

How God Ordains
Our Footsteps

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

As an introduction to this message, please read the following Scriptures carefully. These passages will be quoted throughout this booklet and some of them will be examined in more detail. Read them aloud, if possible. My prayer is that as you see the words and hear them, each word would enter into your heart and trigger powerful results in your life.

“Forsasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us.... And it came to pass, that, while he executed the priest’s office before God in the order of his course...” (Luke 1:1, 8).

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way” (Psalm 37:23).

“Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me” (Psalm 119:133).

“Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

As you read this booklet, allow your thoughts to be transferred into proper channels of thinking,* being elevated beyond human forces, seated above, deriving life outside of yourself. It is vital that you receive every word and trust God to transfer His Word into your memory center.

Mix faith with this message, without striving. Receive exhortation as conviction and never as condemnation. You have an opportunity for conversion through communion with Jesus Christ. The measure you receive the Word will determine the measure that you receive deliverance, healing, and an intimate knowledge of Christ's nature.

* For more on this subject, read *The Hearing Heart*, a booklet available from Grace Publications.

Chapter One
GOING GOD'S WAY

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

“Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” (Isaiah 58:13-14).

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD,

and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings” (Jeremiah 17:5-10).

The Problem

Without exception, the problem throughout the world, in the Church, in marriages, and in every phase of society is a lack of order.

The Lord Jesus Christ created the universe with a special order. In six days, He made order out of chaos. His creative and redemptive plan has a divine order.

Every sin committed by a Christian is the result of disregarding divine order. Every thought not submitted to God has its roots in iniquity and personal sin, giving rise to man's ways, man's words, and man's pleasures.

Fools without Understanding

Proverbs 18:2 tells us that a fool—someone who doesn't think with God—has no delight in understanding, except that which he discovers in himself. Have you ever heard someone say, "I've just got to go out and find myself"? That may sound good. He may try to discover himself, but there will be consequences. "Desire without knowledge [doctrine] is not good" (Proverbs 19:2a, Amplified Translation).

"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without [doctrine]?" (Job 38:2). Man must live by every word of God. We must study the Bible line upon line and precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:10), rightly dividing the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15-16).

By trusting in the Lord and refusing to lean on our own understanding, we escape the disorder of iniquity and personal sin. When we function in God's order, we can have power over Satan, personal sin, iniquity, disease, and emotional problems.

Establishing Order

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-

eminence" (Colossians 1:18).

In this verse, the Greek word *proteuon* is translated "holding the first place." Jesus Christ must hold first place in all things. Depression, anxiety, and fear must not come ahead of Him. These things cannot touch us when we reverence God. We have more power in a paragraph of prayer than any religious pharisee has after five days of fasting. A Spirit-filled Christian has a supernatural resource of power, even in the midst of a busy schedule, all because he puts Jesus Christ first.

When you are at work, don't fight your boss or your supervisors. That's iniquity. You have a right to talk things over with them, but you still must submit to them because God placed them over you in authority. Never express an opinion that doesn't reflect the knowledge of God.

Teen-agers, don't try to "discover" yourselves in the world and say things like, "I just want to see how it feels!" If you do that, God calls you a fool (Proverbs 12:15).

And parents, don't adopt an attitude of compromise: "Oh, children have to go through things and try everything out." Repent for that kind of confession. Your children may go their own way, but you do not have to agree with

them. Be godly parents. Establish order in your home. Pray, and God will lovingly discipline your children.

Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree that God made to test man's volition. When Adam and Eve ate from this tree, Satan's iniquity was transferred to them and the old sin nature was established with its self-conscious rights. As a result, man became independent, no longer conscious of God's purpose for his life.

Without order, iniquity has dominion. This is why the Psalmist prayed that God would order his steps (Psalm 119:133). In Luke 1:1, the Greek word for "set forth in order" is *anatassomai*, meaning, to arrange details in order. In writing his account of Jesus' life, Luke wanted to make sure he recorded every detail accurately. The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to use *anatassomai* because God desires every detail in our lives to be in order—down to specific thoughts, words, responses, and steps—through the filling of the Spirit and the application of His Word.

When God orders our steps, we live in His geographical will, His operational will, His organizational will, and His perfect will. We choose the things that will glorify God rather

than those things that will benefit us in our own ways.

A pastor studies, knowing he has a great responsibility to his congregation. He must be right with God and rightly divide the Word from the pulpit. The pastor's congregation, in turn, submits to the delegated authority of the Word. Husbands completely submit to their head, Jesus Christ. Wives submit to their husbands, in the Lord—trusting God to work out any flaws their husbands may have—and children submit to their parents. This is God's order. If a married couple honors God's order in their home, then they will be heirs together of the grace of life and their prayers will not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).

Godly order provides a capacity for meekness toward God and humility toward truth. In turn, God honors the prayers of His children, empowering them to execute His Word.

Chapter Two

ARMORED AND ADORNED

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (1 John 5:18). The wicked one cannot touch us as long as we are wearing the whole armor God (Ephesians 6:13-18).

The helmet, in Ephesians 6, speaks of the hope of salvation. The breastplate of righteousness speaks of faith and love (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Our loins are girded with categories of truth, our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The shield of faith quenches the fiery darts of the wicked one, and we are armed with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. When we put on the whole armor and take up our spiritual weapons, Satan cannot touch us. He cannot make us ill, influence us to sublimate, or cause us to worry.

Inward and Outward Beauty

1 Timothy 2:9 instructs women to “adorn” themselves outwardly according to the beauty of their souls. “Adorn”—*kosmeo* in the Greek—means that a lady is to organize her apparel and her appearance in a manner that reflects God’s glory and represents His design. A woman’s hairstyle, clothing, and makeup should correspond to the order of God’s nature within her.

In the Greek syntax, *kosmeo* is a tendential present active infinitive with an imperative force. The tendential present indicates that the women Paul was writing to in this church were not already adorning themselves in a godly fashion. The active voice meant that they were to produce the action of obeying, and the infinitive with the imperative force meant that God had a purpose in telling these women to adorn themselves properly—He designed them to be beautiful.

God is teaching that if a woman is overweight, she can still reflect the beauty of her soul. If she doesn’t have a good complexion, the glory of God can still shine through her. Even if she doesn’t have the money to afford the most stylish clothing, she can still be beautiful with

her modest wardrobe.

Created by God to bring Him glory, every woman can practice *kosmeo*. She does her very best to glorify her Lord and becomes a precious representation of His life. In the eyes of any godly man, she is beautiful. The emphasis of 1 Timothy 2:9 is on the *inner* beauty of the soul. Inner beauty produces an organized exterior. Her interior qualities determine her exterior decoration, and she lives in the order of God's design for a lady.

Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, testified of her soul's inner beauty in Luke 1:46-47 when she said: "My *soul* doth magnify the Lord, And my *spirit* hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

Cultivating Order

Many people's lives—though they reveal an outward order—lack God's order on the inside. But, God desires order for the inward man, beyond the habits of the outward man.

Every thought must be brought into God's order (2 Corinthians 10:5). My steps are ordered by the Lord so iniquity will not have dominion (Psalm 119:133). When I am filled with the Holy Spirit, I will have the fruit of the Spirit, including temperance, which is self-control through

the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Everything goes wrong when I am outside of God's divine covering. The head of every man is Christ. The head of the woman is the man and the head of Christ is God (1 Corinthians 11:3). If that order is violated, then I give place to something outside of the divine covering of Christ in my thoughts, my emotions, and my purpose on earth. When I don't have mental order, I become anxious and my emotions run wild. I experience the iniquity of Satan's self-will against Jesus Christ in heaven (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Therefore, when I stop loving, I start lusting. When I stop telling the truth, I start lying. When I'm not positive toward God's Word, I start thinking negatively. When I am not edifying with my mouth, I will be cynical and critical. When I am not believing, I start worrying. When I stop obeying, I begin to disobey. When I am not God-conscious, I am self-conscious. When I remain focused on sickness having power over me, I am not healed.

Chapter Three
THE AUTHORITY OF
OUR POSITION

Through the exceeding great and precious promises of God, we receive His divine nature and escape all the contamination of the world's system. The devil has no more authority over a believer's life than a private in the army has over a general. Satan has no right to have dominion of any kind over a child of God. In God's order, the devil and all the demons of hell are subject to the nature of God in the Christian. "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10:17). The devils were subject to the disciples because of God's name (His nature), that was dwelling in them.

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, "All power [authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Because of our position in Christ, we have been given all authority. Not a single thing

can harm us (Luke 10:19). Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We have authority over evil, over sin, over hell, over our thoughts and habits. We can take authority over projections, circumstances, and relationships.

The Father gave the Son to be the Head over the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23). Since Satan's defeat, Jesus has placed everything under our feet. We have been raised up and seated in heavenly places. Therefore, we have positional authority.

The captain of a police department has positional authority over his officers. An employer has positional authority over his employees. The father has positional authority in his home. A wife has the right to be protected and covered by the husband's positional authority. If the husband does not exercise his authority in a godly way, the wife's inner beauty directs her to pray. God then goes to work on the husband. In this way, the wife does not violate the husband's position. Instead, she executes her positional authority directly with God in the order of wisdom, joy, and peace (1 Peter 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:14).

Greater is He Who is in Us

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). This verse teaches that every Christian has positional authority. The Kingdom of God within us is greater than anything that is in the world.

In Luke 10:1-16, Jesus sent out seventy disciples—two by two—into the places where He would visit. “I give you all authority and all power—and what’s more, you have a responsibility—to cast out demons,” Jesus told them. “With my delegated authority, I charge you with responsibility to heal the sick and to deliver people. If they will not receive you, wipe the dust from your feet, and I will curse their houses.”

Many Christians do not function in God’s order. As a result, God’s authority is not released in their lives because they do not live in the objectivity of the Word, having their thoughts and steps ordered by the Holy Spirit. They wake up in the morning and go out and have good days and bad days, good moments and bad moments. Some days, they are barely existing. Satan has deceived them into thinking that *he* has authority over their marriages, businesses,

health, and relationships. The devil has convinced some believers that he has authority over how they look and how much they weigh. But, Satan has absolutely no such authorization. Imagine a buck private in the army ordering a general to work in the kitchen.

Satan has been defeated; he has no rights! In order to do anything, he must unlawfully usurp authority. There isn't one thing Satan can do to a believer who puts on the whole armor of God, applies grace, and uses rebound the moment he fails.

Don't be condemned, be converted. Satan looks for areas where he can usurp authority. He watches for sad countenances (Isaiah 3:9). "That man's countenance testifies against him," Satan says to his demons. "Let's hit him hard today. He looks so morbid; he just wants attention. We'll nurse him and baby him. And we'll offer some "suggestions" to help him get rid of his sadness."

When God says the wicked one cannot touch us, we must believe it. Satan cannot have our salvation. He cannot have a woman's purity. He cannot have a man's self-image. Believe the Word of God! Take authority over sicknesses, problems, needs, personality clashes, and rela-

tionships. Take your authority in the will of God and declare to Satan, "You are under my feet. Every time you try to get up, I am going to crush you again."

Bury the Past

A man came to me once and said, "Pastor, I have had so many losses in my life. Every day I suffer from the pain of my past." He had been moved around to several homes as a foster child. At age 13, he had to take three kinds of medication to control his nerves. Then the doctors prescribed another drug to counteract the side effects of the first three. Ever since that time, he has suffered a chemical imbalance and requires chemical stimulation just to feel happy.

What this man needed to understand is that Jesus conquered death. Through the authority of His death on the cross, all of our losses and the pain from the past were buried with Christ. Those things are no longer a part of our lives. We have authority over the grave because we came out of it spiritually with Christ (Romans 6:13).

We have authority over the pain of abuse and over feelings of inferiority. These things died in Christ and were buried with Him. He

raised us up with Him, and the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is now living in us. We have authority over *all* things, even the demons.

For us to experience deliverance, there must be an order in our lives. Every thought must be brought into subjection to Christ. We must know how to execute the authority of the Word of God.

We can't add one inch to our spiritual stature by being anxious. It is time that we understood that God always causes us to triumph. Not some of the time—*all* the time. It's time we put our shoulders back and understand that we are more than conquerors through the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The evil one cannot touch us. Sin has no dominion. The price for iniquity has been paid. We are *in* Christ; therefore, we have positional authority. Through the filling of the Spirit, we can execute that authority in our words. Let's go out into Satan's world as conquerors and be manifestations of Christ's resurrection.

Make a declaration against Satan. Tell him that he has no power among us.

CONCLUSION

Do you see why it was important to read those verses in the beginning? This was more than a “concordance” study. This message came from the Holy Spirit as He brought into my memory center what I have been taught.

Get angry and tell Satan that he has no right to take advantage of you (2 Corinthians 2:11). Every place the sole of your foot shall touch is yours (Joshua 1:3). You have every right to speak the mandates of God against the devil.

We’re not living in a horizontal tug-of-war, but a vertical chain of command. Because of our position in Christ and our place in the Body, we have a right to execute God’s authority to deal with the enemy and all of his forces. And when Jesus, the Head, releases His life to go through every member of His Body, we have His authority to take His life to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Sin and iniquity no longer have dominion.

Financial problems have no control. Lustful thoughts can't hinder us. In God's order, we are *more* than conquerors. We have been made to triumph!