

*Operating in the Authority
of God's Kingdom*

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

GRACE PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 18715
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

Too many people have problems with Satan. They may be sincere Christians; their motives are good, they hate sin, and they hate evil, but repeated failure continues as a process in their lives.

How can a good Christian continue to live without growing up in Christ? Though many Christians may be “good” in terms of loving God in the motives of their hearts, they may not necessarily be “good” in practical application of doctrine in their lives. On the other hand, some Christians who have only recently been saved grow rapidly in Christ, always using rebound when they fail. What is the difference?

While we never want to be preoccupied with evil, it is important for us to understand that every person living on earth is governed by one of two kingdoms: the kingdom of darkness or the Kingdom of light. As the truth of this doctrine is revealed, let the Word of God have its

perfect work, “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

Chapter One

NURTURING THE
INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that *heareth* my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

The Bible places such an emphasis on the importance of *hearing* the Word of God, even more than reading. When we hear instruction from the Word, the seed planted by the Holy Spirit is eternal life that is in the Word (Matthew 13). After hearing the Word, it is important to read the Bible in conjunction with what we have been taught, because the entrance of the Word through the ‘eye gate’ helps to establish truth in our thought processes.

Here is the problem: With all we have heard, the average Christian does not understand how to use Kingdom authority. Furthermore, most

believers do not understand that the Church is, indeed, to bring in the Kingdom of God. This does not mean that we try to perfect ourselves so that Christ will come back; however, there should be evidence of growth in a believer's life. And everything that has life must either grow or be rooted up.

Once the incorruptible seed of the Word of God is planted in the Christian (1 Peter 1:23), it is watered with specific categories of doctrine, line upon line. Ultimately, the seed grows and bears fruit. But if the seed is not watered with the proper understanding of spiritual authority, it will not grow properly, and there can be no harvest.

Function in the Authority of God's Kingdom

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).

There is a tremendous difference among Christians, specifically between those who understand the kingdom of God and those who do not. And yet, it is through the churches that God

brings in the authority of His Kingdom. When Christ returns, His literal Kingdom will be established. But right now, the authority of God is demonstrated through His representative Kingdom, just as the authority of Satan is manifested through his kingdom.

Here is the principle: *Wherever the Kingdom of God is functioning spiritually, Satan loses his place, his hold, and his authority.* Redemption destroyed his legal rights. The Kingdom of God destroyed his authority, and he must surrender to the authority of God. Nevertheless, many Christians have no idea how to function in the Kingdom of God, so Satan is able to maintain strongholds through his kingdom, even in the lives of believers.

In Luke 17:20-21, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is [*in your midst*]." Most Bible scholars agree with this translation; and Jesus was speaking of *Himself!*

Jesus Christ's humanity was completely submitted to the authority of the Father's words as being the Word of God (Isaiah 50:4). He received the Word daily to live a sinless life *in His humanity* and not in His hypostatic union as deity in a

man. His deity could never sin, though His humanity could if He failed to make proper choices toward the authority of the Word.

But Jesus kept confessing, “It is written....It is written....It is written...” *while* He was in the Mount of Temptation in the wilderness—the same place where thousands of Jewish people in the Old Testament died. And as He said “It is written...,” He used the authority of the Word of God to make His own words Kingdom words. As a result, Satan had to leave.

Satan can never stay in a place, in a marriage, in a family, in a relationship, or in any individual’s life where the Kingdom of God is understood, applied, and exercised personally. God’s Kingdom will manifest more than just the fact that we are Christians, but it manifests the *government* of God. It manifests the Father’s plan, the Son’s execution of the plan in the Finished Work through His glorified position, and the Holy Spirit’s precious revelation of the Son, glorifying Him through categorical doctrine.

Thy Kingdom Come

“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15*b*).

That, of course, speaks of the coming Millennial Reign. But in Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus told His disciples to pray this prayer, "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." This passage does not refer to the Millennial Reign; the Kingdom of God is established in our hearts *now*.

God wants His Kingdom to be brought in by His people. When God's people understand the relationship of the Church to the Kingdom, when they finally operate in heavenly authority, then they can exercise power over demons and have victories they have never been able to win.

Why did the demons hate to see Jesus Christ? Why did they say, "You have come to torment us before our time. We know we are going to hell, but *let us alone!*" (Matthew 8:29; Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34). "Let us alone"—a prayer of the demons. And Jesus Christ in His humanity submitted completely to the authority of categorical doctrine in the power of the Holy Spirit of grace. He was so submitted to the Father's provision, the Father's words, and the Father's power that wherever Jesus went, the demons said, "Oh no! Here comes the Kingdom of God." With a word, the demons had to flee.

Some Christians spend hours in sessions trying to deal with demons. But when a church is functioning in the Kingdom of God, it is not necessary to preach lengthy sermons to demons, trying to cast them out. Jesus simply spoke a word (Matthew 8:32). If, on the other hand, the Kingdom of God is *not* operational, you can preach all night and the demons will play games with you and mock you. They may make you think that you have won, but the demons will not leave until someone executes the authority of God's kingdom over them.

The person who knows how to execute Kingdom authority can take care of his own demons privately in his believer-priesthood any time he feels the power of Satan coming on. It is the one thing demons cannot stand.

What is the Kingdom of God? The Father gives pastors to the Church—leaders who communicate the authority of the entire Bible in categories. Under the umbrella of grace with the motivation of love, the pastor simply executes the words of Jesus Christ as he obeys and proclaims them with total submission to the authority of each category in *virtue love*. Virtue love is that quality of love that demands nothing of its object. The subject (in this case, the pastor) is

motivated by the Holy Spirit to impart anything that will build up the ones God has given him, regardless of their response (Romans 5:5).

The Problem of Inconsistency

Some people do fine for a while, then they will have several months where they are “out of it,” distracted by things of the world. We know that Satan’s rule over any place in our lives is terminated the moment we come against him with the Kingdom of God and the proper expression of God’s life. Still, I could be the best teacher in the world and not express the Kingdom. I could quote Scripture all day long and be sincere in my desires, yet not execute the Kingdom of God. A person who lives in repeated weaknesses will become strange and begin to judge others by magnifying their actions and misjudging their hearts. And when he does that, he is representing his ‘father’ from the devil’s kingdom.

God has given us *energeia*, which is the power a person executes by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. That power gives us the ability to transfer doctrine by faith from mere mental perception (in channel A) through the human spirit that has been quickened by the

Holy Spirit (channel B) into the five parts of the soul (channel C). The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance the Word that was planted in the heart so we don't fall into temptation, though we are tempted repeatedly.*

Stay Out of the Fray

There is not one passage in the Bible that tells me I am to fight the devil. My opponents are *not* flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). This is why we must understand the authority and power of God as well as the authority of the Church in spiritual warfare. *A good Christian may be using the Scriptures but not with the authority of God's Kingdom.*

Jesus Christ has washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests unto God the Father (Revelation 1:6). He did that so we can receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness—but a different kind of righteousness. This is not speaking of imputed righteousness that was given at salvation but the righteousness of God that is imparted and revealed from faith to faith. This means that as we grow, receiving the abundance of grace, we implement the authority of the precise doctrine Jesus Christ brings for the precise

situation we face.

For example, I may need to deal with sickness or disease, so the Holy Spirit helps me to recall from my memory center the precise category of doctrine I need (John 14:26). Of course, many diseases are *not* the result of sin, and the cause may be natural or supernatural. But unless God is trying to promote me in the angelic conflict or to teach me a lesson about natural habits that need to be changed, I have much authority over that sickness. If sin *is* the primary cause, I have authority over the besetting sins that come by demons, because “we wrestle not against flesh or blood”!

**Read The Hearing Heart, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Two

TAKING BACK WHAT IS OURS

Every believer has experienced the terrible frustration of being defeated repeatedly in different areas of weakness. Eventually, some people will even defend being defeated! But how did Jesus, utterly weak in His humanity, get rid of Satan after spending forty days and nights in the wilderness without food? He used the authority of the Word. Remember, it was the Holy Spirit that led Him in the wilderness. Jesus Christ—the Kingdom of God in human form—had the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the Father’s love to go against the devil.

“If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you” (Matthew 12:28). “But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you” (Luke 11:20). *Satan’s power was overthrown when the devil was unable to stand against the Kingdom of God.*

Today, God teaches us how to maintain *His* victory. This is how you can know whether or not you are functioning in the Kingdom of God (which is so rare among believers today): Have the devils that attack your life been driven away? Of course, we understand that it is impossible for born-again believers to be possessed by demons; still, demonic activity in our midst is not unusual. But Satan suffers the loss of his position when we take back the authority that was given to us before the Fall.

In Genesis 1:26, when God created man, He gave us dominion—and we lost it. Now through Redemption and the power of *energeia*, the Word and the Spirit are being transferred to our human spirit in precise categorical perception. We learn to live by every Word of God (Matthew 4:4) and are sanctified by every Word of God (John 17:17). Satan can no longer occupy the place he held all these years in our lives.

Stand

According to Ephesians 6:12, “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.” We have clearly defined the

enemy. But here is the strategy we need to incorporate: “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*” (Ephesians 6:13).

“Withstand” in the Greek is *anthistemi*, an aorist active infinitive. It speaks of a point of time when an action of eternal purpose is produced as you are living in this battle. “Withstand” doesn’t mean to fight but to stand in the victory that has already been won and to simply maintain it by a faith-obedience confession in action.

Then, “...having done all, *to stand*” (*histemi*), is also an aorist active infinitive. A watchword for battle, it means more than just “to hold our ground.” Rather, “to stand” means to abide in the declaration that you are complete, the work is finished, and you are hid with Christ in God!

So often this has been interpreted to mean that we are just holding on for dear life in a place of weakness. But that is not the picture! We abide, or remain, in the declaration to maintain the Lord’s victory through the presence of the Kingdom of God. Also, we “stand” *after* “having done all,” which means that we go from faith to faith to faith. Believe! Then, *use* what you believe.

By the way, many professing “believers” will go to hell because they have never been regenerated. They have an abstract, impersonal faith, and their belief doesn’t go beyond that of the demons, in James 2:19, who tremble when they believe. Their faith is in vain because it doesn’t produce results; there is no growth (Romans 1:17).

Preparations for Daily Battles

Ephesians 6:14-18 reveals the armor we are to stand in. First, we stand with our *loins girt about with truth*, clothed in categorical doctrine that protects us on the outside. Then we have the *breastplate of righteousness*, which means to have the mind of God motivating our heart with the compassion of His great love. Our feet are *shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*, which means to walk in the sharpness of categorical doctrine all the time, using rebound instantly when we fail, constantly adjusting to the grace of God.

Next, we take up the *shield of faith* to deflect and quench the fiery darts of Satan. We wear the *helmet of salvation*, which means more than salvation, but it is the grace of the gospel that produces categories of doctrine in our mind because of personal discipleship. And finally, we skill-

fully handle *the sword of the Spirit*, which is the Word of God, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”

It is a tremendous experience when Satan loses his position because the Kingdom of God comes onto the scene.

In Luke 11:9, Jesus said, *Ask*. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Then, He began to cast out demons. Regardless of the labels attached to them or what their invisible and inaudible names suggest, the demons were successfully cast out because *demons cannot stand in the presence of the Kingdom of God*.

This is why it is so important to understand 2 Corinthians 13:5a: “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” It does not say examine yourself to see *if* Jesus Christ is in you—not at all! “Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ *is* in you...?” The Kingdom of God is in you! We are to examine ourselves, however, to see if we are *functioning* in the authority of the Kingdom that is in us, so we will not be disapproved of in warfare.

We are here in this world to enter into spiritual warfare by maintaining Christ’s victory and

revealing His nature. *We are down here to take back lost territory!* Therefore, it is a beautiful thing to say, “Thy kingdom come on earth.”

Can you see that our prayers are not going to get Jesus here more quickly? God already knows when the Millennial Reign is going to begin. It is an appointed time, and our prayers won’t change that. So, when Jesus taught the disciples to pray “Thy kingdom come...” in Luke 11:2, He was not referring to the Millennial Reign. He meant, “Have the Kingdom of God on earth, in your heart, even as the Kingdom of God is in heaven.”

Satan can’t touch heaven! And when he goes there to accuse us, he is told to “shut up”—*even when we are guilty* (Zechariah 3). Joshua the high priest had so many sins that even we would blush to hear them, and Satan couldn’t wait to go before God to accuse him: “This man is a high priest, and I’m not judging him—but I *have* got some facts.”

But Jesus stood up and rebuked Satan. The devil couldn’t mention even one sin, and this is why: *Satan can’t accuse people whom Christ’s Kingdom has covered by the blood of the Lamb.* “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they

loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11).

Chapter Three

THE AUTHORITY OF THE FINGER OF GOD

“But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you” (Luke 11:20). The finger of whom? The finger of God! That finger represents the precise authority of God’s Kingdom. And when God’s finger points to *you*, it is the authority of His Word.

How were the Ten Commandments written? By the finger of God (Exodus 31:18). What did Jesus do when the woman was taken in adultery? According to John 8:6-8, He bent down to the ground and wrote with His finger—and He wrote twice. The first time signified the finger of God that gave the Law to Moses. The second time represented the fulfillment of the Law, the finger of God giving the authority of grace to forgive the woman caught in adultery (John 1:16-17).

He said, "I'm using My finger. I am executing God's government. I am implementing the Finished Work. I am using My representation for My people, My Church." And when Jesus asked who would cast the first stone, the accusers, from the oldest to the youngest, walked out. The crowd who backed the kingdom of Satan walked out. And the woman they accused was *guilty*.

So if I cast out demons by the authority of God's Word and His Spirit, if my life is changed and I am a brand-new creature, and if I am growing in grace and knowledge under the headship of the King, then you can look at the results and say, "No doubt, the finger of God did that!"

The Strong Man Meets a Stronger Man

"When a strong man armed *keepeth* his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Luke 11:21-23).

Satan is the strong man Jesus is referring to,

and notice that he is just “keeping” the palace. That’s all. The kingdom of Satan has had a play day with so many good, Bible-believing Christians. We don’t have to run around saying, “Oh, Satan is after me, and I am going to confess to the world and my friends all he’s made me *feel* and do.” Where is the finger of God? Is the authority of the Kingdom operating in our lives?

“Neither give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27). Don’t let him have a place, because you have the Kingdom of God as your authority. We use the term ‘theatric action’ to describe the indwelling Trinity operating through a believer’s humanity with the authority of the Word and the power of the Spirit. The government of God operates within a man who presents himself daily as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).

But, what are Satan’s “places” today? Drugs, illicit sex, pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism, lying, gossip, slander, accusations, and emotional illness are all in Satan’s kingdom. In my human flesh and blood, I *cannot* stop my weaknesses, but I can make a decision to let the Kingdom of God do it! It happens by studying, appropriating, and executing the authority of the Word without making excuses for my old sin nature.

There is another place Satan likes to take that is seldom recognized. It happens when Christians enter into false spiritual gifts in a display of emotional self-gratification. People everywhere are entering into spiritual self-gratification through activities such as a false gift of tongues. These are expressions of religious lust and not a love for God. Remember, people do not need to be “coached” to receive a spiritual gift; God is the Author of all true gifts.

The Word of God makes it crystal clear that I cannot have victory unless I have the *whole* armour of God and use it. For example, when I am told to have my “loins girt about with truth,” it does not refer to having doctrine inwardly, because that is already established through the breastplate of righteousness. Instead, it means that I use categorical doctrine as armor in every detail of life, wherever I am attacked.

Though a person knows the Book and uses it, if he is not operating fully in the Kingdom of God, with the authority of the Word *and* the Spirit, then he is functioning in the kingdom of Satan.

Established in a New Identity

Satan’s kingdom will offer you all the rea-

sons in the world for “why you are the way you are,” but the Kingdom of God can overcome that strongman and come right in to establish our new identity. Satan now has to relinquish the place that he has held for so many years. He knows he is defeated; the person he “kept” is no longer fighting the devil. This victorious Christian is standing in Christ, abiding in the victory Christ won, and the devil can’t touch him.

According to 1 John 5:18*b*, “he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.” Why would God say that? And why would He say, “In all these things, we are *more than* conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37), and “Thanks be unto God which *always* causeth us to triumph in Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:14*a*)? These are Kingdom verses. *Always? More than?* Yes! We live in victory because of the finger of God: the authority of the written Word that becomes the living Word—the seed that bears much fruit.

When the authority of the written Word becomes a living Word, then it is Kingdom property. The Father’s plan, the Son’s eternal purpose and execution of the plan, the Holy Spirit’s illumination, and the Word of God’s definition for life go together inside the five parts of the soul.

We receive the abundance of grace and the impartation of categorical thinking directly from the mind of God through the pastor-teacher and through our personal study. Then, we discover that we are reigning by the authority of one, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).

Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power

In Mark 9:1, Jesus told his disciples that some of them would not taste death before they would see His Kingdom. Three of the disciples went with Him to the Mount of Transfiguration where He was transformed in front of their eyes, a brilliant light covering His glorified body as Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah. They represented the government of glorification.

Today, the Church must recover everything we have lost to Satan's kingdom. Satan blinds the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them and they would believe (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Satan has blinded the minds of men by controlling them with his world's system, making them advance in the cosmic kingdom of Satan. Therefore, the only way to have an effective life with God is to understand His Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God can be described as a supernatural power plant. The Father's plan is like an electrical power source stored up in a generator, waiting to be tapped. The Son's execution of the plan is like the transformer that taps the stored up energy and sends it through the power lines of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to the heart, supplying us with the Holy Spirit's illumination. The letter of the Word we have received becomes life, and in the end, we have the mind of Christ to operate effectively in the specific situations we face, moment by moment.

So when the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Word function with us in the local assembly, we can understand why God said in Revelation 1:11: "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches...."

Why did He address the *churches*, rather than individuals? Because in the plan from eternity past, the main thing on Jesus' mind was the Church. That Church would be built as a body of lively stones upon Christ the Rock (Matthew 16:18), and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. His Church would be a corporate vessel to receive the authority of the Word of God

and represent the Trinity in theantric action as God's Kingdom on earth.

We have an enemy who will take whatever place is given to him. Satan will never leave his position or his place until somebody knows how to exercise the authority of the Word of God through the Kingdom. Remember, it is not that we examine ourselves to see if Jesus Christ is in us; rather, we examine ourselves to see if we are "in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5)—to see if the Kingdom of God is operating in us. This is the key! And God's purpose is eternal.

Chapter Four

CHRIST'S BODY: MANIFESTING HIS AUTHORITY

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

“For the body is not one member, but many” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

If you did not have a physical body, it would be impossible to manifest your soul on earth. The physical body expresses the life of the soul.

The Bible says that the Father gave Jesus Christ “to be the head over all things to the church, Which is *his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all*” (Ephesians 1:22-23). This is a picture of God operating in His Church with Kingdom authority.

There are people who are active in their churches, yet they still have so many problems because *they will not honor the authority of God's Kingdom*. They don't understand that before the foundations of the world, God's plan for the Church included an eternal purpose: to recover everything that was lost to Satan's kingdom by the authority of God's kingdom.

That is why Jesus taught the disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, *as it is in heaven*." To be sure, during the Millennial Reign we will see a literal, physical kingdom, glorious beyond every description imaginable. But now we have the Church as a spiritual Kingdom.

The fullness of God that fills everything on the earth has a very special meaning. The only way *you* can be expressed is through your body. Once your body dies, "who you are" can no longer be expressed on earth. And the only way Jesus Christ can be expressed on earth is through His Body—not just a local assembly, but through the entire Body of Christ.

In practical application, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 reveals that Jesus Christ and His Body are the same thing, just like your head and your body are the same. The life of your mind controls your

body, and the life of Jesus Christ's headship, if it is truly Kingdom, controls His Body. Therefore, "...We are all baptized into one body, by one Spirit..." By that one Spirit we have all been made to drink into the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

The Head is Christ. The Body is Christ's. When Christians are Spirit-filled, confess their sins immediately, isolate the sins, and go forward, then they can experience the same life, same nature, and same love for each member of His Body in particular (1 Corinthians 12:27), placed in the Body as it pleased God (1 Corinthians 12:18).

It's quite a thing to realize you are part of a plan that was made billions of years ago. It was the central thought on God's heart when He framed the worlds through His Word (Hebrews 11:3). His Body was included in that plan. He *planned* to redeem fallen men. He didn't make people for heaven; He made us for the Church. *He made us to be His Body.*

Yes, we have been redeemed for heaven, but we were redeemed and regenerated to be His Body. And as His Body, for us to live is Christ (Philippians 1:21). Christ is our life (Colossians 3:4)—the fullness of Christ on earth, that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:23).

Unsearchable Riches

Paul prayed, “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18). His declaration in Ephesians 3:8 was, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles *the unsearchable riches of Christ.*”

Do you know what those unsearchable riches are? It is Christ living in a Body of believers who have His same life. It is the riches of eternity, of love, grace, and mercy—the riches of a life that has no beginning and no ending. We have this treasure in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7), eternal life in bodies of death.

An Eternal Purpose

“Every *purpose* is established by counsel: and with good advice make war” (Proverbs 20:18). According to this verse, every single purpose of God is controlled by His precise thought. God’s purpose in every believer is a precise thought through His precise Word, received in the Holy Spirit. When we possess that form of purpose (Hebrew, *machashabah*), then we have God’s eter-

nal purpose in our thinking.

In other words, God has a purpose in the way I should think. In Matthew 6, He was saying, “Don’t think about material things. Stop thinking about food, clothing, and your career.” It’s true that they are necessary, but instead, seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness—the treasure of God in the Body—and all these temporal things will be added unto you. Take no thought of tomorrow, for it will be evil all by itself. But having your thoughts established in Jesus Christ will make His purpose sufficient for you.

In Isaiah 14:25, it was God’s desire to remove the yoke and lift the burden from the shoulder of His people. “This is the *purpose* that is purposed upon the whole earth” (Isaiah 14:26). The Hebrew word for purpose here is *etsah*, which means wise counsel regarding a plan. Then, in verse 27, He said “For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” He said, “My purpose shall stand.”

Ephesians 3:10-11 speaks of the precious purpose of God. Just as Solomon purposed to build a house for the Lord (1 Kings 5:5), when the men in Ezra’s day were rebuilding the tem-

ple, people were hired to frustrate their purpose (Ezra 4:5)! Satan is always trying to frustrate our purpose. But because no one can disannul the purpose and the plan of God, the Lord will shut us up from everything, if necessary, so that we can fulfill His purpose.

When we begin to understand that we were on God's mind billions of years ago, and that every purpose is established through thinking with God's thoughts (Proverbs 20:18), then we will begin to understand this beautiful principle: *There is no room for one single Christian to seek anything but the Kingdom of God.* He has promised to add unto us the things that we need—all of them. He has purposed that we should be the riches of His treasure, because our souls will live forever. As born-again believers, we are espoused (engaged) to Christ now, and we will be His Bride forever. He is saying, "I want to be in your life. I want to be all in all (Colossians 3:11)."

Pray and Go as a Minister and a Witness

Jesus told the disciples, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God" (Mark 4:11a). And when He sent out the seventy disciples in Luke 10, He said, "Tell them that the Kingdom of God is at their door."

Some people have tried to say that this means Christ was here to set up His Kingdom, but that is not so. It means that the seventy were given the authority of God's government to resist and rebuke the authority of Satan's kingdom, which is throughout the entire earth. And the kingdoms of this world *shall become* the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15).

So I pray not just as an individual, but as a believer-priest who is a vessel in the corporate Body of Christ. I pray in the authority that was given to the Church. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus Christ gives us His authority and power to go in His name, teaching people everywhere and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is saying, "I give you Kingdom authority."

It is sad to think of the consistent weakness of Christians who "acknowledge knowledge" but don't acknowledge the privilege of receiving the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. It is by that abundance we are able to reign by one, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17), as kings and priests unto the Father (Revelation 1:6).

The Father is the planner for Kingdom authority. That is why Jesus Christ in His humanity always operated in the Father's Kingdom,

filled with the Spirit, learning categories of doctrine early in the morning (Isaiah 50:4).

In Acts 26:16, Jesus said to Saul, "I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness...." *What a verse!* The Lord didn't say, "to make thee an apostle," although that happened. But God's purpose was to turn a man who was a persecutor of Christians into a minister and a witness for the Kingdom of God.

In Romans 9:17, "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth." Though Israel was not a great nation, she was *God's* nation. And because of her, God sent plagues that revealed His overruling power and authority over Satan's world, and over kings and rulers who do not know God.

God has a purpose for our lives. He wants to fill us with His righteousness so that we will have the same life in our mortal bodies that Christ had in His humanity. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b).

God's plan is to use the Church, His own

Body, to make all men *see* the “fellowship of the mystery.” He would have us manifest the “manifold wisdom of God.” And this is what we will do when we apply how God thinks with what God says in the authority and power of His Word (Ephesians 3:9-10). We shall not be moved!

CONCLUSION

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).

In Deuteronomy 27, when Israel was about to enter Canaan, they built an altar of stones on which the Word of God was written plainly. The Levites read the Word, and all the people answered with a loud voice, “Amen.” Today this means that everyone who operates in the Kingdom of God can put his foot on the ground and shout, “Amen!” recognizing that Kingdom authority works as it removes Satan from the position he has held in people’s lives.

A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25). Therefore, a husband and a wife who do not function in the Kingdom of God cannot stand the onslaughts. The accuser

divides within his own kingdom; that is why there are divorces and church splits. But when the Kingdom of God is present, Satan loses his place, his position, and his authority, and the Christian can say "Amen."

Father, bless us in this eternal purpose as people created to be Christ's Body on earth and Christ's Bride in heaven. Thank you that we were created to manifest the authority of your Kingdom and to take back the ground that Satan has lied about and stolen through his kingdom.

Use this message to quicken our hearts, minister to our souls, mobilize right motives, and conform us to your own image. Amen.