishing millions around them, God's priests, who in conformity to Jesus, the Great High Priest, are to be the ministers and stewards of the grace of God to all around them. As God is holy, so the priest was to be especially holy. This means not only separated from everything unclean, but holy unto God, being set apart and given up to God for His disposal.

All this is the emblem of what the character of the New Testament priest is to be. Our priestly power with God depends on our personal life and walk. We must be of them of whose walk on earth Jesus says, 'They have not defiled their garments.' In the surrender of what may appear lawful to others in our

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separation from the world, we must prove that our consecration to be holy to the Lord is whole-hearted and entire. The bodily perfection of the priest must have its counterpart in our being 'without spot or blemish;' 'the man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,' 'perfect and entire, wanting nothing' (Lev 21:17-21; Eph. 5:27; 2 Tim. 2:7; James 1:4).

In Aaron God had chosen all his sons to be priests: each of them was a priest by birth. Every child of God is priest in light of his birth, his blood relationship to the Great High Priest; but this is not enough: he will exercise his power only as he accepts and realizes his consecration.

The more the Christian is truly filled with the Spirit of Christ, the more spontaneous will be his giving himself up to the life of priestly intercession. Beloved fellow-Christians! God needs, greatly needs, priests who can draw near to Him, who live in His presence, and by their intercession draw down the blessings of His grace on others. And the world needs, greatly needs, priests who will bear the burden of the perishing ones, and intercede on their behalf.

Are you willing to offer yourself for this holy work? You know the surrender it demands-nothing less than the Christ-like giving up of all, that the saving purposes of God's love may be accomplished among men. Oh, be no longer of those who are content if they have salvation, and just do work enough to keep themselves warm and lively. O let nothing keep you back from giving yourselves to be wholly and only priests - nothing else, nothing less than the priests of the Most High God.

'Lord, Teach Us To Pray.'

I believe in the ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT, coming down daily from Thee, my Great High Priest, to sanctify me, to fill me with the consciousness of my priestly calling, and with love to souls, to teach me what is according to God's will, and how to pray the prayer of faith.

In this faith I yield myself this day to my God, as one of His anointed priests, to stand before His face to intercede in behalf of sinners.

Holy Lord Jesus! accept and seal my consecration. Yea, Lord, do Thou lay Thy hands on me, and Thyself consecrate me to this Thy holy work. And let me walk among men with the consciousness and the character of a priest of the Most High God.⁴

The Inheritance of the Priest

Josh. 13:14, 33

*14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; **the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance**, as he said unto them.*

*33 But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: **the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance**, as he said unto them.*

Josh. 13:33

*33 But Moses gave no land to the tribe of Levi, for the **LORD, the God of Israel, had promised to be their inheritance**. NLT*

*33 But Moses had given no land to the tribe of Levi for, as he had explained to them, the **Lord God was their inheritance**. He was all they needed. He would take care of them in other ways. TLB*

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary" by Biblesoft The Inheritance of Levi.

I. The tribe of Levi received no inheritance of land.

They who devote themselves to the service of God must be prepared to make earthly sacrifices. We cannot serve God and mammon. If our service to God costs nothing it is worth nothing (Luke 14:33). Therefore count the cost (Luke 14:28).

Earthly possessions distract our attention from heavenly service. Therefore it is hard for the rich to enter into the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:24).

II. The tribe of Levi found its true inheritance in God.

The sacrificial gifts of the people were not its chief inheritance, but only the small necessary earthly portion of what it was to receive. Its true heritage was spiritual.

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He who makes any sacrifice for God will be amply compensated in Divine riches (Mark 10:29, 30). It is better to have God for our portion than any earthly inheritance (Ps. 73:26). To have God for an inheritance is:

(a) to enjoy communion with Him; (b) to be protected by Him; (c) to live for His service.

This is the best inheritance, because:

(a) it is satisfying to the soul, while the earthly inheritance is full of dissatisfaction, and can never supply our greatest wants; (b) it is eternal; and (c) it is pure and lofty.

All Christians are called to the altar of sacrifice: (Heb. 13:10), all are to serve as priests of the temple. (1 Peter 2:9), and all should find their true inheritance in God (1 Peter 1:4).²

3.5 Lord of the Harvest / Harvester

Jesus referred to Himself as the **Lord** or Master of the harvest and it is His desire for us as His sons to be a harvester occupied in His harvest business.

Savior and Lord

He was a **Savior** to us when we were under the bondage of satan, the god of this world. The announcement of His birth was “Savior” -- He was our Savior. He has saved and delivered us from the bondage and pain of sin and satan. We all needed and wanted a Savior, but now we are in His Kingdom and we must step beyond seeing Him only as Savior -- but as our **Lord and Master**.

Jesus said in Luke 6:46, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

- **Jesus was referred to as Savior 24 times in the New Testament but was referred to as Lord over 400 times. So the emphasis is on Him being our Lord and Master.**

The hardest part of obedience is not saying no to satan, but yes to God’s will -- yes to His will as our Lord and Master. Our prayer should not be, “Lord bless what I am doing”, but “Lord help me to do what You are blessing” -- help me to do Your will.

He has been your Savior, but will you let Him be your Lord? Will you let Him be the Master of your life, your plans and your time? When He is Lord in your life, the emphasis will shift from what is best for your kingdom to what is best for His Kingdom.

Acts 2:36 Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost.

*God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord** and **Christ**.*

Matt. 9:38 Jesus’ prayer request.

*Pray ye therefore **the Lord of the harvest**, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

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The Father's harvest business is labor intensive; it depends on laborers. He has chosen to do nothing on earth except through man. He is depending on you -- He is depending on me. He has no other plan.

Jesus is Lord! What are you going to do about that?

Because when He is Lord in your life, you will be pleasing the **Lord of the Harvest**, doing His will -- working in His harvest field.

4. *Jesus' Teachings - During His Ministry*

(Approximately 1,278 Days)

Jesus came to this world not only to become the sacrifice for sins, but to pattern how He wanted His mission and work to be carried on after He departed this world, and left His Kingdom business in our hands. The importance of dominion in carrying on the Father's business was exemplified and taught many times during Jesus' earthly ministry.

- Dominion and authority over the kingdom of satan.
- Dominion and authority over every manner of sickness and disease.
- Teaching with authority His Kingdom concepts to make new converts and disciple them.

There were 33 miracles of Jesus that were recorded 63 times by the four gospel writers. According to John this was only a sample of the things that Jesus did.

John 21:25

Now, there are many other things that Jesus did. If they were all written down one by one, I suppose that the whole world could not hold the books that would be written. GNT

4.1 Mission Prophesied by Isaiah

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah made a prophesy that described the mission of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to this world.

Isa. 61:1-2

*1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach **good tidings unto the meek**; he hath sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim **liberty to the captives**, and the **opening of the prison to them that are bound**;*

*2 To **proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD**, and the day of vengeance of our God; to **comfort all that mourn**;*

4.2 Purpose and Mission Statement

At the age of 30, Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. The voice of the Spirit spoke, “*Thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased*”. Jesus then entered the wilderness where He fasted for 40 days and was tempted of satan. Afterward, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. The first recorded message of Jesus in the temple was from Isaiah chapter 61.

Luke 4:14-18, 21

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he **hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor**; he hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to preach **deliverance to the captives**, and **recovering of sight to the blind**, to set at liberty them that are bruised...*

Jesus' Teachings - During His Ministry

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Just as Jesus was anointed and sent as the Son of God, it is also His will for us as sons of God to be anointed and sent to fulfill His mission.

- **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me - (relationship with God).**
- **He hath anointed me - given me divine ability to complete the mission of Jesus Christ, which is the purpose of the New Testament Church and the believer.**
- **Sent me to minister to the needs of people - dominion to do His will and work.**
- **Jesus' purpose and mission is also God's will for us as believers - taking dominion to destroy the works of the devil, and to seek and save the lost.**

1 John 3:8

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy the works of the devil.***

Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Mark 3:35 Jesus identifies with those who do His will.

For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

1 Peter 4:2

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

4.3 Which is the Greatest Commandment?

- **Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength -- relationship with God.**
- **Love your neighbor as yourself - relationship with man, ministering to those in need -- dominion.**

Matt. 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- **The only thing that will keep us on the right path and going in the right direction is the love of God and our love for God.**

2 Cor. 5:14

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us.

14 For the love of Christ controls us. ESV

If we are ever saved and walk on streets of gold it will be because of our love for God, because of our love for what was done on Calvary and by us returning that incredible love. There will always be opportunities, all along our Christian walk, to turn back or to quit because someone has done us wrong, because there are hypocrites in the church or because of unfair circumstances in life.

You can live for God for a while based on your love and respect for a friend or a minister, or because your family is in the church. But you will never make it through the treacherous path (temptations and trials) on your journey to heaven, unless you

have a true love for God, a true love for the cross and are willing to take up your cross daily and follow Him.

- **The more we love God, the more we will love sinners and the more effective we will be in reaching them. This will involve inconveniencing ourselves to minister to their needs.**

Love is inconveniencing yourself for someone else's benefit. When you reach out to minister to someone's needs it will always involve a sacrifice of your time, energy or finances.

The only way to return the great love that God has given us is by sharing His love with someone and ministering to their needs. The greatest message that we can give to the lost is that -- Jesus loves you.

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for others! GNT

1 John 4:20

For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Gal. 5:14 The law is fulfilled in one commandment.

*For all the law is fulfilled in **one word**, even in this; Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself**.*

James 2:8-9

*8 If ye fulfil the **royal law** according to the scripture, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself**, ye do well:*

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Rom. 13:8

*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for **he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law**.*

4.4 Teaching of Eternal Life to the Rich Ruler

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

- **Obey the law** (relationship **with God**).
- **Sell what you have and give to the poor - step into the dominion role by sharing your blessings with those in need and ministering to their needs.**

Mark 10:17-22 (Matt. 19:16-22)

*17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, **Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?***

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

*21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.***

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

4.5 Teaching of Eternal Life to the Lawyer

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

- **Love your God** - relationship **with God**.
- **Love your neighbor.**
 - Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.
 - Our neighbor is anyone in need.
 - Minister to their needs -- dominion.

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Luke 10:25-30, 36, 37

*25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, **Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?***

*26 He said unto him, **What is written in the law?** how readeest thou?*

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

*29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, **And who is my neighbour?***

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

*37 And he said, **He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.***

- **A part of inheriting eternal life is being concerned about someone else's eternal life.**

Dan. 12:2-3 There is an eternal reward for the soul winner.

*2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to **everlasting life**, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

*3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; **and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***

4.6 One Soul is Important to Jesus and to Heaven

What is important to Jesus must be important to us as sons of God. His priority must be our priority. What He emphasized, we must also emphasize. What He was burdened for in carrying on His business, must be our burden.

In Luke chapter 15, Jesus told three parables that summarize the priority and focus of His ministry. There was the story of the 99 safe sheep and the search for the one that was lost. He told about

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the ten coins and the great rejoicing over the recovery of the one lost coin. Then He tells of the one lost son and the great rejoicing of the father when the lost son was restored. In these three illustrations it is shown that just one lost person is of utmost importance to Jesus.

To further review the theme of the importance of one, let us take a closer look at the parable of the lost sheep.

The One Lost Sheep

John 10:14-15

*14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.
15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.***

Matt. 18:12-14

*12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?
13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, **he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.**
14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that **one of these little ones** should perish.*

Luke 15:4-7 The angels rejoice over one sinner that repents.

*4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.
7 I say unto you, that likewise **joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.***

How much time did the shepherd spend looking for the lost sheep? Scripture doesn't specify an hour or a day, but that he simply

searched until he found it. What was lost was emphasized -- not the amount of time it took to find it. It is easy to give up if the lost are not easily found; maybe we will have to put in more time to find them. When we are fulfilling our role as a son of God, we will properly value each lost soul and expend all means possible to reach just one. Then we can rejoice when heaven and the angels rejoice -- when one who was lost is found.

*1 Peter 2:21-25 We were once astray until He sought and found us.
21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:
23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:
24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

In our kingdom we like big numbers, and “just one”, often is not a big deal to us. But in His Kingdom, He places great value on just one soul. When we value our eternal life the way we should, we will begin to value the eternal life of someone else, just one, in a greater way.

We need to be willing to fight hell and the devil, for just one soul, like David did in protecting his sheep. He risked his life to kill a lion and a bear that came for just one sheep. They weren't his sheep, they were his father's sheep, and he was only the shepherd. But his father's flock had been entrusted to him to care for and protect. There were many sheep in the flock, but he was not going to let the lion, (a type of satan), take even one. Because He knew if the lion got one sheep today, he would be back tomorrow and the next day for another.

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We need to deal with the one that goes about as a roaring lion, satan, with the same aggressive and vicious protective actions that David did in protecting his sheep. There must be a righteous indignation that rises up in our spirits that says to satan, “I will fight you and defeat you for just one soul”.

1 Judg. 17:34-35

*34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, **and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:***

*35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, **I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.***

4.7 Ministry of Love and Compassion

- **One of the purposes for Jesus coming to this world was to set the example and pattern for us to follow in carrying on His mission, ministry and work on earth.**
- **Jesus valued every soul with the highest of values (the value of the whole world). We should treat every soul more carefully than we would treat a billion dollar asset. The value of one soul is too great to calculate in monetary terms.**

Matt. 16:26

*For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain the whole world**, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

- **Jesus ministered one-on-one to the individual needs of people.**
- **Jesus responded and ministered only to people with self-confessed needs.**

This is a key element in soul winning, that the ones we are trying to reach must have a self-confessed need, usually a physical need first vs. a spiritual need. And we must, like Jesus, minister first to that physical need (outer court, before the inner court needs).

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When the physical need is met, the door of their soul (inner court) will be opened for the spiritual need to be met.

- **Jesus' commandment is that we would find and minister to those with desperate needs -- the poor, the maimed, the blind.**

Luke 14:16, 18-23

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

*21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the **master of the house being angry** said to his servant, **Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.***

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

- **Jesus exemplified a consuming zeal and passion in His life and ministry. What His disciples said as they saw Him carrying out His work, needs to be said about us as we live out the last few days before the sun sets forever on the harvest field.**

John 2:17

*17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The **zeal** of thine house hath **eaten me up**.*

*17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "**Zeal** for your house will **consume me**." NIV*

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Isa. 9:7

*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

Zeal - OT:7068 qin'ah - ardor, zeal, jealousy, ardor of zeal (used of religious zeal)

- 1) used of men for God 2) used of men for the house of God
- 3) used of God for His people.¹

- **His life was one of compassion. We need a fresh baptism of compassion.**

Compassion is deep sorrow and sympathy for the suffering or trouble of others accompanied by a strong urge to help. The root word is passion. To have compassion there must first of all be passion.

Passion - an intense emotional drive, extreme compelling emotion, strong emotion that has an overpowering or compelling effect, intense enthusiasm displayed with vigorous and untiring work or activity.²

It is almost impossible, if not impossible, to have compassion on someone you cannot see or touch. It is good and much needed to send our support of prayer and finances to foreign fields, but we must also be touching the lives of people in need in our personal harvest fields. When Jesus **saw** them He was moved with compassion and then He **touched** them and ministered to their needs. God came to this earth veiled in flesh, as a human like you and I, to **see** and **feel** and **touch** and **heal**.

Refer to the following charts in the Addendum Volume:

K-7 Compassion and Care Ministry Team.

K-9 Compassion and Care for the Wounded and Crying.

Jesus' Teachings - During His Ministry

Matt. 9:36

*But when **he saw** the multitudes, he was **moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

Matt. 14:14

*And Jesus went forth, and **saw** a great multitude, and was **moved with compassion** toward them, and he healed their sick.*

Mark 6:34

*And Jesus, when he came out, **saw** much people, and was **moved with compassion** toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

According to I Corinthians 12 and 13, the **gifts of the Spirit flow through the charity channel**. Refer to the following charts in the Addendum Volume:

G-8 The Spiritual Soul Winning Model.

G-9 The Vine and the Branch.

God dispenses His power through the hands of love and compassion because His power is safe only in the hands of love. **Charity is love in action** to your brother; it is having compassion on him and taking action to minister to his needs.

- **Prayer was His life and His life was a life of prayer.**

Jesus set the example for us to pray. At least 20 different times we find Him in prayer, sometimes all night alone. If Jesus needed prayer to complete His mission, how much more we need prayer to complete the mission of reaching the lost.

Mark 1:35

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Luke 6:12

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to

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pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Heb. 5:7

*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up **prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears.***

Luke 19:41 Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Joel 2:12-13, 17 Who is weeping over your city?

*12 Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with **weeping**, and with mourning:*

*13 And **rend your heart**, and not your garments,*

*17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, **weep** between the porch and the altar.*

- **His mission and ministry was to reconcile the world to Himself. That is the mission and ministry every believer is commissioned to fulfill.**

2 Cor. 5:18

*18 And all things are of God, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath **given to us the ministry of reconciliation**;*

18 All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. NLT

- **To be Christlike, to step into His eternal purpose and will for our lives, we must follow in His footsteps and duplicate the ministry He exemplified for us -- a life of love and compassion, prayer and ministering to needs.**

4.8 Jesus Asks Us to Take Up Our Cross

- **He took up His cross -- He was crucified -- He died for us.**
- **He asks us to take up our cross -- to be crucified -- to die for Him.**
 - Being crucified with Him will bring death to self and then give resurrection power to step into the **dominion** role to do His will and work.
 - If the symbol for Christianity is the cross, then we should not be surprised when suffering and trial is a part of our Christian walk.

Mark 8:34

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matt. 10:38

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Luke 14:27

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Gal. 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal. 5:24-25

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Phil. 3:10

*That I may know him, and the **power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death.*

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2 Cor. 4:10-11

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

4.9 Freely We Have Received / Freely Give

- **We have freely received love, mercy, forgiveness, deliverance, salvation and healing: (relationship with God).**
- **We must freely give the same: (dominion - in ministering to the needs of others).**

Matt. 10:7-8

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

*8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely ye have received, freely give.***

John 13:35 When we receive His love we must pass it on.

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have **love one to another.***

Matt. 5:7 As we have freely received His mercy, we must give mercy.
*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall **obtain mercy.***

Matt. 6:14-15

*14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you:***

*15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

Acts 1:8

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

4.10 Jesus' Prayer for the Harvest Field

Jesus frequently taught His disciples that they must pray and how to pray, but seldom what to pray. Jesus was concerned that the Father's business would be carried on after He left this world, and His business was left in our hands. He made this request for **what** we should pray:

Matt. 9:36-38 (Luke 10:2)

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

John 4:35

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

John 15:16

*Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

The Father's business is labor intensive, it depends on laborers. He has chosen to do nothing on earth except through man. He has chosen you and He has chosen me to carry out His mission and work. He is depending on you and me -- He has no other plan. The harvest will be reaped only as we partner with Him as an instrument in His hands to minister to the desperate needs of lost souls.

4.11 Our Call to Become Fishers of Men

- **First, reaching for God (relationship) -- leave your nets and follow Me.**
- **Second, reaching for men (dominion - soul winning) -- becoming fishers of men.**

When Jesus began His task of choosing 12 disciples, He first went to the sea of Galilee and chose His first four disciples -- fishermen.

Matt. 4:18-22 (Mark 1:16-20)

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

*19 And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.***

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

When Jesus called these fisherman He told them I will make you into something that you are currently not -- fishers of men. They immediately left what they were doing, left their plans and agendas and began to follow Jesus. Later we see them fulfilling the call of Jesus, following His example and becoming fishers of men.

- **To follow Jesus is to fish -- to become fishers of men.**

This call is still applicable to every believer today -- **follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.** The first step is to set our plans and agendas aside and follow Jesus -- building a strong **relationship** with Him. But there is more to God's plan and purpose for our lives than just our desire to be around Him, to attend His house on a regular basis and fellowship with Him in a wonderful relationship. And that is to take the next step, a step of **dominion** -- reaching for the lost as fishers of men.

If we follow Jesus long enough He will use us to bring eternal value to others. He will position us to become fishers of men. And that will involve doing for someone else what someone did for you and your family.

There are a lot of similarities between the processes of fishing for fish and fishing for men (soul winning) and that will be dealt with in **Volume V, Personal Evangelism - Compassion for the Lost.**

- **Jesus is still looking for those who will abandon everything that is of greater priority in their lives than following Him and pursue the Father's fishing business -- fishing for men.**

4.12 Jesus Commissions 12 Disciples (Fivefold Ministry)

Jesus' disciples had followed Him for some time. They had listened to His teachings and observed the authority and dominion exercised in His ministry. Now Jesus was sending them out and giving them His power to exercise **dominion** and authority over satan and disease. The twelve disciples, chosen by Jesus, represent the fivefold ministry in today's New Testament Church.

Matt. 10:1

*And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, **he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.***

Mark 3:14-15

*14 And he **ordained twelve**, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

*15 And to **have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:***

Luke 9:1

*Then he called his **twelve disciples** together, and gave them **power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.***

4.13 Jesus Commissions 70 Others (Laity)

Jesus sent out 70 unnamed men, in teams of two, with the same dominion and authority that He gave to His disciples. Jesus exhibited a principle that His Kingdom business had expanded beyond a few anointed men like it was in the Old Testament. Now in the New Testament Church, it is God's will for every believer to be anointed to exercise the **dominion** and authority in His Kingdom business. These 70 unnamed men represent the laity in today's New Testament Church.

Luke 10:1-2, 9, 17-19

*1 After these things **the Lord appointed other seventy** also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*

2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

*9 And **heal the sick** that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

*17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, **even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.***

18 And he said unto them, I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven.

*19 Behold, I give unto you **power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

Mark 16:17-18 Dominion and authority for believers.

*17 And these **signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

4.14 Ye Are the Light of the World

- **God is the creator of light and the source of all light -- a light that drives away all darkness. The first act of creation was to create light.**

Gen. 1:3

*And God said, **Let there be light**: and there was light.*

Isa. 45:7

***I form the light**, and create darkness . . . **I the LORD** do all these things.*

1 John 1:5

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.*

- **Jesus, God manifested in the flesh, was the true light and came to bring light to the world.**

Matt. 4:16

*The people which sat in darkness **saw great light**; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*

John 8:12

*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 1:4, 5, 9

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

*9 That **was the true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

2 Cor. 4:6

*For God, who said, "Let there be **light in the darkness**," has made us understand that it is the brightness of his glory that is seen in the face of **Jesus Christ**. TLB*

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- **Jesus' teachings declared that He is the light and we receive light through our relationship with Him.**

John 12:36

*While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the **children of light**. These things spake Jesus.*

2 Cor. 4:6

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath **shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***

Eph. 5:8

*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as **children of light**:*

1 Peter 2:9

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his **marvellous light**:*

- **Jesus in His teaching not only declared that He was the light of the world, but He also taught that we are the light of the world.**
- **We as children of light become the light of the world, a reflection of His light, through our dominion role of doing good deeds -- ministering to people's needs.**

Matt. 5:14-16

*14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

*16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Jesus' Teachings - During His Ministry

2 Cor. 4:7

*But this precious treasure -- **this light** and power that now shine within us -- is held in a perishable container, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own. TLB*

Luke 12:35

*35 Let your loins be girded about, and **your lights burning**;*

*35 Watchful Servants "Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your **lamps lit**". GNT*

When our loins are girded about us and our lights are burning, we are **ready for the battle** (prepared to use the sword), and we are **ready for the harvest** (prepared to use the sickle). Are your lights on? It is getting dark and those in our personal harvest field need to see a light of hope in their dark world.

Isa. 60:1-3

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

*2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and **his glory shall be seen upon thee**.*

*3 And the Gentiles shall **come to thy light**, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

-- From The Wycliffe Bible Commentary

Isa. 60:1-3

The prophet declares that the darkness of the world is to be overcome by the light of Israel. The standpoint is that of Christ's first advent, for he is the Light that was to rise upon the Jews. And his Church was to be the light, i.e., the reflector of his glorious perfection and love, and the channel for his truth in reaching the heathen. The NT Gospel was to have a powerful attractiveness for the Gentiles such as the OT Gospel never had.³

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Acts 13:47 (Isa. 49:6)

47 For this is as the Lord commanded when he said, I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to lead them from the farthest corners of the earth to my salvation. TLB

47 For this is the commandment that the Lord has given us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles, so that all the world may be saved. TEV

In these passages from Isaiah 49:6 God declared His purpose, that the Messiah should be the light and salvation of the Gentiles. Now it is the Father's will for us, as His sons, to follow in His footsteps, to step into our **dominion** role and shine His light to a dark world.

- **God's light comes to us through relationship and is reflected through us to a lost world through dominion -- our good works of ministering to the needs of lost souls living in darkness.**

4.15 What Will it Cost to be His Disciple?

It Will Cost You Everything

God demands our commitment -- our best. He demands to be first -- the first part of our finances, our time, our loyalty and our lives. No price is too great to pay for the **treasure of eternal life**. There is no value you can place on eternal life.

We had to be willing to do anything and to give up everything to receive the salvation experience. That was just the beginning of our sacrifice to be a part of His Kingdom. It is not just a one-time payment, there is an ongoing cost.

Matt. 13:44-46

*44 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto **treasure** hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

*45 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

*46 Who, when he had found one **pearl of great price**, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

2 Cor. 4:7

*But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Jesus Describes the Cost of Discipleship

In Luke chapter 14 Jesus relates several stories or parables as He taught on the requirements and cost to become His disciple. He never concealed the message, but He made it very clear that it would cost us everything.

1. Ministering to those who cannot repay you -- He will repay you at the resurrection of the just.

Luke 14:12-14

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen,

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***nor thy rich neighbours;** lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.*

*13 But when thou makest a feast, call the **poor**, the **maimed**, the **lame**, the **blind**:*

*14 And thou shalt be blessed; **for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.***

*12 When you put on a dinner, he said, “don’t invite friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors! For they will return the invitation. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then **at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who can’t repay you.**” TLB*

Luke 14:21-23

*21 Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the **poor**, and the **maimed**, and the **halt**, and the **blind**.*

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

2. Loving God more than anyone.

Luke 14:26

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

26 Anyone who wants to be my follower must love me far more than he does his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters-yes, more than his own life-otherwise he cannot be my disciple. TLB

-- From “Barnes’ Notes”

The word ‘hate’ here, means simply to ‘love less.’ It may be thus expressed: ‘He that comes after me, and does not love his father less than he loves me, etc., cannot be my disciple’.

Christ certainly was not commanding men to hate their own families in the sense of bearing them ill will or malice. This is strong language to indicate that devotion to one’s family must take second place to devotion to Christ.⁴

-- From "Matthew Henry's Commentary"

Every good man loves his relations; and yet, if he be a disciple of Christ, he must comparatively hate them, must love them less than Christ, as Leah is said to be hated when Rachel was better loved. Not that their persons must be in any degree hated, but our comfort and satisfaction in them must be lost and swallowed up in our love to Christ, as Levi's was, when he said to his father, I have not seen him, Deut. 33:9. When our duty to our parents comes in competition with our evident duty to Christ, we must give Christ the preference. If we must either deny Christ or be banished from our families and relations (as many of the primitive Christians were), we must rather lose their society than his favour.⁵

3. Bear our cross.

Luke 14:27

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

What is a cross? The cross is something hurtful or painful that we will experience as a disciple of Jesus. The cross is the emblem of Christianity and we should expect and be prepared to suffer some hardship or humiliation as a devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

4. Counting the cost to finish.

Luke 14:28-29

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him.

-- From "Matthew Henry's Commentary"

Those that intend to build this tower must sit down and count the cost. Let them consider that it will cost them the mortifying of their sins, even the most beloved lusts; it will cost them a life of self-denial and watchfulness, and a constant course of holy duties; it may, perhaps, cost them their reputation among men, their estates and liberties, and all that is dear to them in this

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world, even life itself. And if it should cost us all this, what is it in comparison with what it cost Christ to purchase the advantages of salvation for us, which come to us without money and without price?⁵

Luke 14:28-29

*28 Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and **figure the cost** so you'll know if you can complete it?*

*29 If you **only get the foundation laid** and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. BCL*

- **The initial salvation experience was the foundation that brought us into relationship with the heavenly Father.**
- **Completing the building of the house will involve sacrifice as we use the Father's authority and dominion to carry out His purpose and will.**

5. Willing to fight to win.

Luke 14:31

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary"

Here is an image of the warfare which every Christian man must wage against the world, its passions, and its lusts. If we cannot brace ourselves up to the sacrifice necessary for the completion of the building up of the life we know the Master loves; if we shrink from the cost involved in the warfare against sin and evil - a warfare which will only end with life - better for us not to begin the building or risk the war. It will be a wretched alternative, but still it will be best for us to make our submission at once to the world and its prince; at least, by so doing we shall avoid the scandal and the shame of injuring a cause which we adopted only to forsake.⁶

6. Forsaking all.

Luke 14:33

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- **It will cost us everything to complete the work that the Master Builder has started in our life. What it took to get us saved, it will take to keep us saved:**
 - Willingness to give up anything and do anything for the cause of Christ.
 - Laying aside weights, not just sins, that will distract us.
 - Dedication and sacrifice of prayer, fasting and service.
- **Becoming a disciple of Jesus has to do with relationship and dominion. It is first of all relationship with the Master then it is discipline and commitment to put into action the teachings of the Master -- using the dominion and authority available to every believer to make other disciples.**

Relationship

Produces inward fruit -- love, joy, peace . . .

Dominion

Produces outward fruit -- ministering to needs

5. Jesus' Teachings - Days Before His Death

(Approximately 7 Days)

Jesus had already told His disciples a number of times about His impending death. His earthly ministry was nearing the end. In these last few days He was no longer teaching the crowds. He took His twelve chosen disciples aside to impart His final words of instruction.

With just one week until His death, He poured out His heart and passion. His last words and teachings summarize His entire life and ministry.

- **His last words were all important, not only to His disciples then, but to every believer today, whom He is depending on to continue His mission and work.**

Matt. 26:1-2

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

5.1 The Eleventh Hour Call to the Harvest

- **There are two great, exciting and eternal rewards, of the last great endtime harvest of lost souls that is prophesied to supersede every harvest of yesteryear:**
 - **Ingathering of many lost souls, who will be saved from an eternity in hell.**
 - **Many saints who have been uninvolved, or partially involved in prior harvests, will have a great opportunity to fulfill God's will in their life in answering the eleventh hour call to the Master's vineyard.**

In Matthew chapter 20, Jesus related the parable of a master who hired men to work in his vineyard. Laborers were hired at intervals throughout the day: some at 9:00 A.M., noon, 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. At the end of the day, those who had worked only one hour were paid the same as those who had worked many hours through the heat of the day.

- **The emphasis was not on how long each worked, but on who was in the vineyard working at the end of the day.**

Jesus told another parable in Luke chapter 16 about the steward who had been slothful and wasteful in carrying out the master's business. When asked for an accounting of his stewardship, he quickly began to work and complete transactions on behalf of his master. *"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely"*.

- **Opportunity is offered to those who have not been faithful stewards, to regain the Master's favor, if they will act quickly and begin carrying on the Master's mission and business.**

We are now living in the eleventh hour call, the last call to the harvest. This endtime harvest is a great challenge and of utmost importance, and is like none other, because there will not be another. The souls that are not won in this harvest will be eternally lost and the believers who do not get involved will not have another opportunity.

5.2 Jesus' Teaching About Eternal Life

- **This is the last teaching of Jesus in private to His disciples, just three days prior to His death. His entire life, ministry, mission and purpose for coming to this world are summed up here.**
- **Likewise, the message, burden and purpose of this book are summarized here. If you don't remember anything else from this book, remember the simple but powerful message that Jesus taught regarding what we must do to inherit eternal life. And don't forget the great price He paid that we could have eternal life.**

There is no way to overemphasize the significance of the entire chapter of **Matthew 25**, and the related chapters 24 and 26. They are related in the important themes of:

- The signs of the second coming of Jesus Christ (chapter 24).
- The requirements to receive eternal life (chapter 25).
- The Judgment, the punishment of eternal death, and the rewards of eternal life (chapter 25).
- The suffering of Jesus and the price He paid for our eternal life (chapter 26).

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- **The significance of the Scripture setting in chapter 24:**
 - The disciples come to Jesus privately and ask Him about future events: *“What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?”*
 - Jesus begins to tell of the signs of His second coming and the end of the world.
- **The significance of Jesus’ last teaching to His disciples in chapter 25, three days prior to His death:**
 - The entire chapter (red letter) is Jesus’ teachings.
 - Alone with His disciples, Jesus disclosed His requirement for eternal life by relating the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins, the parable of the talents (five, two, one) given to three servants before the master departed on a journey, and the final test at Judgment.
- **The significance of the Scripture setting in chapter 26:**
 - Jesus shared the last Passover supper with His disciples.
 - Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane, on the mount of Olives with His disciples for the final time.
 - Three times Jesus prayed in agony, *“Not My Will, Thine Be Done”*.
 - We witness the pangs of travail for the birth of the New Testament Church, as He sweat great drops of blood.

Matthew 25 - Jesus’ Requirements for Eternal Life

The First Requirement:

Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins:

- (a) Time was given to prepare.
- (b) Five wisely had enough oil in their lamps, five foolishly took no oil.

- (c) Oil is a type of the Holy Ghost which must be in our lives.
- (d) They were held accountable for their actions and rewarded accordingly.
- (e) The five wise entered the marriage with the groom.
- (f) The five foolish were shut out and the door was closed.
Matt. 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
- (g) **Jesus gives this warning:**
Matt. 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
- **We have often stopped here and thought that to be ready for the Lord's return would involve only having oil (God's Spirit) in our lamps. But Jesus didn't stop here, He continued without pausing. Verse 13 completes His first requirement and verse 14 starts His second.**

The Second Requirement:

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents:

- (a) Leaving to go to a far country, the master called his servants and delivered to them **his goods**. He gave one servant five talents, one servant two talents and the other servant one talent.
- (b) Two servants began to work with the master's goods, and increased what they had been given.
- (c) The other servant just put his talent in a safe place where he would not lose it -- neither would he use it. He did not sin. He did no wrong, but he failed to work and increase the master's business.
- (d) There was plenty of time to prepare for the master's return and accomplish His will.

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- (e) After a long time, the master returned and demanded an accounting of their actions, with his goods and his business.
- (f) The servants who had worked and multiplied what he had given them were rewarded.
Matt. 25:23 His lord said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- (g) The servant who hid his talent and did nothing to further the master's business was severely punished.
Matt. 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The first parable deals with relationship, the first purpose for which God created man. The second parable deals with the second purpose for which God created man, and that was dominion, **working in the Father's business**.

God has a right to call us to do His work, we are not our own, because He has bought us with a great price.

1 Cor. 6:19-20

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?***

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus did not stop here. He ended the parable of the talents in verse 30 and begins to describe the final test at the Judgment in verse 31. He applied the lesson learned from the two parables of the 10 virgins and the talents.

The Criteria of the Requirements for Eternal Life is Applied in Matthew 25:31-46, in the Final Test at the Judgment.

This is also dealt with in **6.4 The First Question at Judgment - "Did You Go?"** But because of the extreme importance and significance of this subject, it is summarized here to complete Jesus' teachings in Matthew chapter 25.

Jesus described to the disciples the setting at the end of the world and the end of time. His second coming and the immediate following event with all the world standing at the Judgment Seat of Christ are explained. He divides everyone into two groups -- one on His right hand and one on His left hand, as a shepherd would separate his sheep from the goats.

The Judge of all the earth reiterates His judgment criteria, unchanged from His mission statement in both the Old Testament (Isaiah 61:1-2) and the New Testament (Luke 4:18-19). Those that worked His business, ministering to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison, were given eternal life. Those that did not were doomed to eternal death.

5.3 Jesus' Last Message Before His Death

"I am the Vine, Ye are the Branch"

- **We have life in Christ from the vine - relationship with God.**
- **Bearing outer fruit - dominion - carrying out His mission and ministering to the needs of others:**
 - If we bear some fruit, He purges (prunes) us so that we will bring forth more fruit. The result is less of self (the branch) and more of Him (the vine).
 - If we bear no fruit, He corrects us.
 - If correction doesn't work, the branch is removed and cast into the fire.

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- **In this final message of Jesus, just before His death, He gives the simple formula for bearing inner fruit (fruit of the Spirit) and bearing outer fruit (ministering to needs and winning souls).**
 - He is the source and the supply for all spiritual birth and growth.
 - The vine and branch relationship depicts the close relationship He desires with His children.
 - When the relationship is close enough and strong enough, fruit will be produced in our lives -- both inner fruit and outer fruit.

John 15:1-2, 4-7

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

taketh away NT:142 Airoo 1. to raise up a. to raise from the ground, take up b. to raise upward, elevate, lift up c. to draw up.¹

Luke 13:6-9

6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

Jesus' Teachings - Days Before His Death

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Prov. 11:30-31

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

30 Godly men are growing a tree that bears life-giving fruit, and all who win souls are wise.

31 Even the Godly shall be rewarded here on earth; how much more the wicked! TLB

-- From "Secrets Of The Vine" by Bruce Wilkinson

Have you ever been with someone very close to you who is about to die, someone who loves you and wants to leave you with a final word? 'Come closer', you lean close, straining to hear. You know that you'll remember every word for the rest of your life. Now imagine that the person who is about to speak is Jesus.

I invite you to encounter, perhaps for the first time, Jesus' words in John 15 -- the heart of His final message to His disciples on the night He was betrayed. By dusk the following day, Jesus would be stretched out on a cross, His body stripped and pierced, His life ebbing away.

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Jesus knew the words He spoke that night would echo in His friends' memories for years. In time, the truth of His 'deathbed conversation' would lead them to a whole new way of thinking. These final words are so little understood today that I've called them 'secrets,' but I'm convinced that Jesus meant for their meaning to be clear. The time for parables and hidden meanings had passed. He wanted every follower for generations to come to know exactly how to live an overflowing life and understand what God would do to make it happen.

The disciples follow Jesus down the hill, through the winding streets of Jerusalem. Along the terraces that follow the curve of the valley, they pass through ancient vineyards. They walk in single file between rows of neatly tended grapes, plants that have been bearing fruit for generations. Here Jesus stops. Hemmed in by rows of vines, the disciples gather around.

Jesus reaches for a grape branch. Now He begins ***'I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser'***.

You bear inner fruit when you allow God to nurture in you a new, Christlike quality: 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control' (Galatians 5:22).

You bear outward fruit when you allow God to work through you to bring Him glory. That would certainly include sharing your faith. Whether you're chopping wood for a widow, taking care of an ill neighbor, or spending a lifetime as a missionary in the jungle, outward fruit appears when your motive is to bring God glory.

How important and valuable is fruit bearing, then? Jesus says, 'I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain' (John 15:16). Real fruit always lasts! And it's the main earthly reason you were saved. Paul told Christians they were 'created in Christ Jesus for good works' (Ephesians 2:10).

Jesus' Teachings - Days Before His Death

Jesus hasn't led us to this torchlit circle just to make our dreams come true. Our dreams, like the disciples', are always too small. We are here to fulfill God's dream - that we will bring Him glory through a remarkably abundant life. That's how we find our greatest personal fulfillment, now and for eternity.²

- **Relationship - produces inward fruit -- love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.**
- **Dominion - produces outward fruit -- ministering to needs and winning souls.**

Jesus' Invitation: (Relationship)
"Come unto Me"

Jesus' Commandment: (Dominion)
"Go minister to the needs of others"

6. Jesus' Teachings - Before His Ascension

(Approximately 40 Days)

Acts 1:3-5

*3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, **being seen of them forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Jesus had now risen from the dead and begins to appear to His disciples. His earthly ministry was over; He no longer taught the crowds or performed miracles for the multitudes. His last few days on earth after His resurrection were spent with His disciples, those upon whom He would depend to carry on His work.

Jesus' very last words of instruction were significant not only to His disciples, but also to His followers even today. His last words dealt with instructions to continue the mission and work that He had started in His earthly ministry.

6.1 Lovest Thou Me More Than These?

- **Lovest thou Me more than these? First, do you love Me more than anything else? (Relationship)**
- **Feed My lambs, feed My sheep. Second, minister to the needs of others. (Dominion)**

John 21:15-17

*15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me** more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.***

*16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me**? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.***

*17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me**? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.***

Jesus wanted to hear Peter say “I love you”. He also wanted to impart the message, that if you love Me, you will love someone else enough to minister to their needs.

- **The more we love Jesus in a deeper relationship, the more effective we will be our dominion role of reaching out to others in need.**

6.2 Promise to Send Back His Spirit

On His last day on earth, Jesus led His disciples out to Bethany. His earthly ministry is now over, and He gives His final instructions to His disciples before they begin to carry on His work. The disciples had walked and talked with Him for three and one half years, performing miracles in His name. He had one more instruction: go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost, the infilling power to carry on His work. Jesus, God tabernacled in flesh, was leaving this world. Now it is His plan for

them, and every believer to become the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit.

It was not enough to have walked and talked with Jesus, participating in His miracle ministry. There was yet another step beyond Bethany and that was embodied in Jesus' commandment to go to Jerusalem to receive the power -- the experience of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2).

Luke 24:49-51

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:8-9

*8 But **ye shall receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: **and ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Acts 2:1-4, 38, 39

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

*4 And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.*

*39 For the **promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.***

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- **The relationship message: When we are born again of the water and Spirit it is the beginning of a privileged and wonderful relationship with God as a son of God and as the bride of Christ.**
- **The dominion message: The Spirit is also given to provide us with power to carry on His mission and work --**
“Ye shall receive power -- Ye shall be witnesses unto Me”.

6.3 The Last Commandment - “Go”

- **Go and tarry in Jerusalem for the power -- dominion power to carry on My will and work.**
- **Go carry the gospel to everyone everywhere -- the great commission to every believer.**
 - **Go** into all the world (global).
 - **Go** to every creature (personal).

Luke 24:47-51

*47 And that **repentance** and **remission of sins** should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

*48 And **ye are witnesses** of these things.*

*49 And, behold, **I send the promise of my Father upon you:** but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued with power** from on high.*

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Matt. 28:18-19

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

*19 **Go** ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

Jesus' Teachings - Before His Ascension

Mark 16:15-18

*15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to **every creature**.*

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

*17 And these **signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

John 20:21

*Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send **I you**.*

6.4 The First Question at Judgment - “Did You Go?”

- **Jesus' first question at Judgment will be: “Did you go?” Did you become a part of My business that I left in your hands?**
- **Did you exercise the dominion and authority that I gave you to complete My mission -- ministering to the needs of the lost?**

Luke 4:18 Jesus' mission statement.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the **poor**; he hath sent me to heal the **brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to the **captives**, and recovering of sight to the **blind**, to set at liberty them that are **bruised**,*

The final test at the Judgment - “Did you fulfill My mission?”

Matt. 25:31-40

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

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34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

35 *For I was an **hungred**, and ye gave me meat: I was **thirsty**, and ye gave me drink: I was a **stranger**, and ye took me in:*

36 ***Naked**, and ye clothed me: I was **sick**, and ye visited me: I was in **prison**, and ye came unto me.*

37 *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

38 *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

39 *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

Matt. 25:45-46

45 *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.***

46 *And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Man is a physical being and a spiritual being. Jesus in His earthly ministry always ministered first to the people's physical needs: hunger, sickness and disease. Then after their physical needs were met, He addressed their spiritual needs through His ministry and teachings.

The needs referred to by Jesus, in His description of the Judgment, apply to both the physical needs and the spiritual needs of man. Likewise, it is His desire for us as sons of God, to follow the example that He set for us in ministering to people's physical needs and spiritual needs.

7. *Other New Testament Teachings*

Much of the New Testament reference for the theme of this book is addressed by the teachings of Jesus, the Lord of the harvest. However, a brief summary of some of the teachings of other New Testament writers, Peter, James and Paul, is presented here to more completely address the subject.

7.1 Doers of the Word and Work

- **Doers of the Word - driven by our relationship with God. “If you love Me, keep My commandments”.**
- **Doers of the work - driven by our dominion role. There is a work (deeds) to be done in His Kingdom.**

James 1:21-25

*21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted **word**, **which is able to save your souls**.*

*22 But be ye **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

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25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

work NT:2041 ergon, ergou, to,

1. business, employment, that with which anyone is occupied: 2. any product whatever, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, mind 3. an act, deed, thing done.¹

-- From "Adam Clarke's Commentary"

There are four kinds of men who visit the synagogues:

1. He who enters but does not work
2. He who works but does not enter
3. He who enters and works
4. He who neither enters nor works

The first two are indifferent characters; the third is the righteous man; the fourth is wholly evil." As the path of duty is the way of safety, so it is the way of happiness; the one who obeys God from a loving heart and pure conscience, will infallibly find continual blessedness.²

7.2 Saved by Faith or Faith with Works?

- **Our faith, followed by works of obedience to the plan of salvation, puts us into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ.**
- **Our faith, followed by our works in ministering to the needs of others, places us into a dominion partnership with Jesus Christ.**
- **For our faith to be alive, it must be followed by works -- our actions working in the Father's business.**

James 2:14-18, 20

*14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can faith save him?***

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

*18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.***

*20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?***

-- From "God's Infallible Word" by David Bernard

James was questioned primarily because some ancient writers thought it contradicted Paul's teaching on justification by faith. Martin Luther denied that it was canonical for the same reason. But actually James complements Paul's epistles. The latter teach that God counts us as righteous on the basis of living faith, not dead works. James teaches that we are shown to be righteous by living works that inevitably flow from living faith, while a mere profession of faith that produces no works is dead faith, or no faith at all.³

1 John 3:18

*18 My little children, **let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed** and in truth.*

*18 Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by **our actions**. NLT*

*18 My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must **be true love, which shows itself in action**. TEV*

Matt. 7:24

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and **doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

Matt. 5:16

*Let your **light so shine** before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

1 Tim. 6:17-19

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly

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all things to enjoy;

*18 That they do good, **that they be rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*

*19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may **lay hold on eternal life**.*

1 Tim. 6:18-19

*18 [Charge them] to do good, to **be rich in good works**, to be liberal and generous of heart, **ready to share [with others]**,*

*19 **In this way laying up for themselves [the riches that endure forever as]** a good foundation for the future, so that they may grasp that which is life indeed. AMP*

- **Our words, our confession of faith and worship with our lips, are the first step and are very important. But our actions of dominion, as a son of God, is the only thing that validates and completes our faith. We must align our actions (what we do) with our lips (what we say).**

We Were Created in Christ for Good Works

Titus 2:14

*14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works**.*

*14 He died under God's judgment against our sins so that he could rescue us from constant falling into sin and make us his very own people, with cleansed hearts and real enthusiasm for doing **kind things for others**. TLB*

Eph. 2:8-10

*8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

*10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*8 For it is by **God's grace that you have been saved through faith**. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. 10 God has made us what we are, and **in our union with Christ***

Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do. TEV

Eph. 2:10

We neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. MSG

**-- From "Working for God" by Andrew Murray
Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works**

We have been saved, not of works, but for good works. How vast the difference. How essential the apprehension of that difference to the health of the Christian life. Not of works which we have done, as the source whence salvation comes, have we been saved. And yet for good works, as the fruit and outcome of salvation, as part of God's work in us, the one thing for which we have been created anew. As worthless as are our works in procuring salvation, so infinite is their worth as that for which God has created and prepared us. Let us seek to hold these two truths in their fullness of spiritual meaning. The deeper our conviction that we have been saved, not of works, but of grace, the stronger the proof we should give that we have indeed been saved for good works.

Good works are God's object in the new life He has given you, and ought therefore to be as distinctly your object. We educate all our children with the thought that they must have their work in the world: when shall the Church learn that its great work is to train every believer to take his share in God's great work, and to abound in the good works for which he was created.⁴

The unsaved man has no spiritual capacity for good works in the Kingdom of God. We had to become a new creature in Christ Jesus that we might do them.

- **It is not good works first, and grace after; but grace first followed by good works, good deeds -- unselfishly ministering to the needs of others.**

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Good works are a part of God's eternal purpose and will for our lives. And as we partner with our great God and Savior in the work needed to reach our lost world, there is a threefold benefit:

- **Our life is perfected.**
- **Our fellowman's needs are met.**
- **Our heavenly Father is glorified.**

7.3 The Progression of the Christian Life

- **Add all of these things to your life: Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience and Godliness (inner fruit).**
- **Then add brotherly kindness and charity: Compassion and love in action to your brother by ministering to his needs (outer fruit).**
- **Then you will be fruitful and will have an assurance of never falling and will receive everlasting life.**

2 Peter 1:3-11

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

*5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;***

*6 **And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience Godliness;***

*7 **And to Godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.***

*8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall **neither be barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

*10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:***

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

7.4 The Father Demands Fervor in His Business

As the final Book and pages of the Bible are penned (the Father's last instructions to His sons), there is a strong reminder regarding the importance of His work -- His business. The message here is very direct and plain -- repent of your lukewarmness and be **zealous**. Lukewarmness or indifference in the Father's business is the worst enemy of the believer and the Kingdom of God.

The Father's business, His work -- is the most excellent endeavor on earth because it deals with the eternal and the invaluable souls of men. Therefore, He expects us as His sons to be zealous, fervent and on fire to see it accomplished in the most excellent way. If His Kingdom work is worth anything, it is worth everything and any indifference is inexcusable. There is no room for neutrality. He gave His life for us -- His all. And He demands that we give our life for him -- our very best -- our all. In this Scripture writing addressed to the church of Laodicea we see a loathing and abhorrence of Christ for those who lacked zeal in His service.

Rev. 3:14-19

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

*15 **I know thy works**, that thou art **neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

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17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

*19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: **be zealous** therefore, and **repent**.*

-- From "Matthew Henry's Commentary"

We have one cause of this indifference and inconsistency in religion assigned, and that is self-conceitedness or self-delusion. They thought they were very well already, and therefore they were very indifferent whether they grew better or no: Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, etc., v. 17. Here observe, What a difference there was between the thoughts they had of themselves and the thoughts that Christ had of them.

The high thoughts they had of themselves: Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing. Perhaps they were well provided for as to their bodies, and this made them overlook the necessities of their souls. Or they thought themselves well furnished in their souls: they had learning, and they took it for religion; they had gifts, and they took them for grace; they had ordinances, and they took up with them instead of the God of ordinances. How careful should we be not to put the cheat upon our own souls! Doubtless there are many in hell that once thought themselves to be in the way to heaven. Let us daily beg of God that we may not be left to flatter and deceive ourselves in the concerns of our souls.⁵

-- From "The Pulpit Commentary"

Active opposition may well be a less deadly evil than careless ease, because one ignorant of the existence of the malady can never improve himself until he has awoke to a full knowledge of his own state.

There was great need of the truth being openly proclaimed by him who is the Truth to those who, though nominally Christians,

were ensnared by the deceitfulness of riches, and were deceiving themselves in the attempt to make the best of both worlds by their lukewarm Christianity. It was the purpose of this epistle to draw aside the veil which was hiding the truth from their eyes, and to bring them to a realization of that most difficult of all knowledge - a knowledge of self.⁶

7.5 The Two Messages: Salvation and Soul Winning

- **The first message - the Salvation Message:**
 - **What He does to us and for us** - relationship **with Him**.
 - **Getting us out of Egypt (the world) and getting Egypt out of us.**

God is working on our eternal life. He is the only One that can give us eternal life. And if we have a good **relationship** with God, it insures a good partnership of working together with Him in His Kingdom.

He needs me -- at creation God made a decision to do His work on earth through man. It cost Him the incarnation. He had to become a man (second man Adam) to redeem man (first man Adam). **I need Him** -- without Him I can do nothing.

-- From "The Spiritual Man" by Watchman Nee

As a believer goes on his spiritual way, he gradually begins to realize that, to live for himself is a sin, yea, the greatest sin of his life. To live for himself is as it were a grain of wheat which having fallen into the earth refuses to die and hence remains alone. To seek the filling of the Holy Spirit in order to be a powerful spiritual person is solely to please himself, to make himself happy. For were he to live purely for God and His work this believer would not consider his personal happiness or feeling. He certainly would understand the meaning of spirituality. But in the depth of his heart lodges instead a soul's self-love.

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Spiritual life is for spiritual work, spiritual work expresses spiritual life. The secret of that kind of living lies in the incessant flowing of that life to others. Spiritual food of a believer is nothing more nor less than accomplishing God's work (John 4:34). Spiritual food is simply to do His will. Preoccupation with one's own supply causes lack, whereas concern with God's Kingdom brings satisfaction. He who is occupied with the Father's business and not with his own shall find himself perpetually full.

The way to retain what he possesses is to engage it. Burying it beneath the earth is a sure way to lose it. When a believer allows the life in his spirit to flow freely, he not only shall gain others but shall gain himself as well. One gains by losing self for others and not by hoarding for oneself. The life within a spiritual man must be released by performing spiritual labor.

If one's inner being is always open and free, the life of God shall flow out from him to salvation and edification of many. The moment spiritual exertion ceases, at that moment spiritual life is blocked. No matter what earthly occupation the believer may have, he is apportioned a measure of work by God as well.⁷

To pray, fast and study the Word just to be a powerful, spiritual person, is only part of God's plan. A Christian living only for himself will become stagnant, because it involves man's will vs. God's will and man's emotions vs. God's emotions (love and compassion). Being concerned only for our spiritual welfare is selfish, and will eventually bring a spiritual lack in our lives.

- **The second message - the Soul Winning Message -- what He does through us: (dominion).**
 - **Crossing Jordan into Canaan.**
 - **Pursuing God's will and purpose for our lives.**
 - **Seeking and saving the lost.**

God and Man Working Together

Isa. 43:13

I will work, and who shall let it?

Mark 16:20

*The **Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following.*

2 Cor. 6:1

*We then, as **workers together with him**, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

1 Cor. 3:6

*I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God gave the increase**.*

God's challenge to us -- use My dominion and authority!

He works for me and I work for Him. He uses me and I use Him: (His Spirit, His name, His Word and His blood). If we work for Him, He will work for us. If we do not work for Him, He will not work for us.

The level of prayer and fasting that will reach our lost world, cannot be attained and sustained if it is just to fill our own spiritual needs. It must be driven by a burden that comes from touching others in need: the lost, the bound, the sick and the hurting of our generation. Reaching out to them will bring a fresh anointing and flow of the Spirit to our lives.

- **Spiritual growth of mature saints continues as they hunger and reach for new levels of relationship and dominion.** (Refer to Charts B-2, C-5 and C-6 in the Addendum Volume).
- **When we are occupied with the Father's business and not just our own, we will be satisfied and will experience the joy of the Lord.**
- **Spiritual food is simply doing His will. Concern with God's Kingdom brings satisfaction and fulfillment. When we minister to the needs of others, it is not only a blessing to them, but we are ministering to the needs of the Lord and we also receive a blessing.**

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- **They are blessed.**
- **We are blessed.**
- **He is blessed.**
- **God created man for two purposes:**
 1. **Relationship** - Love, Communication and Trust.
 2. **Dominion** - Doing His will and work on earth and completing His mission.
- **We receive the blessings of God by fulfilling the first purpose for which He created man:**
 - **Relationship with heaven -- Reaching for Him.**
- **We gain the favor of God by fulfilling the second purpose for which He created man:**
 - **Dominion on earth -- Reaching for them.**
- **If we are to hear these words from our heavenly Father:**
“Thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased”, then we must, like Jesus in His earthly ministry, be about our Father’s Business.

The Father’s Business is summed up in Jesus’ own words describing His mission and purpose:

“Destroying the works of the devil.”

“Seeking and saving the lost.”

- **At the end of life’s day, His beloved sons (those who have been about the Father’s Business) in whom He has been well pleased, will hear Him say, “*Well done thou good and faithful servant*”.**

Matt. 25:21

*His lord said unto him, **Well done**, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been **faithful over a few things**, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Other New Testament Teachings

"Inheriting Eternal Life"

Salvation Message	Soul Winning Message
His love for us.	Our love for others.
Relationship with heaven.	Dominion on earth.
Reaching for Him.	Reaching for them.
Passion for Him.	Compassion for them.
Inheriting (<i>entitlement to</i>) the Father's Business through our relationship with Him.	Experiencing the Father's Business through our partnership of dominion with Him.

*Thank You, Heavenly Father, For Your Blessings.
But More Than That, I Desire Your Favor.*

IV. Conclusion

Entitlement to the Father's Business (Relationship)
Experiencing the Father's Business (Dominion)

1. The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

- **The Race - This is the last and final lap of the Christian race and we are the last runners in the relay. The torch of truth has been passed to us to reach the last generation before the coming of Jesus Christ.**
- **The Clock - The prophetic time clock of the ages points to midnight, we are almost out of time. Much work remains with billions desperately in need of a Savior. We are racing against the clock. We are racing the sunset.**

This is the anchor leg of a relay race where truth has been passed down from generation to generation for the past 2,000 years of the New Testament Church. The fastest and most skilled runner is always placed in the strategic position on the anchor leg of the race.

We must run harder and with more determination than ever before. We are running for the gold -- a place where the streets are paved with gold. We are at the end of the Christian race. Heaven's city limit is now in view; eternal life is within our grasp.

CONCLUSION

We must take no risk on this lap because there is too much at stake. Everything we have lived for, worked for, and stood for is depending on our actions in the next few days, just before the coming of Jesus Christ. “Dear heavenly Father, please reveal anything that is a weight or distraction in our lives hindering us from doing our best in Your Kingdom business.”

Heb. 12:1-2

*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us **run** with patience **the race** that is set before us,*

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

We must lay aside, not just sin, but every weight, every distraction, anything that would hinder our spiritual progress. We must get our second wind in the Spirit and sprint to the finish line. The momentous times in which we live demand our best for the **Father’s Business**. We should strive to cross the finish line of this Christian race running more determined than ever before, because we are running for our lives, the lives of our family and the lives of souls in our harvest field.

Man’s day is almost over. The sun is quickly setting on this dispensation. The long shadows of 6,000 years of man’s day tell us that the day is far spent and night is coming. What do you plan to do in these final closing days of time? What are your plans for His Kingdom, the Father’s business, before the final rays of the light of the gospel have faded from this generation that has lost its way and desperately needs a Savior?

John 9:4

*4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh**, when no man can work.*

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

*4 All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is **little time left before the night falls** and all work comes to an end. NLT*

When time has almost expired and there is still a lot of work to do, our priorities and business must be rearranged and realigned with the Father's priorities and business.

Rev. 12:12

*... The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because **he knoweth that he hath but a short time.***

The devil, aware of the shortness of time remaining, is stepping up his activity and war against the Kingdom of God. Every born-again believer must respond with their actions of prayer and care to defeat the enemy and reach those held captive in prisons of sin, sickness, and abuse.

- **An urgent call is being made by our heavenly Father for soldiers, intercessors, caregivers, and harvesters.**

The Great Commander is Calling His Soldiers to Arms

The forces of evil are set in array against the purpose and mission of the church. This is the last opportunity to volunteer as a soldier for the Great Commander's army with the forces of good against the forces of evil. The kingdom of satan has issued its challenge to the church. What will our response be? Will it be like that of David, "***Is there not a cause?***" -- a cause worth fighting for, a cause worth dying for?

The Great High Priest is Calling for Intercessors

Our heavenly Father is seeking for two things: **Worshippers** - our relationship with Him and **Intercessors** - our dominion role of doing His work and will.

CONCLUSION

An intercessor is a “go between”, standing between two forces or causes.

- If the **forces are unfriendly**, there will be a **clash**.

Standing between satan and man in need is often referred to as spiritual warfare. But it really is a form of intercessory prayer.

*1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy the works of the devil**.*

- If the **forces are friendly**, there will be a **pleading** to the one in position of power for the one in need. This is standing between God and man in need. It is intercessory prayer like Abraham pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah to be spared. It is Moses standing between God and Israel, interceding with God for a nation to be spared.

One of the greatest needs and challenges of our time is for every Christian to step into the dominion role and fulfill the call for intercessors.

Ezek. 22:30

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

The Great Physician is Calling for Caregivers

No other generation since the beginning of time has experienced so much suffering from physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual sickness. Jesus, the Master Physician who heals those with broken bodies, hearts and spirits, has left this work in our hands. He is depending on us; our lost world is depending on us. They are crying for someone to care for and minister to:

- Their physical needs.
- Their emotional and mental needs.
- Their spiritual needs.

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

The world is full of people dying from disease and sin, crying out in their despair and hopelessness, desperately in need of the remedy, the balm of Gilead, and the healing power of the Great Physician.

Jer. 8:20-22

20 “The harvest is finished, and the summer is gone,” the people cry, “yet we are not saved!”

21 I weep for the hurt of my people. I am stunned and silent, mute with grief.

22 Is there no medicine in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people? NLT

The Lord of the Harvest is Calling for Laborers

The Father’s harvest business is labor intensive; it depends on laborers. He has chosen to do nothing on earth except through man. He is depending on you -- He is depending on me.

The prayer request of Jesus, the Lord of the Harvest, is still calling and pleading for every believer to come to His help just before the sun sets forever on the harvest field. For every believer that doesn’t get involved in the harvest, there will be souls not saved.

Luke 10:2

*Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: **pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.***

John 4:35

*Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.***

1.1 Need for Apostolic Dominion and Authority

Jesus used miracles to launch and advance His earthly ministry to:

1. Attract the attention of individuals and the multitudes.

CONCLUSION

2. Reach the most people in the least amount of time, because the time of His ministry would be very short.
3. Inspire people to abandon traditions and believe on Him.
4. Confirm His words and teachings.
5. Confirm that He was much more than just another prophet, or just another voice in the religious circles of that day.

John 11:42 Jesus' prayer at Lazarus' tomb.

*But because of the people which stand by I said it, **that they may believe that thou has sent me.***

When Jesus left this world, the New Testament Church, the Book of Acts church, took over His work. They continued with His authority and dominion to complete the mission that He had exemplified for them. They continued His miracle ministry just as if He were still physically present. And He was present in Spirit rather than in the flesh.

The first message in Acts is for the unconverted to begin their **relationship** with God. But there is a second message of **dominion** that is often overlooked. This is a challenging message for the believer, that tells what the early church did, how they did it, and the miraculous results that they received. There was prayer, fasting, apostolic authority and dominion, resulting in intense evangelism with deliverance, salvation and miracles.

We have cracked open the door of evangelism and miracles from time to time, and we rejoice and thank God when this happens. But we must press with prayer and fasting, and move further into the **dominion** role until the doors of evangelism and miracles burst open. And then the power of God, as recorded in the Book of Acts, will freely flow from our lives and churches to the many prison doors in our city and world. We should be praying for and expecting this to happen in our lives and in our churches.

If Jesus (God in flesh) used authority and **dominion** over sickness, disease, and the power of satan to launch and advance His ministry, how can the church operate without the same today?

If the New Testament Church in the Book of Acts needed a miracle ministry with signs, wonders, and miracles to confirm the Word and reach their world, how much more the church needs the same today to complete their mission. This will only come as we desperately **seek** Him and fulfill our role of **dominion**.

1.2 Value of Eternal Life

Our values (what we really believe in) drive our entire lives through every decision:

- What we choose to do or choose not to do.
- How we spend our money.
- How we spend our time (our most valuable resource).

“Oh God, give us another revelation of the value of eternal life, not only our eternal life, but the eternal life of every lost soul.” When we have the value of **eternal life** in the proper perspective, we will see the homeless living under the bridge as souls worth more than the value of this entire world. We will see differently the cause of Christ, His will and His purpose for our lives:

- A cause worth fighting for.
- A cause worth living for.
- A cause worth dying for.
- A cause dwarfing everything else in priority and importance.

He gave His life for us and He asks us to do no less for Him.

Matt. 16:24-26

*24 Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up His cross** and follow me.*

25 For whosoever will save His life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose His life for my sake shall find it.

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*26 For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain the whole world, and lose His own soul**? or what shall a man give in exchange for His soul?*

24 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.

25 If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.

*26 And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? **Is anything worth more than your soul?**”
NLT*

The **value of eternal life** is linked with the price that He paid on the cross. The **cross is the bridge to eternal life** - our **eternal life** and the **eternal life** of others. The cross was the bridge to eternal life at the time of our salvation and continues throughout our Christian walk.

This old song rings clearly with a perpetual truth:

**“I will trade the old cross for a crown,
When the burdens of life I lay down.
When the pearly gates for me shall swing open,
I will trade the old cross for a crown.”**

What is our **eternal life** worth to us? It must be so valuable that we are willing to die for it -- willing to be a martyr, like so many of the faithful soldiers of the past. When we have made that commitment, the trials of our life will not seem so unbearable, just a short time, then **eternal life**.

2 Cor. 4:17-18

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

*18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.*

1.3 Urgency of the Times

The church today, at the end of the Grace Dispensation, faces the same challenge that Jesus encountered in His ministry, at the end of the Dispensation of the Law. There was little time to work and there was a lot of work to do. If the church is to meet the needs of a desperate world, with time running out, we must pursue a supernatural course of action.

Rom. 13:11-12

*11 And that **knowing the time**, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

*12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us **put on the amour of light**.*

*11 You must do this, because you know that the **time** has come for you to wake up from your sleep. For the moment when we will be saved is closer now than it was when we first believed.*

*12 The night is nearly over, **day is almost here**. Let us stop doing the things that belong to the dark, and let us **take up weapons for fighting** in the light. GNT*

*11 But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you **lose track of the time** and doze off, oblivious to God.*

*12 The night is about over, dawn is about to break. **Be up and awake to what God is doing!** BCL*

“And that knowing the time” - There are three things that tell us about prophetic time: the Bible, the calendar, and world news. Today these announce that we are at the end of the Church Age and nearing the beginning of the Seventh Millennium and the end of time.

The leaders of Israel and Palestine are sitting down at the peace table and the status of Jerusalem is the big unresolved issue, (as prophesied, it has become a cup of trembling). The foundational

CONCLUSION

pieces of the fifth and last worldwide kingdom, prophesied by Daniel, are quickly being put into place.

There is a feeling of destiny in my spirit. We must exercise apostolic authority and dominion to do God's will and work. With that will come tremendous power to us as **sons of God** to reap the last harvest. But this will come only to those who are **desperately seeking Him**, those who have a passion to fulfill His mission, His will and His purpose. *"The kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent take it by force"*.

It is the end of **time**! It is **time** to diligently seek Him. It is **time** for dominion and restoration! It is revival **time**! It is harvest **time**!

- **It is time to expand our vision of the harvest field and what God wants to do in us (relationship) and through us (dominion), in this last and final harvest.**

1.4 God's Eternal Purpose and Will for Our Lives

Jer. 1:5

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

God had an eternal purpose and will for our lives before we were born. And we will never be truly fulfilled unless we continue to pursue the eternal purpose and will of God for our lives. God created man for two purposes: relationship and dominion. The more we move into the center of God's eternal purpose for our lives, the more we will be fulfilled and experience the joy of the Lord.

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

The Master Potter's Plan

We should be pliable in His hands so He can fashion us as He desires to become a vessel of honor in His Kingdom.

Jer. 18:2-4

2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

*4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so **he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.***

Jer. 19:11 A vessel that cannot be molded is discarded.

*And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as **one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury.***

2 Tim. 2:20-21

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work

2 Cor. 4:7

*7 But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

*7 But this precious treasure -- **this light and power that now shine within us -- is held** in a perishable container, **that is, in our weak bodies.** Everyone can see **that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own.** NLT*

Luke 6:46

*And why call ye me, **Lord, Lord**, and do not the things which I say?*

Lord NT:2962 kurios, kuriou, ho

CONCLUSION

He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; master, lord:

(a) used universally, of the possessor and disposer of a thing, the owner (b) kurios is a title of honor, expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants salute their master (c) this title is given: to God, the ruler of the universe, to the Messiah; to Jesus as the Messiah.¹

“Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price.”

“Your own body does not belong to you, for God has bought you with a great price.” TLB

Jesus is Lord - **What is our response to that?**

Phil. 2:13, 15

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

*15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world;***

Phil. 2:13, 15-16

*13 For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then **helping you do what he wants.***

*15 You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. **Shine out among them like beacon lights,***

16 holding out to them the Word of Life. NLT

Mark 3:35 Jesus identifies with those who do His will.

*For whosoever shall **do the will of God**, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.*

Rom. 8:2

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

2 Tim. 1:9

Who hath saved us, and **called us with an holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to **his own purpose** and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Rom. 12:2

2 **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.** NLT

2 Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. **Then you will be able to know the will of God--what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.** TEV

Eph. 6:5-6

5 Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ.

6 Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants **doing what God wants you to do.** BCL

Eph. 6:6

Work hard, but not just to please your masters when they are watching. **As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart.** NLT

Col. 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, **that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**

Heb. 10:36

For ye have need of patience, that, **after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.**

CONCLUSION

I John 2:17

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Lord change me. Help me to die not only to sin, but to self.

1 Thess. 5:23 Man is made up of three parts: spirit, soul and body. *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our soul is comprised of our will, our mind and our emotions. The soul represents the person we really are: our personality, individuality, influence and our natural talents.

- Our mind is what we think.
- Our emotions is what we feel.
- **Our will is what we do.**

If Jesus struggled in the garden with His will, then that is the area where we will struggle the most. Because His will is often different than ours, we must pray like He did in the garden of Gethsemane: ***“Not my will, but thine be done”***.

There are people, not yet born again of the water and the Spirit, who have made some progress in removing the sins of the flesh (alcohol, drugs, immorality, etc.), from their lives through their own determination. But no one can be delivered from self except through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

We may have limitations, but He has none. We may lack talents, but His anointing will provide divine ability. We may be timid, but when the Spirit is ruling in our lives, the boldness of the Holy Ghost can be a witness through our lives. Who will die to self and let God’s Spirit flow through them?

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

We sometimes use excuses: “I am timid; I don’t have an outgoing personality; I can’t do such and such because that is not me.” Those are our limited abilities, our personality and emotional make-up that describe us as a son of man. But it is God’s will for His Spirit to rule in our lives and work through us with His ability as sons of God.

When the carnal man is subdued and the Spirit is ruling in our lives:

- The timid become bold.
- Those lacking natural talent become anointed with divine ability.
- Those who are afraid to leave their comfort zone, step out on the promises of God, and the call of the Spirit to the harvest field -- unafraid to take a risk.
- The weak take on His strength.
- He uses our frailty and weaknesses to perform His work.

Acts 4:29

*And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and **grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,***

Acts 4:13

*Now when they saw the **boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were **unlearned and ignorant men**, they marvelled; and they **took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.***

Nowhere in the Bible do we see God using man’s natural talents and giftings to perform His supernatural work. It is His power and divine ability (anointing) through which He accomplishes His work through man: Gideon, David, Samson, Moses, Elijah, and unlearned fishermen.

CONCLUSION

In the Old Testament, it was only a few anointed, holy men. But in the New Testament Church it is every born-again believer whom He wants to anoint for His supernatural work.

Reaching the Potential that God Ordained for Our Lives

-- From Author Unknown

Story of Rabbi Berlin

There was once a great scholar named Rabbi Nafali Zvi Yehuda Berlin, who had become known as the Netziv. He had many students and he had written dozens of books. One day the Netziv spoke to his students about how he had chosen his life's path, and this is the story he told:

‘When I was ten years old, I was a poor student. When I went to class, I fooled around. I didn’t listen to my teachers. I was in trouble all the time. And one day I was in my room and I heard my mother crying as she talked with my father. I sneaked up to their bedroom door and listened. My mother said, ‘what are we going to do with Naftali? He doesn’t study. He’s failing his classes. They don’t want to allow him back in school. Without schooling, he’ll never amount to anything.’ I was shocked.

I felt terrible that I had brought so much anguish to my mother. I dragged myself back to my room and I made a decision – from that day on I would focus on my studies and stop fooling around and listen to my teachers so that my mother would be happy again. And as you can see, I continued my studies, and I became a scholar, and now I’m a teacher with thousands of students and I’ve written many books.

But I often wonder what would have happened if I didn’t hear my mother crying that day. I’m certain that I would have grown up to be a very nice person. I would have been the kind of person who gave to charity and went to synagogue regularly and prayed and studied a little and took care of my family in the best way that I knew. I would have lived a good, simple life.

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

And after so many years I would die and stand before the Creator and the Creator would say, 'Well, Rabbi Naftali.'

Rabbi? What is He saying? I'm not a rabbi. I'm a nice guy, I'm a nice person, but I'm not a rabbi. Maybe there's been a mistake. But before I could correct Him, He would say: 'Where are all your students?'

Students? Is He crazy? Where would I get students? I'm a simple guy. I'm a nice guy, but what do I know about teaching? I barely finished school. He's got me mixed up with somebody else. But before I could set Him straight, the Creator would ask, 'And where are all the books that you've written?'

Books? What books? I could hardly read, let alone write. I could read the prayers. But books? No, I hadn't written any books.

And the Creator would have been disappointed.

Why? Why disappointed? I would have been a good person. A simple man, it's true, but good. I wouldn't have written any books, but I would have done no evil in the world. I wouldn't have any students, it's true, but hadn't I had taken care of my family? Hadn't I given to charity and gone to synagogue regularly and learned all the prayers? Isn't that enough? What right would the Creator have to be disappointed in me?

The Creator would have a right to be disappointed because had I not heard my mother that day, I would not have reached my potential. Living a good, simple life, even a spiritual life, was not enough. Because the fact is all of us are put into this world with a particular job to do. Just because a person lives a good life doesn't mean that he accomplished what he was put into this world to do. And if we don't accomplish what we were put here to do, we disappoint the Creator, and we've wasted our lives. But, you ask, how are we to know? How can we understand what we were put into this world to do? We are simple people.

CONCLUSION

We can't see into the future. We can't know what the Creator has in mind for us.

And, of course, that's true. So the only way we can hope to achieve what we came into this world to accomplish, the only way we can hope to satisfy the Creator, is to always push ourselves to the limits of our potential and to never be satisfied with our spiritual accomplishments.

Our job in this world is not about being a good person, or a spiritual person, or a wise person. It's not about giving a little charity or being nice to people and attending synagogue.

It's about doing what we came to the world to accomplish. And though we may not know exactly what we came here for, we do know that without a constant push to change for the better, without our constant endeavor toward spiritual growth, we can never hope to fulfill our potential. And this is what the Creator expects of us.²

The Challenge of the Unfinished Task

The specific will of God for our lives may be different, but it will always involve **dominion** in touching and reaching lost souls in some way.

Ps. 143:10

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Let our prayer be like David's: **"Teach me to do thy will"**.

Let it be said of us like it was said of King David: **"I have found a man who shall fulfill all of my will"**.

Acts 13:22

*He raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.***

And when I am doing the Father's will, I will be about the Father's Business -- exercising authority and dominion in ministering to the needs of hopelessly lost people living in a world of darkness.

The Two Arms of the Church:

- ***The Prayer Ministry (Relationship)***
 - ***The Care Ministry (Dominion)***
-

2. Answering the Challenge

The answer to the challenge of the unfinished task is simply elevating the **Mission, Vision** and the **Core Ministry** of the church to the highest priority and the highest level. Doing this will drive us toward a **Harvest Driven Church** vs. a maintenance driven church (defined in Chart L-5 of the Addendum Volume).

Although the supporting ministries of the church are needed and important, they must not compete with the core ministry of the church -- the **two arms** of the church:

The Power Arm - the **Prayer Ministry** (Relationship with heaven - reaching Him).

The Actions Arm - the **Compassion and Care Ministry** (Dominion on earth - reaching them).

Refer to the Addendum Volume for the following charts:

- F-1 The Path to the Supernatural Through the Core Ministry of the Church
- H-7 The Core Ministry Vs. Supporting Ministries
- G-8 The Spiritual Soul Winning Model
- K-1 The Soul Winning Process / Organization Model

CONCLUSION

Although this subject falls into the scope of Volumes IV and V, I will conclude with a summary of it here.

Divine Power - Prayer Ministry

Prayer and fasting is the key that brings the anointing (**divine ability**) to effectively do God's work and fulfill the mission of the church - *"Seeking and saving the lost"*. If we are to make significant improvements in our outreach efforts, we must have God's wisdom and anointing. Anointing comes with sacrifice, and sacrifice begins and ends with **prayer, fasting, and service**. Prayer and fasting are **not** a department in the church; they generate the **power** of the church.

The Prayer and Fasting Ministry **must not** be perceived as just another ministry of the church. It must be elevated and presented as:

- The most important process.
- The enabling power for all other ministries and departments to become effective.
- One in which everyone feels compelled to participate.

Apostolic Actions - Compassion and Care Ministry

Soul Winning is not a department of the church -- it is the **Mission** of the church. Our soul saving process **must not** be perceived as just another ministry. Every ministry of the church should justify its existence based on its contribution to the mission of saving souls and making disciples -- establishing them in the Kingdom of God.

The Compassion and Care Ministry (ministering to needs) **must not** be perceived as another ministry of the church. It must be elevated and presented:

- As the **mission** of the church.
- To bring awareness that every believer is a minister.

Answering the Challenge

- To help everyone become involved in ministering to the needs of the lost, the sick and the hurting.

Revival prayer and fasting will bring anointing to give us boldness to assume the dominion role to do God's will and work. Exercising our dominion role is required to bring **restoration to the power and evangelism of the Book of Acts.**

- **To reap a large harvest of souls, we must sacrifice and prepare for a large harvest of souls. Our actions must match our vision. And when God sees our faith, He will partner with us to bring the results.**

Jesus' prayer request was: *"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."* (Matthew 9:38, Luke 10:2) The size of this harvest will be determined by the number of laborers, as well as the amount of sacrifice and preparation.

- **Our church will reach its potential when everyone in the church reaches his or her potential. For each person who does not get involved, there will be souls not saved.**

If we really believe we are at the end of the Church Age and this is the **last harvest season**, then we must take the appropriate actions to ensure that we are giving our best efforts to the **Father's Business.**

Reaching for Him (Relationship)
Reaching for Them (Dominion)



Passion for Him (Relationship)
Compassion for Them (Dominion)

3. Our Involvement in the Endtime Harvest

There are two great, exciting and eternal rewards of the last great endtime harvest that is prophesied to supersede every harvest of yesteryear:

1. Ingathering of many lost souls who will be saved from an eternity in hell.
2. Many saints previously uninvolved or partially involved in prior harvests, will have a great opportunity to fulfill God's will in their life in answering the eleventh hour call to the Master's vineyard and harvest field.

This harvest is a great challenge because it is the final harvest, and the souls unsaved in this harvest will be eternally lost, and the saints who do not get involved will not have another opportunity.

- **This is a great challenge to those involved in the fivefold ministry (*Eph. 4:11 apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers*), because the salvation of the lost depends on the involvement of the saints and the salvation of the saints depends on their involvement with the lost.**

CONCLUSION

The good news is that there will be a mega harvest, a bountiful harvest. The bad news is there is not much time. And as sure as God will do a **quick work in the harvest**, He will also do a **quick work in the harvester**. Those who have a great vision of the harvest and are taking the actions to position themselves to be a part of it, will be thrust into the **dominion** role at a level beyond the accomplishments of all their prior years working in the Kingdom of God.

- **Those in the center of God's will in this final harvest will be used in the supernatural to complete God's purpose and work.**

4. *My Prayer*

“Oh God, don’t let me live in denial of Your soon coming. Let me see the prophetic time clocks ticking toward the midnight hour. Give me also an understanding of the times like the children of Issachar, and to know what to do.

1 Chron. 12:32

*And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had **understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do.*

Thank you for the great privilege to be called Your son and to be chosen to work in Your business. I want to be a good son and carry on Your business in a way that will please You and in the same way that You exemplified for me as You walked the shores of Galilee. Thank you for Your many blessings; they are more than I deserve. But more than Your blessings, I now desire Your favor. Thank you for including me in Your plan and in Your Kingdom business here on earth.

Dear Jesus, forgive me for not being all that I should have been in the harvest seasons of yesteryear. Let me see Your lost world and Your ripe harvest field like You see it. Let Your burden become my burden, and Your vision become my vision, to see the awful

CONCLUSION

reality of sin, abuse and hopelessness in the desperately lost world for which You suffered and died.

Help me to align my spiritual compass with Your mission and purpose and will. Help me to align my time clock with the prophetic time clock of Your Kingdom -- managing my priorities and activities consistent with the endtime.

I intend by Your help and grace, that when the last rays of light have faded on this final generation and Your great time clock of the ages has expired, You will find me working in Your business with a **sword** in one hand and a **sickle** in the other -- fighting in Your **battle** and working in Your **harvest**.”

I am a son of God

I want to be a good son

I want to have the Father's favor

I Must be About My Father's Business !

Relationship with Heaven - Reaching for Him !

Dominion on Earth - Reaching for Them !

V. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Charts

Only a portion of the related charts are included here since the Addendum Volume contains the full size 8.5 x 11 copies of the PowerPoint charts for Volumes I, II, III, IV and V. This is published as a separate volume since:

- Many of these charts become less useful (distorted and hard to read) when they are reduced to a book size.
- Many charts are applicable to multiple volumes.
- Charts can be revised and distributed without reprinting volumes that refer to them.

The full color charts are available on CD in PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat formats.

Refer to the following pages for these charts:

B-1 Dominion in the Supernatural (continuous cycle)

B-2 Relationship and Dominion - Spiritual Growth

C-5 Expanding Our Relationship and Dominion Roles

C-6 New Levels of Relationship and Dominion
-- Passion and Compassion

F-1 The Path to the Supernatural Through the Core Ministry
of the Church

G-8 The Spiritual Soul Winning Model

H-7 The Core Ministry Vs. Supporting Ministries

K-9 Calvary Provides Healing for the Complete Man
-- Body, Soul and Spirit

APENDICES

Chart B-1

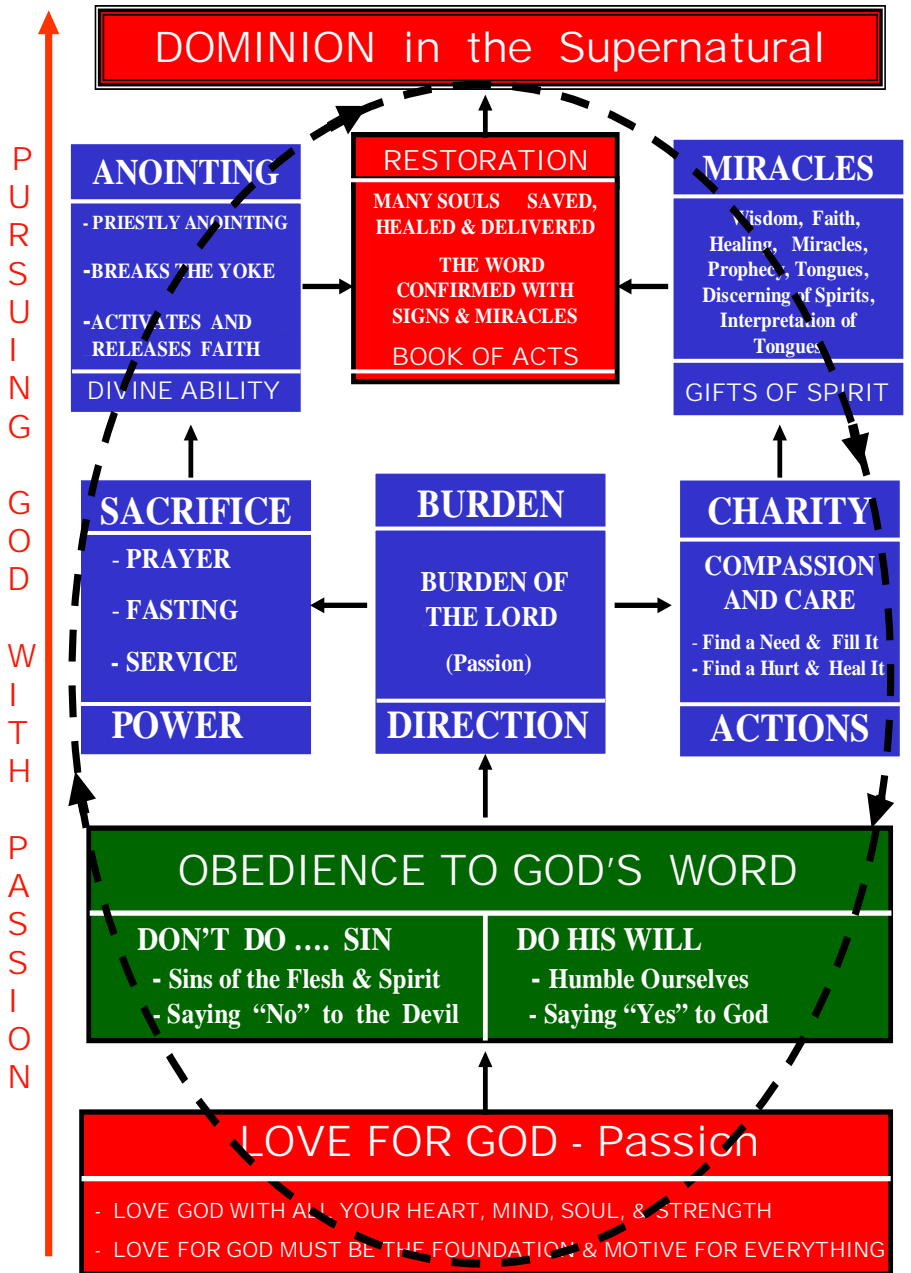
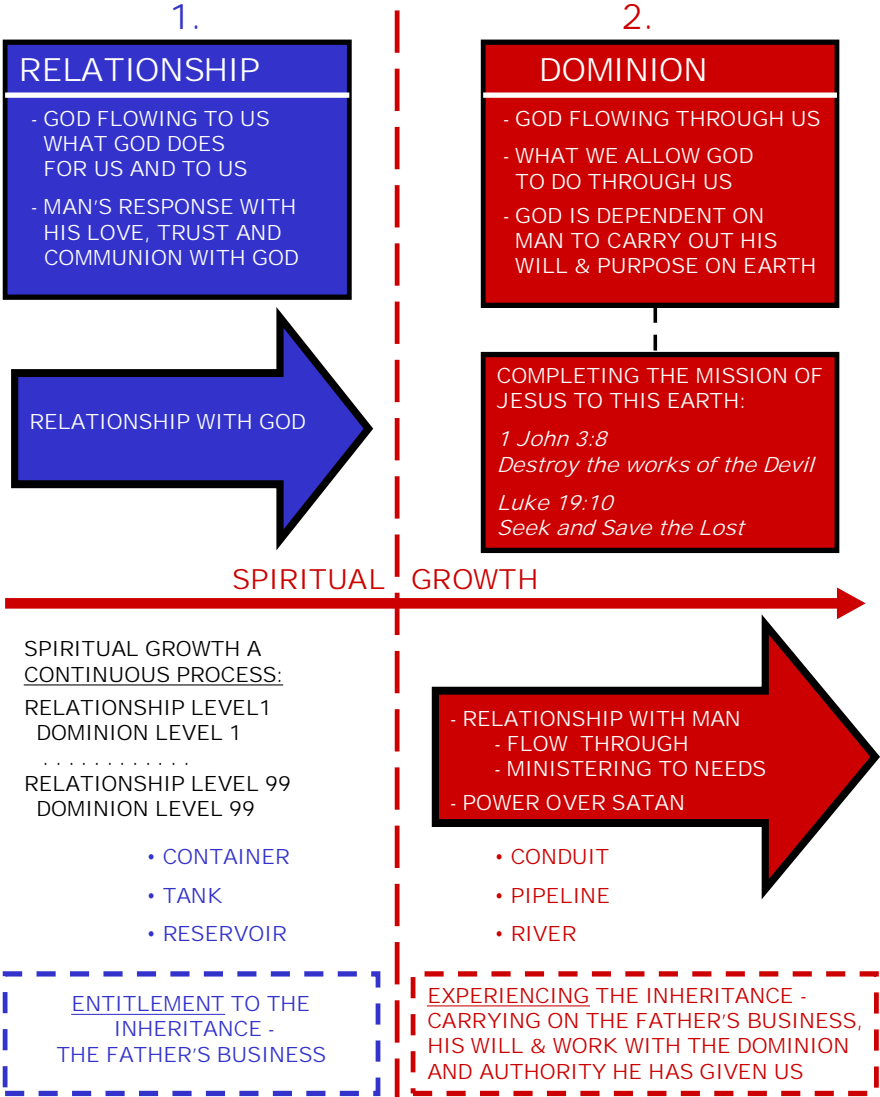


Chart B-2

GOD CREATED MAN FOR TWO PURPOSES

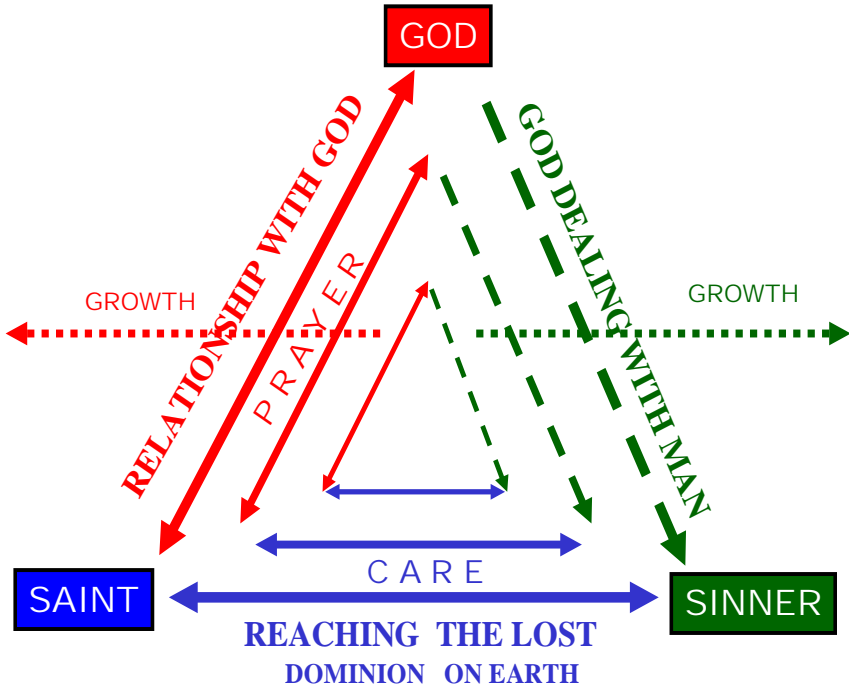


SPRITUAL GROWTH BECOMES STAGNANT
UNLESS THERE IS A FLOW THROUGH

APENDICES

Chart C-5

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE SAINT
AND WORKING IN GOD'S KINGDOM TO
REACH THE LOST - GO HAND IN HAND



Going to God for man (Prayer) before going to man for God (Care) !

**GOD WORKING THROUGH MAN TO DO HIS WORK
GOD HAS NO OTHER PLAN THAN TO USE MAN**

- Our heavenly Father will give us more of His power and authority when we use what He has already given to us.
- When there is growth and expansion in our relationship with our heavenly Father, there will be growth and expansion in our role as His son to carry on His mission to reach the lost.
- As we reach out to the needs of others, a greater hunger and desire for more of God in our lives is created to meet the need.

The Spiritual Growth Process

1. RELATIONSHIP with God

- Driven by Passion for God!

2. DOMINION - Doing God's will & work on earth

- Driven by Compassion for the lost!

Phil 3:14

*I press toward the mark
for the prize of the high
calling of God in Christ
Jesus.*



APENDICES

Chart F-1

THE PATH TO DOMINION IN THE SUPERNATURAL

Through the Core Ministry of the Church
The Only Hope For Reaching This Lost End-time Generation



PASSION BRINGS POWER

God's eternal purpose and will for every born-again believer is to fulfill the great commission to work in His harvest field reaching lost souls.

This is a **SPIRITUAL WORK** and will not be done with natural talents and giftings. This will almost always be against the natural man's desires, abilities and comfort zone.

This will always involve:

- His Will Vs Our Will (Not Our Choice but His)
- His Thinking Vs Our Thinking (His ways)
- His Emotions Vs Our Emotions (Deep sorrow for their suffering with a strong urge to help)

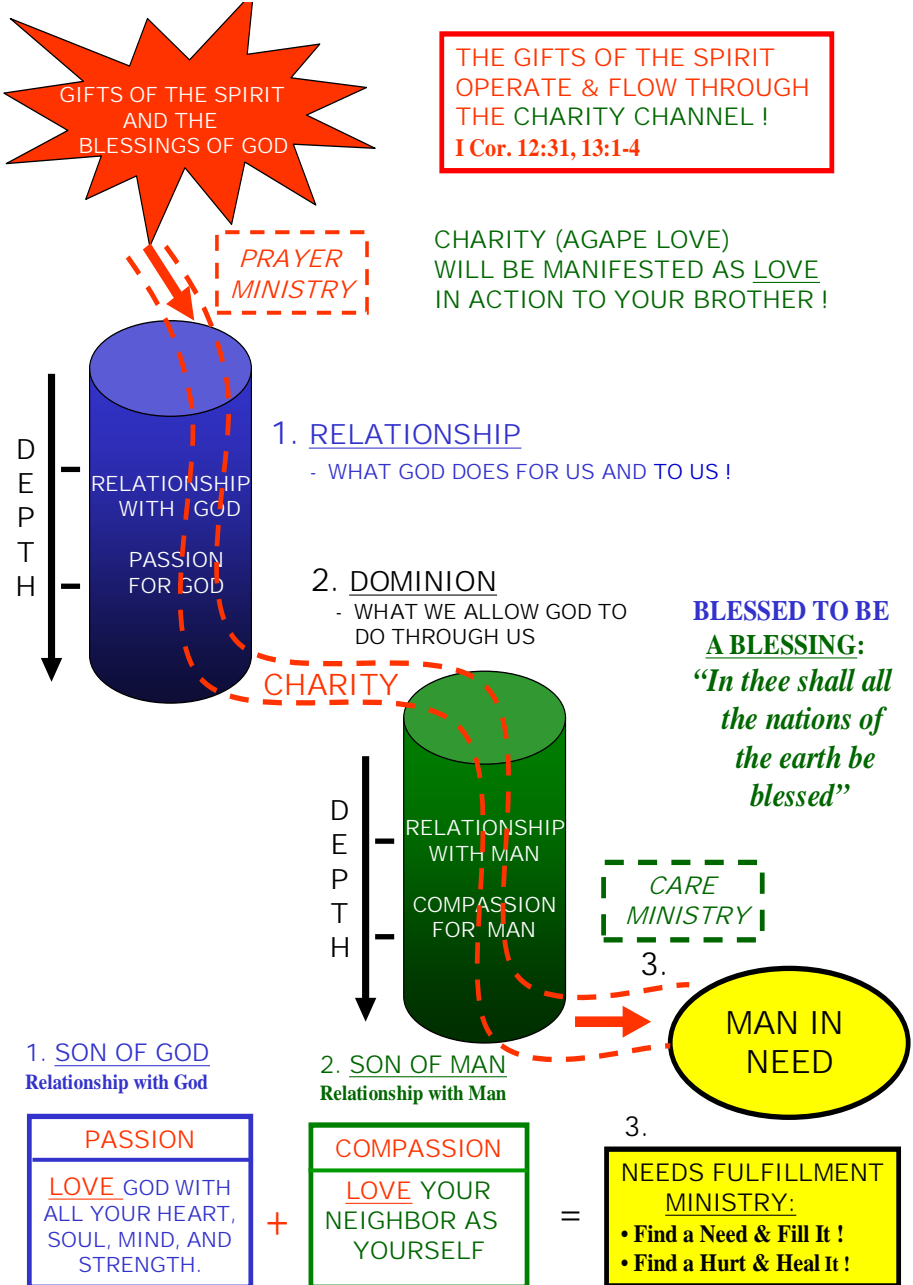
Born Again Believer

SPIRITUAL MAN		NATURAL MAN	
Son of God		Son of Man	
SPIRIT Supernatural Gifting Divine Ability Vs Man's Ability		SOUL - WILL - MIND - EMOTIONS Natural - Gifting - Ability - Talent	BODY THE FIVE SENSES

Power

Zech 4:6-7 You will not succeed by your own strength, but by my Spirit. Obstacles as great as mountains will disappear before you. TEV

Chart G-8



APENDICES

Chart H-7



Chart K-9

COMPASSION AND CARE

FOR THE WOUNDED, THE DYING AND THE CRYING

JESUS' DEATH ON CALVARY PROVIDED HEALING FOR THE COMPLETE MAN
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT

1. BODY - PHYSICAL SICKNESS, DISEASE, INFIRMITIES,
BROKEN HEALTH

2. SOUL - Will, Emotions, Mind

> BROKEN AND DAMAGED IN THEIR WILL

RESULT: Lost their will to live or try again - they have given up hope.
(some have tried to end their lives).

> REJECTED, BROKEN AND DAMAGED EMOTIONS

RESULT: Reaching for love and affection in the wrong places.

> BROKEN AND DAMAGED IN THEIR MIND

RESULT: Cannot carry on the normal functions of life to pursue a meaningful career and make a living.

3. SPIRIT

> THE HUMAN SPIRIT HAS BEEN BROKEN AND DAMAGED AND THEY ARE
SPIRITUALLY BLIND AND WITHOUT DIRECTION

RESULT: THE LIGHT OF THEIR HUMAN SPIRIT HAS GONE OUT AND THEY DO
NOT KNOW HOW TO CONNECT WITH GOD

- THEY NEED THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL TO GIVE HOPE & DIRECTION
- THEY NEED THE LIGHT OF GOD'S SPIRIT TO COME INTO THEIR SPIRIT
AND GIVE THEM A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

Apostolic Ministry is Still for the Church Today

- > Jesus healed the sick and those affected by evil spirits.
- > Jesus gave the 12 disciples (represents the 5-fold ministry) authority over every manner of sickness and every evil spirit. (Matt 10:5-8)
- > Jesus gave 70 others (represents the laity) authority over every sickness and evil spirits. (Luke 10:1-19)

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Appendix 2

Addendum Volume Chart Reference

Refer to the Addendum Volume for the following charts related to the subject of Dominion.

Primary Subject Index for "Dominion"

B-1	Dominion in the Supernatural	* * *
B-1a	Dominion in the Supernatural (continuous cycle)	* * *
B-1b	Dominion in the Supernatural (seven process cycle)	
B-2	Relationship and Dominion -- Spiritual Growth	* * *
B-3	God Seeks for Worshippers and Intercessors	*
B-4	God's Plan for Restoration	* *
B-5	Restoration -- The History of the Nation of Israel and the Church	* * *
B-6	Restoration -- Vision	*
B-7	Relationship, Revelation, Restoration and Revival	* * *
B-8	Restoration Theme	*
B-9	Less of Self -- More of Him	*

Refer to the following page for the Alternate Subject Index for "**Dominion**".

APENDICES

Alternate Subject Index for “Dominion”

These are charts that apply to multiple subjects including the subject of Dominion:

- A-1 A Balanced Relationship with God
- A-9 Relationship -- Flow Through
- A-10 The Two Major Themes of the Bible -- Relationship and Dominion (Part 1)
- A-10a The Two Major Themes of the Bible -- Relationship and Dominion (Part 2)
- A-11 Relationship and Dominion Definitions
- C-5 Expanding Our Relationship and Dominion Role
- C-6 New Levels of Relationship and Dominion - Passion and Compassion
- C-7 Rending of the Veil -- Less of Self and More of God
- C-11 Breakthrough to New Levels of Relationship and Dominion
- C-13 Anointing (Divine Ability)
- E-2 Revival Prayer Vs. Survival Prayer
- E-4 Prayer and Soul Winning
- F-1 The Path to the Supernatural Through the Core Ministry of the Church
- F-2 The Supernatural -- Cycles of Passion and Compassion
- F-7 What Hinders the Supernatural - Flow To Vs. Flow Through
- G-4 The Two Arms of the Church
- G-5 Led By the Spirit Into the Harvest Field
- G-10 Passion and Compassion is the Path to Dominion
- G-11 Partnership with God
- G-23 Ministering to Natural Needs and Spiritual Needs

Appendix 3 - Notes

Introduction

- (1) Andrew Murray, *School of Obedience*, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database, Copyright © 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

Section II

Chapter 1

- (1) The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2001 by Biblesoft.
- (2) Author Unknown.

Section III

Chapter 3

- (1) Jack Hayford, *Worship His Majesty*, p. 27, 32, Copyright © 2000, Regal Books, Ventura, CA 93003. Used by permission.
- (2) The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2001 by Biblesoft.
- (3) Andrew Murray, *The Two Covenants*, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database, Copyright © 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (4) Andrew Murray, *In the School of Prayer*, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database, Copyright © 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

APENDICES

Section III (*continued*)

Chapter 4

- (1) The Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, Copyright © 1993, Woodside Bible Fellowship, Ontario, Canada. Licensed from the Institute for Creation Research.
- (2) Webster's New World College Dictionary, Copyright © 2002 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio.
- (3) The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 1962 by Moody Press.
- (4) Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database, Copyright © 1997 by Biblesoft.
- (5) Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database, Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.
- (6) The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2001 by Biblesoft.

Chapter 5

- (1) Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (2) Excerpted from *Secrets of The Vine*, Copyright © 2001, by Exponential Inc. Used by permission of Multnomah Publishers Inc.

Section III (continued)

Chapter 7

- (1) Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (2) Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 1996 by Biblesoft.
- (3) David K. Bernard, *God's Infallible Word*, Copyright © 1992, p. 92. Used by permission.
- (4) Andrew Murray, *Working for God*, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database, Copyright © 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (5) Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database, Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.
- (6) The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2001 by Biblesoft.
- (7) Watchman Nee, *The Spiritual Man*, Copyright © 1968, Volume 2, Chapter 3, p. 35, 36.

SECTION IV

Chapter 1

- (1) Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database, Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
- (2) Author unknown.

Appendix 4 – About the Author

The author's background includes four different areas of experience:

(1) Working thirty-three years in the challenging and exciting field of computer technology, serving both as a technologist and a manager, witnessing and experiencing almost unbelievable accomplishments and advancements.



(2) Working 50 years in various ministries in three home churches, serving at the individual and leadership levels: Home Bible Study and Discipleship Ministry (40 years), Sunday School Bus Ministry (10) Years, Sunday School Ministry, Compassion and Care Ministry, Home Fellowship Ministry, Youth Ministry, Visitor Follow-up Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Singles Ministry, Alcohol / Drug Abuse Mentoring Ministry and Prison Ministry.

(3) Preaching and teaching in many churches in the U.S., foreign missions churches and Bible schools (ordained minister with the United Pentecostal Church International; associated minister with UPCI Global Missions approved for foreign missions support assignments).

(4) Researching, writing and publishing nine books.

His ministry emphasis includes revival and spiritual growth of the saint for the purpose of more effective evangelism of a lost world. Some of the key ministry themes include:

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- Relationship with God (impartation from the Father).
- Spiritual Growth (continuous transformation).
- Dominion (engagement in the Father's business with dominion over satan and sickness).
- God's perfect love growing and flowing in our lives.
- Urgency of the Father's business (managing our priorities consistent with our knowledge of the times).

Ministry Venues:

Global Missions (particularly Bible schools)

We have spent several months teaching in Bible schools in: Manila, Philippines; Barcelona, Spain; and Madrid, Spain. We plan to continue this ministry in the future.

Home Missions

(Pioneer works and small churches that are not self supporting)

Every year a portion of our time is dedicated to this area. This is done on a volunteer basis with no expense to the pastor or the church.

Established Churches

Special Services and Seminars

When needed, special services and seminars provide preaching, teaching and training for putting practical revival and evangelism principles into practice. Some of these services and seminars, summarized on the following page, apply to the entire church and some to selected groups in the church. Multimedia is used in the teaching and training presentations.

Special Services and Seminars

(1) Deeper Life Ministry

(**Doctrine** – preaching and teaching the Word, three levels)

- **New Converts:** Discipleship curriculum and classes.
- **Entire Church:** Teaching and preaching regarding the commitment and actions required to pursue spiritual maturity -- becoming a partaker of His divine nature.
- **Inner Circle:** Jesus modeled this special ministry by choosing a small inner circle of three out of the twelve disciples (Peter, James and John) whom He taught, prayed with and worked with separate from the other nine disciples. Jesus recognized that these were ready to move further into the supernatural and He accommodated that (e.g. Mount of Transfiguration, raising the dead, Gethsemane).

**Promote the pursuit of a greater hunger
and reverence for the Word of God.**

(2) Compassion and Care Ministry

(**Actions** – fellowship and ministering to needs)

- Planning and developing a more organized and effective Compassion and Care Ministry (Attracting, Winning, Retaining and making disciples).
- Teaching and training for a greater number of the laity to get involved in this ministry.
- Reaching sinners in our circle of influence (operating as both son of man and son of God).
- Caring for visitors and new converts (turning church greeters into caregivers):

Find a need and fill it! Find a hurt and heal it!

Special Services and Seminars

(3) Prayer Ministry

(**Power** – corporate and private prayer)

- Planning and developing a more organized and powerful Prayer Ministry in the church.
- Involving a greater number of the laity in this ministry.
- Teaching and training regarding the development of a more balanced and effective prayer life (for children, new converts and others struggling with their prayer life).

(4) Church Growth Vision and Planning

(**Direction**)

- Vision casting and planning to elevate and improve the organization structures and processes for the three key ministries of the church: Deeper Life Ministry (doctrine arm), Compassion and Care Ministry (actions arm), Prayer Ministry (power arm).
- Planning and preparation to reap and retain a greater harvest by mobilizing a greater number of trained laborers in the harvest.

Book of Acts Church Growth Foundational Principles

(1) Doctrine (2) Fellowship / Breaking Bread (3) Prayers

*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers**. And the Lord **added to the church daily** such as should be saved. (Acts 2:41-43, 47)*

Ministry Information

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Negocios-De-Me-Padre.net (Español)

Home Church: Greater Life Church, Webster, TX

Pastor: Rev. Mark Hughes

