

**Locked Out**  
**of the**  
**Kingdom**

**Are You Forfeiting Your Inheritance?**

**By**  
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*Locked Out of the Kingdom*  
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# **Table of Contents**

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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Chapter 1 – Our Inheritance</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2 – Our Covenant Relationship</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 3 – The Kingdom of God</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Chapter 4 – God’s Blessings and Curses</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chapter 5 – Our Presumptuous Sin</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Chapter 6 – Being Locked Out</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Chapter 7 – What Do We Do?</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>About the Author</b>	<b>66</b>





## **Introduction**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

~ 1 Peter 5:8-11

Most of us within the body of Christ are experiencing pressures, afflictions, and calamitous situations we may have never experienced before. Many are wondering what is going on and why are we suffering so much? Many are asking “Where is God in the midst of my circumstance?” As some are constantly crying out in the midst of their situation, understanding becomes fleeting as to why a God who loves us does not come to our rescue. People are looking anxiously for relief and cannot seem to find comfort. Some are even becoming numb or hardened in doubt and unbelief.

Recently the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the following axiom. He said, “Many are crying out to God to change their condition but God wants us to change our position. It is not until our position changes that our condition changes.” What are some of the areas in which we are to change our position? Instead of standing in a place of murmuring and complaining change to a position of giving thanksgiving and praise in all things (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Timothy 2:1).

*Instead of rehearsing what is happening to you or around you, change to a position of declaring the word or promise of God in your situation (Hebrews 10:23).*

*Instead of placing our confidence in the things of this world, change to a position of having faith and trust in God (Matthew 12:21; 1 Timothy 6:17).*

*Instead of doubt and unbelief, change to a position of knowing that God cares for you and His word to you will come to pass if we don't give up, faint, or quit (Matthew 17:20, Romans 4:20; 1 Peter 5:7).*

*Instead of experiencing hopelessness, look to the One who is*

*able to complete what He started, for He is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 1:6).*

We simply do not understand the ways of God. We have been purchased or redeemed with the price of His Son's blood which means we did not have to pay the price exacted by our sinful nature, which leads to death. God in His love and mercy towards us paid the price when Christ became our substitute to fulfill the penalty of sin. Salvation is free! But to experience and walk in the full benefits of what was provided to us we must go through the process of becoming obedient to the will and the way of the Father through Jesus Christ.

We have to come to the place of knowing the Word of God and the God of the Word for ourselves in order to not walk in doubt and unbelief regarding His promises towards us.

God is not a man that He is even capable of lying (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29). We should expect to see the manifestation of the promises He has made to us whether they were revealed by a prophetic word or by a witness in our spirit man based upon what was illuminated in His word. If He said it, it will come to pass for He does not change His mind towards us. He has predetermined a purpose and a place of being for each of us. Yet we fail to comprehend that He must take us through a process to be conformed to who we were saved to become.

Consider that you have a child whom you love and you are willing to lay down your own life for this child if a situation ever arises where the child's life may be in danger. Our Heavenly Father loves us like that and more. He created us and even though He loves us, He is still a just God – one whose laws are immutable and do not change. His love for us is so great that in His kindness and mercy He makes provision to satisfy the life threatening penalty we deserved due to our choices so we would not have to. Now further consider that you desire your child to have an prosperous life where

the child is secure, has means, affluence, and good health; therefore you work and sacrifice for them so they will not have to work and sacrifice when they grow up.

You know all that you have will belong to your child to carry on in your name someday, but your child is not mature enough nor responsible enough to carry on what you have built and achieved without running the risk of your child running it into the ground through waste, slothfulness, and lack of discipline. So you train, equip, and prepare your child for the responsibilities of such a massive undertaking.

That is what God is doing through our process of development and maturation – to bring us into a place where we are fully equipped to effectively handle His business without us ruining it and ruining other people’s lives in the process (Romans 8:19-21). We don’t give our 3-year old child the keys to a Mercedes Benz or any other type of vehicle to drive or even own. What would they do with an automobile at 3-years old? They cannot operate the vehicle and just having the vehicle sit until they are old enough to drive it is a waste of resources. For them to try and manage a car at that age would be like placing dynamite in their hands. They will blow themselves up and anyone else in close proximity to them. No, we start **training** them with a toy car, a scooter, a tricycle or a bicycle with training wheels. As they demonstrate they have mastered that vehicle, then we get them something bigger and more powerful to master. As they increase their capability, capacity, and responsibility, it is then and only then they are handed the keys to the family car.

God knows how much we can bear and how much we are capable of handling. He measures our capabilities by our constant and consistent obedience **to how He wants things done**, not in accordance **to how we want to do it**. What we typically do is foolishly do things our own way based on our selfish and willful choices. So when our way fails and we get in trouble, we cry out to God to deliver us. Would it not be



much easier to seek God first as to what He wants done and then do it according to His instructions? Anything He orders He **always** provides the grace to accomplish it. Doing things His way would save us so much grief in the long run. But we are an obstinate and willful people who choose to learn the hard way that God is truly in control and the only way we will walk in the fullness of His blessings is to fully and willingly cooperate with His way of doing things. In other words, it is better to just make a decision to obey God. It is through our obedience unto God that we learn to trust Him as He actively works in us both **to will and to do** His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

When we come to a place of settling in our hearts that God loves us and He chastises or corrects those whom He loves who are His sons and who are called by His name according to His purpose, we will realize that He does not mean **any** evil toward us but desires to bring us consistently and continuously into blessings, favor, and good success.





## **Chapter 1**

### **Our Inheritance**

*Fear not, little flock, for it is  
your Father's good pleasure to  
give you the Kingdom.  
~ Luke 12:32*

**W**e as believers, being a part of God's family, have an inheritance in Him (Galatians 3:26, 4:4-7). When Christ comes in His Glory, He will sit on His glorious throne. As He gathers all the nations before Him, there will be a time of tallying or accounting for our stewardship of the things left in our care. For those who walked in righteousness and displayed the fruit of righteousness, they will be blessed of the Father and will come into their inheritance: the kingdom that was prepared from them since the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:31-34). However, those who are considered to be cursed will be locked out of the Lord's kingdom, destined to receive the same reward as the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

Many may wonder and say, "That is at the end when Jesus comes back to rule." Although there is an appointed time for Christ to come back and rule in His millennial reign, the process for us qualifying and manifesting co-rulership with Him begins at the point of our salvation. When we believed in our heart that Christ died for our sin, confessed and received Him as Lord over our lives, He instantly delivered us from the domain or kingdom of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). The Father qualified us to share in the same inheritance Jesus received. Jesus in His life and earthly ministry demonstrated how we are to live a righteous, holy, and obedient life. Just as He received the right to rule over the Kingdom of God, and was the first born of many sons, we too as sons through the covenant promises established by God, can partake of all that has been given to Him (Romans 8:16-17). As joint heirs with Christ, by faith we are extended the same rights and privileges as sons of God.

When one owns property, generally he will make provision for the property and upon his death; all its legal rights are to be passed on to someone else who will take good care of it.

The owner can give the property to whomever he chooses. There have even been stories of individuals leaving their property to their dogs. But the Word of God declares that a good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children (Proverbs 13:22). Houses, properties, and wealth are generally inherited from fathers (Proverbs 19:14a), so we must understand that God, our Heavenly Father, in His goodness and kindness far exceeds the nature and character of any natural father. In order to better understand what is promised to us, let us look at what we are to inherit as promised by God.

We as believers not only are to receive a spiritual inheritance, but we are also to enjoy the benefits of our heritage here on earth. Christ came to be not only our redeemer but to demonstrate and exemplify the nature and characteristics of who we would be as sons of God. He declared that He was meek and lowly of heart. Those demonstrating meekness shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). Meekness is defined as putting yourself after others in importance, not being proud, haughty, self-asserting, or low in rank or position. For example, not only is Jesus as King meek and lowly of heart, but Moses also was meek being set as deliver and judge over all of Israel. These are not low ranking positions. Even though they were set in high authority, they did not lord their positions or assert their rights as rulers over the people. Neither does our Heavenly Father or the Holy Spirit, for they both are gentle and do not impose their will upon any of us. As such, God favors those who are meek to be blessed, giving help and grace to them in their affliction. God considers a humble and contrite spirit to be of great value (Proverbs 16:19) and He does not despise it (Psalm 51:17). In fact, He prefers these qualities over other forms of sacrifice.

When one walks in meekness and humbleness, they do not exert their rights over others and are considered blameless, causing them to receive a goodly inheritance (Proverbs 28:10). Upon favoring the meek, the Lord guides them in judgment and He teaches them His way (Psalm 25:9). As we

purpose to be obedient in our service unto God we learn that His way is the only way, bringing us to a place of delighting ourselves in the abundance of peace (Psalm 37:11).

Land and nations are given to the sons of God as an inheritance (Psalm 2:8, 136:21-22). As offspring of Abraham by faith and heirs according to the promise made by covenant between God and Abraham, we are partakers of the same promises and will come into lands to possess with great cities we did not build and houses full of good things we did not fill (Deuteronomy 6:10-11). As His kingdom of priests and kings we have been set apart as a peculiar people to show the way to Christ for those who are lost and still in the world. We are the ones who are to be the head, influencing others in every facet of life and godliness so they will see our witness and praise God for His mercy, goodness, and kindness (Matthew 5:16).

Those who love God (James 2:5) and faithfully serve the Lord, will receive an inheritance as a reward (Colossians 3:24). This inheritance is not only the eternal life from the salvation from our sin nature but also our transformation in bearing the image of Christ and fully expressing the glory of God in the earth. Through understanding we are new creatures in Christ and purpose to put off the old nature, we will be able to see the distinction and the results of doing good works in Christ as opposed to continuing to walk in wickedness. A wicked man also receives an inheritance from God which is manifested in lack, barrenness, and wantonness, not only for the man but it will also be multiplied in his children for generations to come. But the most prevalent and significant inheritance we are to receive from God is the benefits of His Kingdom rule in power and glory.

It is God's good pleasure to give each of us the kingdom of God which is our inheritance (Luke 12:32). Why? Because He is the sovereign ruler of the universe and He can give that which belongs to Him to anyone He chooses. The land of

Canaan was given to Israel as a possession because the inhabitants were filled with iniquity and Israel was sovereignly chosen to be a people as His possession. Possessing Canaan and dispossessing its inhabitants was a type and shadow of possessing the Kingdom of God which God sovereignly chooses to give us. Consider a Supreme Being of which there is no one or nothing like, one of pure love and kindness who created us to exist with Him as part of His family. It was an unconditional love which is not generated towards us based upon the choices that we make. Because of that kind of selfless love for us, we were created to be a part of His family. I stated that His love is selfless, not just because He is love (1 John 4: 16) but also because He knew that our propensity towards evil would separate us from Him (Isaiah 59:2). However, His mercy and justice, motivated by His love and kindness, provided a means for us to choose to return to Him and to embrace His ways.

As His children, He is a Good Father towards us and He chooses to leave an inheritance for His children and their children (Proverbs 13:21). He is a Good Father; yet, as God His nature is constant and changes not (Malachi 3:6). Those who walk contrary to the nature of God, those who choose to walk in evil, also give good gifts to their own children. Therefore, how much more will our Heavenly Father, who is the Creator of all things and who has authority over all the kingdoms of men, give to us when we ask of Him, provided we ask in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14-17)?

When we “ask, seek, and knock” we are to believe and to receive by faith because His abiding Truths do not change and because of our covenant relationship with Him (Matthew 7:7-8). The Lord compares the goodness of the Father as being better than with those who are evil, stating that even they who are evil have a high enough regard for their children where they would not provide them with anything that would harm them or give them less than what they would ask for.

Our Father desires to give each of us the kingdom of God – it is part of our inheritance and birthright among the saints; it pleases Him to do so for the kingdom of God is righteous, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). However, we cannot know what we should ask for in accordance with His will without the help of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us into knowing what His will is (John 14:26).

According to Psalm 37 the righteous have a heritage or an inheritance that is promised to them. An inheritance as defined by the Hebrew and Greek interpretation of this word means to give by promise or to occupy, distribute, or take possession. Our inheritance is established by our covenant relationship with God. Understanding our relationship with Him and our rights as citizens of the kingdom gives us the confidence to know we can ask the desire of our heart and it will be given to us. It is in the place of abiding where we choose to allow the Words of Life to fully mature within us, we can ask what we will and it will be done unto us (John 15:7). Yet we must realize that it does not end there. When we commit our ways to the Lord and trust Him, He will bring our desire to pass (Psalm 37:4-5). It is in this place of “oneness” with God that our desires are revealed as His desires and we make a quality choice not to desire anything outside of His will for us or for others. When we “commit our way” to the Lord we come into a place in Him of knowing and understanding that we were never designed to carry the burdens or cares of this world (1 Peter 5:7; 2 Chronicles 20:15). Committing our way to the Lord is a place of trusting the Lord to bring to pass through us what we have been promised by faith, resting in the Truth that He is faithful to bring all that He has promised to pass – His way!

God has a foreknowing of what we would face on the way towards being perfected or matured. In His faithfulness and mercy He does not permit us to be tempted above what we are able to handle while with every temptation also providing



a means of escape that we may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

As we learn to abide in a place of resting in Christ we cease from the activities we would be compelled to do which stem from a lack of trusting in the word of God working in our lives or in the knowledge of who we are and His love for us. Our own reasoning is generally the basis through which we make presumptions which are not rooted in understanding the will of God for us. What we generally think seems right to us in our own mind but often it does not agree or align with the will and the way of God for our lives (Proverbs 16:9).

As we commit our way to the Lord we actively choose to roll those cares, thoughts, and burdens that weigh us down off of us and unto the Lord. He truly cares for us and that which concerns us – just as any good shepherd would do for his flock (Psalm 23:1-3). One of the benefits of being in covenant relationship with God is faithfulness; even when we are not faithful towards Him (2 Timothy 2:13). He watches over His word to perform it. As we purpose to fulfill our obligations in receiving the covenantal promises made to us, God watches over us as well to bring us into the manifested fulfillment of His promises. However, many do not understand the dynamics and requirements of God's covenants.





## **Chapter 2**

# **Our Covenant Relationship**

*Can two walk together, except  
they be agreed?  
~ Amos 3:3 (KJV)*

Understanding covenant relationship helps us to change our perspective of the Father's love towards us and all that He's done to restore us to who we were created to be before the foundation of the world. A biblical covenant, by definition, is an agreement between God and His people in which God makes certain promises which are fulfilled when certain behaviors required from His people are carried out in return. It is a lasting commitment to a clearly defined relationship, clearly outlining the essential obligations and commitments to each party within the relationship.

In ancient times, major covenants were ratified and kept alive through symbolic rituals that reflected each party's commitment to, and acceptance of, the covenant's binding requirements. For example, in Genesis 17 when God established a covenant with Abram, at which time He also changed his name to Abraham, a symbolic ritual which signified the covenant between God and Abraham's offspring was to circumcise the flesh in the foreskin of all males eight days old. However, covenant rituals are not the same as covenant commitments and obligations. Rituals in divine covenants serve primarily as symbolic reminders and are intentionally given only a figurative value. God's requirement for every male to be circumcised throughout his generation regardless of whether they were born in his house or bought with his money from a foreigner was a foreshadow of the New Covenant we partake of in Christ where the circumcision is of our heart and not our flesh. The real value is in the substance of the commitment made. Through the substance of His covenants – His divine commitments – God binds Himself to perform all of the promises He makes.<sup>1</sup> When we know and understand our covenant rights as established by God, we can, by faith, appropriate every benefit as a result of our right standing relationship with Him. Part of the covenant is the promise of our divine protection as His special people who are called unto Him. We can as a result, remind Him of our entitle

ment given by the covenant when we face any opposition.

Covenants are usually established between two unequalled parties. In a divine covenant, God defines the basic obligations that He imposes on Himself and, usually, the other participants. In this case, we are unequalled with God and it is God who is the guarantor of the covenant and the contents therein. There are established both unconditional covenants and conditional covenants. When God requires certain obligations from His people as part of the covenant agreement this is a conditional covenant. When the conditions specified within the covenant are not met, the one who defaults through failure to fulfill their end of the agreement forfeits their rights to benefit from the blessings of the covenant. Whereas in unconditional covenants the default of one party does not negate the ultimate fulfillment and blessings of the covenant.

A divine covenant can be compared to a sacred constitution established to regulate human relationships with God. It is a formed declaration of God's will and purpose and typically expresses His deep love for humanity and reveals one or more major aspects of His plan for humanity's salvation.<sup>2</sup>

In the New Testament the Greek word for covenant is synonymous with the term *testament* as in "last will and testament" where the property and benefits of the testator upon death are passed on to the surviving recipients as an inheritance. It is through the Abrahamic covenant in which God promises the inheritance of a global kingdom to his seed or descendant (Romans 4:13; Galatians 3:16) and therefore by faith, those who are the seed of Abraham through Christ are also the recipients of the inheritance of the same kingdom, where we (those who qualify) will rule jointly with Christ.

The New Testament is a covenant established between God the Father and Jesus Christ; upon His death we became the beneficiaries or inheritors of His last will and testament.

This covenant is based upon God's earlier covenant with Abraham that promised the kingdom as an inheritance to Abraham's seed or descendent. Jesus Christ was a descendent and we are recipients also by faith (Romans 4:13, Galatians 3:16). The covenant was made with Abram but it was his seed that benefited or possessed the promised made to him by God. Although the covenant God and Jesus established originally began with unfaithful Israel in forgiving her sins and establishing relationship with her on the basis of placing His law "on their hearts and writing them on their minds" by faith and the Holy Spirit, we who were once as Gentiles were also grafted in to receive the same benefits and blessings (Hebrews 10:16; Romans 11:24-27).

This has been His plan for us since before the beginning of Creation. We were created by God so that through relationship with Him we are able to rule and to have dominion over all of creation in accordance with His way of doing things. There are, however, particular things that will lock us out of possessing God's promises to have the Kingdom of God fully operating in our lives. Many patterns and examples are provided in the Holy Scriptures showing us how to have good success, be victorious over the works of the enemy, and walk in the fullness of the pattern provided for us.

*For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now **these things took place as examples for us**, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down*

*to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages have come. ~ 1 Corinthian 10:1-11*

Whatever words were written in former days were written for our instruction (2 Timothy 3:16), that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope and patterns to follow (Romans 15:4). All the things that happened to those referenced in Scripture were written for our example and benefit. Our preparation comes from the examples provided to us in the Old and New Testaments. But more than anything else, all that was written were types and shadows pointing the way and preparing our hearts to receive wisdom and understanding in the knowledge of Christ, the hope of glory who dwells within us as much as we permit.

God made each covenant with a man and established each covenant with those who are qualified to participate and receive its benefits and blessings by committing to fulfill the requirements of the covenant. Let us look at a synopsis of the major covenants established by God with man:

**Noahic Covenant:** *Found in Genesis chapters 8-9, this covenant applies to the whole of mankind. God blesses and commands Noah and his sons that they should be fruitful and multiple, and populate the earth. God places all plants and animals under the authority of man and forbids the eating of meat with the blood still remaining in it. God forbids murder and states that violent men will be repaid by violence. God also promises that He will never again destroy all life on earth*

by flood, creating a rainbow as the sign of the covenant for all ages to come.

**Abrahamic Covenant:** *This covenant, found in Genesis chapters 15-17, is designed to fulfill the promise made to Abram to make of him a great nation and to bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him and all of the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Circumcision is to be the permanent sign of this everlasting covenant with Abraham and his male descendants (Genesis 17:9-14). The covenant promises to give to Abraham's descendants the land of Canaan and to make Abraham a father of many nations. The Abrahamic covenant was passed on and established with Isaac – the seed promised to Abraham by God – but the covenant was not passed on to all of the descendants of Isaac. The covenant was passed on from Isaac to Jacob (Genesis 27), from Jacob to Joseph (Genesis 48:3-4), and from Joseph to Ephraim (Genesis 48:17-19). Although it was prophesied by Jacob that the Messiah would come through his descendants through Judah, the birthright of many nations remained with Joseph's son Ephraim (1 Chronicles 5:1-2) who were ultimately scattered throughout other nations.*

**Mosaic Covenant:** *This covenant, found in Exodus chapters 19-24, contains the foundations of the Torah, also known as the books of the Law. The covenant established by God promises to make the children of Israel His special possession among all people if they obey Him and keep His covenant (Exodus 19:5). The children of Israel would be made a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:6) and they would be given the Sabbath as the permanent sign of the covenant (Exodus 31:12-17). As part of this covenant God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.*



**Davidic Covenant:** Found in 2 Samuel 7:12-16, this covenant established David and his descendants as the rightful kings of Judah until the Messiah comes (Genesis 49:10). David's house, throne, and kingdom would be established forever.

**The New Covenant:** This covenant is based chiefly upon the scriptures found in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and compared to Hebrews 8:6-13 and 10:16 implies that the prophet Jeremiah's words declare that the law would not be done away with but would be written upon the hearts of men through and by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit through the death of Jesus Christ.

Because the establishment of covenant requires an agreement between both parties, if we do not come into alignment with the requirements of the covenant we cannot actualize the full benefits of the promises made with the covenant agreement (Amos 3:3). If we cannot walk together in agreement with the ordinances of God, then we cannot experience the fullness or fulfillment of His blessings. When you study the scriptures regarding the establishing of these covenants by God with man, you will notice that not all qualified to become beneficiaries of the promises of the covenant, nor was the covenant established with everyone. In each generation the covenant was established with one person until the fulfillment of the New Covenant through Christ. Even though Christ died for all mankind, not all of mankind will come into the benefits of salvation, the benefits of the blessings of the covenant that was established, or will all access the Kingdom of God.

**Footnote:**

<sup>1</sup>The New Covenant, Does it Abolish God's Law? © 2007 United Church of God, an International Association

<sup>2</sup>The New Covenant, Does it Abolish God's Law? © 2007 United Church of God, an International Association





## **Chapter 3**

# **The Kingdom of God**

*The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.*  
~ Romans 14:17-18

What is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is the rule of God in the realm of obedience. It is the dominion or rule of God with a believer by way of the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God through and by the Holy Spirit within us brings us into the fulfillment and fullness of: (1) righteous which is our right standing relationship with God because of conforming to His rules; (2) peace which is well-being, contentment, and wholeness; and (3) joy which is internal and not based on external circumstances. The Kingdom of Heaven is the dominion and influence of God's orders, systems, rules, and ways in the affairs of men to include the influence of the church of Jesus Christ in the world. The Kingdom of Heaven is what imposes the authority of Jesus Christ upon the world as ruler of God's Kingdom and His heavens.<sup>3</sup> *In essence, the Kingdom of Heaven is the rule of Heaven in the kingdoms on earth.* We as God's legal agents in the earth cannot enforce the Kingdom of Heaven in earth until the Kingdom of God has first been given dominion within us.

Dominion is defined as having the power to rule and govern a governing body as a supreme authority. Not only does God, who is the source of all authority (Romans 13:1-2), have the right to rule in the hearts of those who are called as His own, He also rules in the kingdoms of men in the world (Daniel 4:17, 25). As we give God a place of rule and government within us, we experience the presence of God. When the presence of God occupies a person as His holy habitation, the presence then releases to that vessel the Godhead's authority and embodiment: all of the benefits, provision, and powerful characteristics of Creator God and His eternal kingdom. This embodiment releases the hand of God to move and exercise His authority wherever there is a believer present. The Kingdom of God comes into being wherever the kingly authority of God is acknowledged, revered, and honored.

To see and to have access to the kingdom of God, coming into a position of submission and obedience to His rule or authority, one must first be born again of spirit and of water (John 3:3). In this transformation process we were once separated from God through our sin and are being reconnected again to spiritual life, from a place of death, by the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit. Being born again by spirit and water is the regeneration of life through the incorruptible word of life and the water of the word by the Spirit. The seed of Christ, which is the word of God and the embodiment of His kingdom, impregnates us to take root and to grow until we bear Christ's image and character for others to see. It is through the process of time the seed of the Kingdom of God is developed and matured within us to manifest eternal fruit which glorifies God. When we conform to death, we die: (1) daily with Christ (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20), (2) to the flesh and its lustful appetites (Galatians 5:24; Colossians 2:11), and (3) to the world (Galatians 6:14; Romans 12:1-2). Many believe that the Kingdom of God is synonymous with the Church. What is the relationship between the Church and the Kingdom of God?

The Church is actually not the Kingdom of God but has a role in the Kingdom's manifestation. Anyone who is saved is separated or called out of the world into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. The Greek term *ekklesia* means "those who are called out" and not only includes those who are called out of the world but anyone called out of society for some particular function or purpose in which they are called together. The term *ekklesia* can also be defined as "assembly." We within the body of Christ are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in order to exhort and strengthen on another in love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). An example of the use of the term "assembly" outside of the context of being a church is found in Acts 19 which gives account to a meeting that almost became a riot in the city of Ephesus. Within the

context of this account, the town clerk calls the meeting an assembly or *ekklesia*. It meant that a number of people had come together. Additionally, the children of Israel while under the leadership of Moses were called “the church in the wilderness” which was a gathering or an assembling of God’s people. Christ, who is set as head of the universal church, has called us out to serve as part of His body in the church’s function and administration, with groups of individuals serving in smaller, more local assemblies throughout the world. Through the church or local assembly, there are many religious ceremonies that are performed to assist in the discipleship of individuals who attend, helping them to become mature in faith and unity. There are many, while being members of local assemblies, who have yet to receive salvation or the regeneration of their spirit to bring them into full maturity.

Many within the Body of Christ have accepted water baptism but have not fully received the regeneration of the Spirit which is needed in order to enter into the Kingdom of God. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (Romans 8:14), yet many do not know or acknowledge the purpose and role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, thereby hindering the work that is required to bring us into the fullness of who we are in Christ. In order to unlock access to the Kingdom of God, we must enter into an intimate relationship with the Father through an abiding relationship with Christ. Jesus is the only way to the abiding presence of God (John 14:6). Until we come to a place of knowing His ways, we cannot see the Father. It is through intimacy with God that we learn to trust Him. Because many have not learned to trust God in the processes He chooses to use to develop and mature us, they risk forfeiting the inheritance that was promised to all who are called to be sons of God. When we fail to trust God, we become disqualified from having access to all that the Kingdom of God makes available for us to effectively walk in dominion and power according to our purpose.

The word of God provides examples of behaviors that hinder a person from qualifying to inherit the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of spirit is spirit (John 3:6). The word “flesh” signifies the nature of man which is contrary to the Spirit of God. Flesh has been corrupted by a sin nature and causes one to be unable to discern that which is spiritual; so therefore they cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Since those who are in the flesh choose to walk after the lusts of the flesh, the soul (our mind, will, emotions, intellect, and imagination) yields to fleshly appetites and thereby becomes carnal in nature. Carnality means to be worldly or fleshly, with a tendency towards sinfulness in fulfilling the desires of the flesh. Carnality stems from being led by our soulish realm as opposed to being led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:14 states that for as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God (*in godly character by definition*). The flesh is directly opposed to or is an enemy of the will and the direction of the Spirit of God. Some of the characteristics displayed in a carnal nature include envy, strife, and division among men (1 Corinthians 3:3) and wherever there is envy and strife there is confusion and every evil work (James 3:14). If we are to walk in meekness, preferring others above ourselves in love, then there is no room for strife or self-conceit (Philippians 2:3).

These behaviors are contrary to the divine nature of God in His holiness. First, in accordance with 1 Corinthians 6:9, the Apostle Paul states that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Let us first look at what it means to be righteous. Righteousness is that which is right, conformable to right, pertaining to right, or that which is just. In the context of God being our Creator and Jesus being our Lord, it is His expectation by the One who sets the rules and laws by which man is to live. Righteousness is what is expected as a duty and which is claimed as a right because of one’s conformity to the rules of God. A righteous person is one who acts

conformably to justice and right by godly character without any deficiency or failure. Righteousness is also defined as giving someone what is due or deserved. Therefore, unrighteousness is defined as being unjust, unfair, wicked, or evil which directly opposes being conformed to the nature and characteristics of God thereby separating a person who walks in unrighteousness from being in harmony and unity through relationship with God.

Second, 1 Corinthians 6:9 further states that not only will the unrighteous not inherit the Kingdom of God, but **don't be deceived** because **neither will** the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers inherit the Kingdom of God. Also Galatians 5:19-21 states that the works of the flesh are evident and those who do what is described in verses 19 through 21 will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived:** neither will the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God.* ~ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the likes of these. **I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*** ~ Galatians 5:19-21

In each instance the Apostle Paul is speaking to those who



are saved – the church. Although we can have a measure of the Holy Spirit, we can still be mainly influenced by our flesh or carnal nature. According to Colossians 3:5, we are to “*put to death what is earthly in us.*” These workings of the flesh are the same behaviors we walked in while we were yet still in the world. We must put away those things that are a part of the “old self” because we have been born anew in the image of Christ. When the Apostle Paul says we are to put them to death, he understood we cannot do so in our own strength but only by our faith and our willingness to cooperate with God’s process of development for us. It is then that we will be renewed in the knowledge of the One who created us, bearing His fruit through the word. So we can come to the conclusion that one can be saved and yet willfully choose not to submit themselves to the process of regeneration by the Holy Spirit and therefore, not only be locked out of, but also risk forfeiting, the inheritance in God which is His Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50). When we are saved, both by position and by faith, we have the **potential** to come into the fullness of the blessings that are made available to us by covenant relationship and by submission to the process of development through obedience. We receive the Kingdom of God at the time of salvation in the form of an incorruptible seed. The proper conditions and ingredients need to be available, within its timing for release, in order for the seed to take root, grow, develop and bear fruit, all of which is characteristic in the image of Christ and of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:29; Galatians 5:22-24). The fruit of godly character grows in the maturing process of the incorruptible seed within us being developed to its fullness. There is an immutable law placed in the earth that each seed produces or reproduces after its own kind (Genesis 1:12) for the fruit is locked within the seed. Fruit is released through the dying process of the seed. Unless we submit to the process of dying to our flesh, the seed of the Kingdom within us will remain dormant and not go

through the transformation process needed to bring forth its fruit (John 12:24). What will be produced in us as believers while manifesting the fruit of godly character is a progression of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, which is love.

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ. **For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. **For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** ~ 2 Peter 1:3-11*

Everything was already provided for us in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we walk out the process provided for us, we come into the knowledge that brings us into full access and possession of the Kingdom of God. We must become partakers of His nature, putting down our former nature that can only bear the fruitfulness of the world. We have been commanded by God to be fruitful (Genesis 1:28). It is our fruitfulness in Christ that brings us

into the place of having dominion. The Father has already pronounced the blessing for us to do so, for we have been restored to bear the image of Christ, as it was so in the beginning. Let us cooperate with His way of attaining it.

*Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. **So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them. And God blessed them.** And God said to them, *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.* ~ Genesis 1:26-28*

Did you notice God did not say have dominion over other men? When we operate in the works of the flesh, which are corruptible, we often find ourselves working against our fellow man and contrary to the godly characteristics we are to display as a result of our taking on the nature of Christ. Our blessings come from bearing the image in which we were created.

The Lord states that we will be known by the fruit that we bear (Luke 6:44). Many are deceived into thinking they are in right-standing relationship with God, but Jesus says we are to know people by their fruit. Even the Pharisees who were prominent religious leaders in their day believed they were righteous because they stated they were Abraham's children and therefore did the works of Abraham (John 8: 39-47; Galatians 3:29). But Jesus stated they were doing that which they had seen of their father. What He is saying is that what we do is based on that which we "see" and is characteristic of the one who is our "progenitor." A progenitor is one who is the originator of or original model for something by lineage,

an ancestor. Jesus is the image of His Father and represents Him in doing that which is of His nature, therefore modeling His characteristics. Adam was made in God's image and did what was of His nature until spiritual death and separation took place through disobedience. The Pharisees, although they claim their father is Abraham, were not producing the fruit of Abraham nor modeling what Abraham did. Jesus only speaks Truth: He revealed that the Pharisees were producing the fruit of their father the devil and the lusts of his work. A devil can be someone other than Satan himself because he too reproduces seed after his own kind. The characteristics would be by nature of one who is prone to initiating slanders, lies, and false accusations against others, causing division. It can also be applied to men who oppose the causes or will of God by acting with the devil, siding, or agreeing with him. May we each have ears to hear, receive, and do Truth so we too would bear the fruit of our Heavenly Father only and model the characteristics of Christ.

When we choose to obey God, it leads to walking in the blessings of God; yet willfully choosing to disobey Him is sin and leads us to being subject to curses. Sin provides a legal right for spiritual doors to be opened to the enemy subjecting us to him ruling over our lives within his kingdom which is full of darkness. It is your choice. Will you be blessed or cursed?

***Footnote:***

<sup>3</sup>The Prophet's Dictionary, The Ultimate Guide to Supernatural Wisdom, Paula A. Price, Ph.D., Whitaker House 2006



## **Chapter 4**

### **God's Blessings and Curses**

*See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. ~ Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

As stated in previous chapters we cannot come into the fullness of God's benefits or our inheritance without first coming into agreement and alignment with His requirements. God wants us to live an abundant life. It is His will to bless us and He chooses to do so, but He does so through our willingness to obey Him. His commandments, statutes, and rules are not designed to be restrictive towards us but to: (1) lead us in understanding the nature of the God we serve, and (2) learn His way that has been meted out as our standard of living holy and righteous lives. As we purpose in our hearts to reverence the Lord and to delight greatly in His commandments, we will not be moved by the threat of any enemy while we enjoy the benefits as described in Psalm 112.

We gain wisdom through our learning experiences. Consider a parent raising a child: we teach, guide, and nurture that child based upon the wisdom we gained through our own trials, tribulations, and successes. Even though the child may feel that we as parents may be "out of touch," there are many things they have not been exposed to that we have. Therefore, we guide them through life's lessons to hopefully make good choices and decisions for their well-being. Our Heavenly Father is not unlike a natural parent who loves His children and knows the dangers and temptations of this world, and the methods used by the evil one which are designed to steal, kill, or destroy (John 10:10). His commandments are designed to guide us, to reprove us, to help transform our thinking so that we will come to know and to prove His goodness and His perfect will for us. Those who understand God's goodness and fairness in His love towards us will readily accept His judgments and corrections because they know it is for good (1 John 5:3). But those whose heart conditions are still hardened will fight against the will of God to have their own way every time. Remember, it is in bearing the image of Christ that we are blessed and favored of God

to serve Him and to do His good works.

### **Blessings**

*The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.* ~ Proverbs 10:22

What does it mean to be blessed? The general idea of the word “blessing” is one of a good favor bestowed upon another which can be expressed in the giving of a tangible gift or in the pronouncing of a verbal blessing. However, within the context of our discussion regarding the blessing of the Lord, this word speaks of God’s favor on the righteous (Genesis 12:2; Malachi 3:10). It is related to the term *barak* which means to release an act of adoration when one is blessing God as a result of Him releasing a blessing to be manifested as a benefit towards man (Psalms 68:19, 103:2, 116:12). This term, which means to bless, is often used to contrast the difference between God’s blessing and His curse. By implication, bestowing a blessing brings about prosperity or God’s goodness upon an individual such that God’s favor results in God bending or stooping in kindness towards an inferior (Hebrews 7:7), where He grants graciously His mercy or pity. This particularly occurs as we make supplication or entreat Him to become involved in our specific situations or in our lives in general.

God’s blessing is an act of His kindness towards us showing a distinction of His acceptance and approval. We were blessed by God the Father, blessing us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Yet, when our choices are contrary to the will of God, it can cause our blessing to become cursed. We maintain our state of blessedness by fearing the Lord in holy reverence (Psalm 122:1), by delighting greatly in His commandments, and by walking in His ways (Psalm 128:12). The Lord’s blessing is designed to lead us to having good success which is eternal and complete

in its results. The blessing of the Lord will always be abounding because it is designed to multiply and be amplified for distribution to benefit others. There are many examples in the scriptures where someone who was not walking with God was blessed as a direct result of the favor that rested upon His servant. Laban's household was blessed because of Jacob, and Potiphar's household, along with the kingdom of Egypt and the known world, was blessed because of Joseph. When the blessing of the Lord is upon you, everything your hand touches prospers and is multiplied to affect those around you. It will also be the catalyst to manifesting fruitfulness (Psalms 128), wisdom (Proverbs 8:18, 24:4), peace (Numbers 6:26), faith (James 2:5), benevolence (Luke 6:9) and good works (1 Timothy 6:18). In the blessing of the Lord, not only will our enemies be defeated as we go in to possess the inheritance promised to us, but when we honor Him and obey all of His commands all that we undertake will be blessed and highly favored to glorify Him and we would be established as a people unto Him (Deuteronomy 28:7-9).

## Curses

Curses, on the other hand, are an imprecation, swearing, oath, or an expressed wish for evil towards another. If it is directed against God, it is considered blasphemy (Job 1:5, 11:2-5, 9). Curses can be uttered to God against another person or thing. The effects of a curse produce lack, barrenness, and famine where individuals will not have enough for themselves or those connected to them because life-giving and life-producing substance is blown away. That which one would have does not reproduce in a positive way or you could possibly end up losing that which you do possess.

*Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.*

~ Deuteronomy 27:26 (NASB)



A curse applies to everyone who does not observe and obey the words written in the book of the law. Our prosperity and success comes when we make a quality decision to not permit the word of God to depart from our mouth, meditating on it day and night while being careful **to obey** and **observe to do all** that is written therein (Joshua 1:8).

*Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight. ~ Proverbs 26:2*

No man can revoke what God has blessed with a curse (Numbers 23:20). God does not lie nor will He change His mind in whatever He has spoken (Numbers 23:19). There are references in scripture where He repented for actions He had done towards individuals or groups of people. It was because the people walked contrary to the ordinances of God and rebelled against Him. God does not change in righteousness or justice; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We can always count on His faithfulness to be constant. In Genesis chapter 12, God called Abram out from among his people, gave him instructions and told him He was going to not only bless him but cause him to be a blessing. What God had decreed over Abram's life cannot be altered by anyone but Abram, simply by Abram not walking in agreement with what God had ordained. God's decrees are so powerful that He further stated that any other man who comes in alignment with the blessing on Abram's life will be blessed and anyone who chooses to wish him evil (curse him) will be cursed (Genesis 12:3; Numbers 24:9). Because God is sovereign and is the ultimate authority, nothing and no one can alter His words; His words will fulfill that which it is sent forth to accomplish (Isaiah 55:11). Oh, when we gain a revelation of that we will trust Him and rest in His promises, seeing them be consistently manifested in our lives! That

which God promises in our lives is also perpetuated in future generations.

Balak, the king of Moab, out of fear wanted to curse the people of Israel who had already been blessed by God. When he hired Balaam to do so, Balaam came to understand the hard way that He could not alter God's decree by cursing that which had already been blessed (Numbers 22, 23, 24). So after nearly facing instant judgment by God, his eyes were opened to see that it pleased God to bless Israel; so he decided to come into agreement with what God was doing (Numbers 24:1-9). Balaam had an opportunity, in spite of his heart condition, to become blessed of God for blessing His people Israel. What was his heart condition? He first chose greed over obeying God by merely entertaining Balak's offer. The unrepentant condition of Balaam's heart caused him to totally transgress God's will for Israel. When you are blessed by God, no one can make you sin but you can be tempted to fall into sin. Even in a situation like that, we still can make a choice not to sin. God permitted Balaam to go and meet with Balak for the purpose of turning what Balak intended to become a curse for Israel into an established blessing from God through Balaam. What was promised to Abram is seen in effect here when God caused Balaam to pronounce a blessing three times on Israel and then turn around and pronounce God's curse on Moab because Balak wanted to curse Israel (Numbers 24:12-25).

Unfortunately, it does not end there. As previously stated, no one can reverse what God has decreed over a person or a people but our personal choices will change the outcome causing one to potentially forfeit the promises of God. After the blessing was pronounced (rather after Balaam came into agreement with God's blessing over Israel) and the curse was pronounced on Moab, we see in Numbers chapter 25, Israel chooses to commit sexual immorality with the daughters of Moab. Their straying from God to pursue idols of the

Moabites and the Midianites kindled the wrath of God and judgment came in the form of a deadly plague. The plague that broke out among the people was not arrested until a priest rose up and took action by making atonement through the shedding of blood against the blatant sin that was being committed in the camp (Numbers 25:1-8). The wages of sin is still death and a curse cannot fall upon someone unless there is cause (Proverbs 26:2). It will only fall upon those who are disobedient in doing the law of God.

*But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.... ~ Deuteronomy 28:15*

How would one know if they are under a curse? First, anyone who does not obey the voice of the Lord or does not obey His commandments is subject to a curse. We are to honor God by obeying His commands. Far too many people honor God with their words only, which is not true honor (Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31). We are to also honor God with our bodies for our bodies which were given to us by God are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-21), and in the caring of others and in our possessions (Proverbs 3:9, 14:31). The result of not honoring God is to become subject to a curse which causes us to risk forfeiting our inheritance. When we sin, we become vulnerable to opening a spiritual door that permits the enemy to come into our lives to torment. For example, as much as Job revered God and in his prosperity did righteous acts extending kindness towards others, he feared that he would one day fall into calamity. Job's fear was realized. His fear was an opening for the enemy to legally come in. Fear is not found in God and whatever does not stem from faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Yet God maintained

a hedge of protection around Job because He loved him and because of Job's righteousness towards Him. But when Satan came to God, he exerted a legal right to challenge God's protection over Job's life.

Are there any spiritual doors open in our lives which legally permits the enemy to enter in? These following indicators are examples. These examples are not provided to definitively state that if any of these situations are occurring in your life you are suffering from a curse. Please let what follows serve as a starting place for you to begin seeking the Lord in prayer and if necessary fasting, to determine if there has been exposure to a curse or curses, to repent, and to identify the source of the curse and how to shut the door that opened you to the curse.

### *Poverty*

Poverty falls into two different categories:

(1) Those who suffer from lack based on lifestyle choices and character flaws due to greed, lack of integrity, or selfishness. They make poor lifestyle choices based on emotional triggers: going shopping when feeling sad without the money to pay for it, or being pressured to spend money to please someone else because you identified with what it was like when it happened to you. Those who choose not to work and prey upon the graciousness of others also fall into this category. This does not refer to those whom God has legitimately called off their jobs who are going through the process of developing their faith. Poverty is not necessarily a curse but can be a learned pattern of behavior which can also lead to opening a door to a curse if not corrected.

(2) Those who seem to be caught in a repetitive cycle

of lack, whether it has been passed down from generation to generation or whether no matter what is done to come out of it, the bottom seems to fall out from under you because of some systemic calamity that takes place. For instance, each time you receive a reasonably well paying job, suddenly a calamity happens. These calamities no matter what kind, can also happen repeatedly at a designated point in time or season creating a cycle that cannot seem to be broken. For example, a person can be working and every year a situation happens that creates a set back and the person cannot seem to get past this particular point in his life. These are indicators of a curse.

(3) Another indicator can be having success in obtaining money. In fact, money seems to be drawn to you and you seem to be successful in any venture you put your hand to. But there seems to be a hole that causes the money to dry up before you can multiply it. You are doing everything you know to do make sound and wise financial decisions but something always seem to happen that requires the money to be spent to take care of a calamitous situation. This is an indication of a curse.

### *Injustice of Perceived Wrongs*

This area seems to work in concert with poverty.

(1) Individuals may be experiencing oppression where they cannot seem to get a favorable break in their situation.

(2) The legal system, the education system, and even the governmental system all seem to be working against them.

(3) There may be false accusations or even false per

ceptions about a person's reputation or character. This can affect an individual, a family line, or a community and is an indication of a curse.

(4) Promises not fulfilled.

(5) Having to pay for the same offense (real or perceived) repeatedly.

(6) You seem to constantly have to prove yourself, pay dues, or start from the bottom, repeatedly, to work your way up.

(7) Boundaries in property, resources, or time or what you're required to give are constantly being violated.

### ***Relationships***

Indicators in the area of relationships can include:

(1) Repeated physical, verbal, mental or sexual abuse, from one generation to the next.

(2) Sexual immorality: sex outside of marriage, pregnancies outside of marriage, abortions, incest, rape, molestation, generations of divorces, infidelity from one of the spouses (particularly if a grandparent, parent, and/or siblings practice the same lifestyle), being attracted to repeated relationships where the partner practices infidelity, or homosexual tendencies.

(3) Rage, anger, physical violence, lying, stealing, cheating, fraud, or co-dependency.

(4) Low self-esteem, living in constant fear, arrogance, or prideful.

(5) Cannot seem to maintain life-giving, positive relationships.

## *Health*

Indicators in the area of health can include:

- (1) Repeated or chronic health issues individually and/or from generation to generation.
- (2) Premature death within a family, particularly among one gender as opposed to another. It could come in the form of differing occurrences of suicide, and/or violent or accidental deaths.
- (3) Barrenness: a tendency to miscarry or not be able to conceive.
- (4) Mental or emotional breakdowns experienced from one generation to the next.
- (5) Sudden illnesses or prolonged illnesses.
- (6) Afflictions of the body like being prone to frequent accidents or self-inflictions.

When we are not sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, which indicates something is wrong in our lives where we are missing the will and purpose of God, there will be consequences realized based on the sin that was committed. Remember, sin is separation from God and could lead ultimately to an untimely death, if we do not repent. God warned Adam in the garden and instructed him to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for he would surely die (Genesis 2:17). Now, Adam disobeyed God and he did eat of the tree, but he did not die a physical death – he died spiritually where he was separated from the fullness of God’s presence and glory. We do not know the day or the hour that God may require someone’s physical life as a result of their sinfulness; there are many examples in scripture where individuals were judged in their sin and died instantly while others lived to a full age. But realize this: willful sin leads to iniquity which is unrighteousness and causes us to deviate from the right way

of doing things in accordance with God's word and standard for life. The word of God is the standard by which we are to live. Exodus 34:7 states that He will visit the iniquity of the father unto his children and the children's children, even unto the third and fourth generation. Unless someone makes a quality decision to repent, turn from their iniquity, and come back to being restored in a right relationship with God, the curse will continue to pass from one generation to the next beyond the fourth generation.





## Chapter 5

### Our Presumptuous Sin

*And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?*

*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.*

*~ 1 Samuel 15:22-23*

In looking at the accounts prior to the Prophet Samuel saying what he said above to King Saul, the books of First and Second Samuel embark upon a timeframe of transition. Moses, who had died just prior to Israel crossing over the Jordan to possess the land of Canaan, was locked out of setting foot into the land God had promised by covenant with Abraham to his descendants. He was locked out because he broke faith with God in the presence of the people he was given charge over and he did not uphold God's holiness among them. In other words, Moses did not honor God and because he was God's representative before the people in providing and teaching them the ways and laws of God, he was judged and was locked out of entering into the Lord's inheritance. It does not mean Moses did not make it into Heaven; he did, for God still considered him to be His servant. Joshua, who was raised up in Moses' stead, led the Israelites to possess the land of Canaan.

Israel's unwillingness to fully obey God in dispossessing the wicked nations in Canaan caused them to be led astray and snared (deceived) into turning their hearts away from God to worship the foreign gods of the land they were called to possess and have dominion over (Joshua 23:12-13). Israel had difficulty obeying God; even with seeing all of the great and miraculous wonders He did to deliver them, in spite of the supernatural provision for them, and without regard to God bringing them into the place He designated and promised for them to rule for Him. The first generation of the church in the wilderness died just short of entering into the promise because of their doubt and unbelief. There are numerous accounts from the book of Exodus through the book of Deuteronomy where each time they turned from God in murmuring and complaining, whoring around, creating other idols, or denying the power of God, they were chastised and many died as a result. The covenant established between

God and His people where He would be their God and they would be a peculiar people unto Him would be broken time and again because they failed to obey His instructions and His commands. After Israel failed to totally dispossess the inhabitants of the land, the ones who were left became a snare to them and a thorn in their side. When they had enough of being oppressed, they would cry out to God; then God raised judges who ruled over His people to deliver them from being under the weight of chastisement and oppression.

As the last judge appointed by God over His people, the Prophet Samuel in his old age appointed his own sons to be judges in his stead. His sons, who walked in iniquity, did not walk upright in justice and righteousness as Samuel did and they were rejected by the people. The tribal elders however, took this opportunity of rejecting Samuel's sons to inform Samuel they no longer wanted a judge but a king like the other nations had. This marked a time in history where the nation of Israel transitioned from being subject to the rule of God as their King and through His appointed priests and judges, to wanting to be subject to an earthly king – one that would be like the kings of other nations. No longer did Israel want to be under the rule of God,; they now wanted to be under the rule of man (1 Samuel 12:12, 17-18).

Christ has made each believer in the body of Christ to be kings and priests unto God the Father in order to reign in the earth (Revelations 1:6, 5:10). It does not mean that some are made to be priests while others are made to be kings. **We each** are made to be kings and priests unto God in Christ after the order of Melchizedek who was a king of righteousness and peace and a priest to the Most High God (Hebrews 7:1-2). By the wisdom of God, we are to represent Christ in righteousness and justification as priests and sanctification and redemption in our kingly role in order to relieve people of the guilt of sin in our priest function (John 20:23) and to save people from the dominion of sin in our kingly function

(1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 2:2). It has always been a part of God's plan to have kings in the earth. He even revealed it to Abraham (Genesis 17:6) and to Moses (Deuteronomy 17:14-20); however, the children of Israel forced God's hand and asked for something that was outside of His timing and His perfect will for them. Samuel knew this and was grieved by it, but God permitted it and had Samuel reveal to them the consequences of what they had asked for by rejecting the perfect will of God (1 Samuel 8:11-22).

How often are we doing the same? We desire something from God or we receive a promise from God, not fully understanding the timing of His will for the full manifestation of it. When He **permits** us to have it, watch out! There are consequences to every choice we make. It may not be readily apparent at the time and may even seem like we are riding upon the fullness of God's blessings. It was not readily apparent to Abraham when He did not wait upon God to perfect him in bringing forth Isaac. God reminded Abraham that Ishmael was not what He promised him, even though Ishmael benefited from the covenant established between God and Abraham (Genesis 17:18-21). As a result of Abram's choice, Ishmael was produced out of flesh and the fruit of the sin of presumption in this act still exists today in a nation that is opposing the righteous seed of God. The blessing of the Lord has no sorrow added to it. May we mature to the place where we learn to wait upon the perfecting of God's promises in our lives so we would not have to deal with the Ishmaels that would otherwise be birthed by the flesh of man.

God selected a man to rule over Israel and had Samuel to explain to the people what would occur because of their choice (1 Samuel 8:9, 11-17). The people rejected God by refusing to obey Him and chose to receive less than God's best for them. How often do we choose not to do things God's way because we are so convinced that what we want, according to our flesh, is enough? We do not realize that when we

settle for less than God's perfect will for our lives, **we take on the burden and the cost** God never intended for us to endure.

*And in that day you shall cry out because of your king, **whom you have chosen for yourselves**, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.* ~ 1 Samuel 8:18

We must understand that being chosen (1 Samuel 10:24) and being established (1 Samuel 13:13) are opposite ends of the same process. Far too many people become disqualified for purpose or their place of inheritance because they misperceive the ways of God in our development and in being established in what He called us to be. Many are called but few are chosen. After one is called or chosen, God then takes the individual through a process of being built in character and the image of God so they can be effective in representing God in the purpose by which they have been called. King David was anointed to be prince over Israel immediately after King Saul was rejected as king. While Saul was still king, it was declared over David that God chose him as king, yet David was not established as king until the fullness of time had come. It is within the framework of this developmental process that we submit our will unto God to know His heart, His will, and His purpose concerning each of us. We are taught by the Holy Spirit in two major areas. First, we are taught by the anointing to "be" (1 John 2:27). What are we to be? We are to be and to bear the image of Christ and conform to His image as we learn how to abide in a right standing relationship with the Father. Second, we are taught by the anointing to "do" (Luke 4:18-21). This is the anointing that comes upon us to supernaturally accomplish any assignment that has been endowed to us in the fulfillment of our purpose in the earth (Acts 1:8, 10:38). That which Christ did we are to do also.

When Saul was selected as king, he started out small in his own mind while he still feared God (1 Samuel 15:17). However, with each assignment that was given to him by God he revealed more and more what was truly in his heart. His heart was far from the place of obeying God while he was more concerned about what the people thought. When we are still in our process, let us not focus totally on the “doing” and permit the Holy Spirit to cause us to “become.” From an eternal perspective, we will not always be preaching the gospel or functioning in a ministry office. What God desires most is to build a relationship with us as His sons. Out of that relationship will flow ministry and service to others based upon the love we have for Him and for one another. Unfortunately, too often individuals become anxious because ministry is not manifesting fast enough. The enemy would love nothing better than for us to focus on works without godly character which becomes “dead works.” Either way, it disqualifies us from the greater or potentially locks us out of access to our inheritance in the Kingdom of God. God was sorry He had selected Saul as king and proceeded to choose someone who was a man after His own heart – one who not only revered God but was obedient to God. God knew that David would sin before he did it yet He knew that David’s repentant heart towards Him would cause his throne to be established forever in His kingdom.

What does the prophet Samuel mean when he asks the question, “Does the Lord have as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as He does in obeying His voice?” After all, doesn’t God delight in our sacrifices? No, God is looking for us to be a living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable unto Him (Romans 12:1), where the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart which He never despises (Psalm 51:16-17). When we look at the accounts in 1 Samuel chapter 15, we see that Saul, who was selected as king **on behalf** of the people, was given instructions by God through

Samuel the prophet that would have led to God establishing his kingdom forever. He wanted King Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites for what they had done to Israel as they were on their way to the land of Promise when they came up out of Egypt. Not only did the Lord promise Abram that He would bless those that blessed him (or his seed) and he would curse those that cursed him (or his seed), He had already pronounced judgment on the Amorites, one of the tribes which dwelt in the land that was to be possessed as an inheritance (Genesis 15:7, 13-16). The Amorites were most hated by God because they practiced pagan worship, permeating the known civilized world and shaping the ritualistic worship of the religious systems to be practiced in their day. Their religious practices took on various forms to include nature worship (Romans 1:25), along with idolatry including: astrology, human sacrifice, animal and numinous worship, and orgiastic (orgies) worship rituals. Their worship rituals were known to be practiced by Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, King of Israel; Jeroboam, the King of Israel; and the most infamous Manasseh, the King of Judah. God considered Manasseh's iniquities to be worse than those of the Amorites for he seduced Judah to do more evil than all of the nations did whom God destroyed before the children of Israel (2 Kings 21:9). The Amorites were symbolic of the spiritual beginnings of the Babylonian system that is known today and can be seen in New Age religion. Although God is Creator and Destroyer, it is not His desire to destroy. He is love but He is also just and will not tolerate iniquity and rebellion but for so long. In His longsuffering He provides individuals and nations time to repent (Revelations 2:20-21). We don't know the day or the hour, but when that time is up and iniquity fills to the brim, He does move swiftly to judge and stamp iniquity out to keep it from spreading further. The Amalekites are an off-shoot of the Amorites and God's will has yet to be honored in their utter destruction. For the evil the Amalekites did to Abraham's

seed, God was going to exact His final payment, but it was also a test for King Saul. What was the test? Would King Saul obey God's instructions or not in order for his kingdom to be established forever?

*But hastily they forgot His works; they did not [earnestly] wait for His plans [to develop] regarding them. ~ Psalm 106:13 (AMP)*

*How often they provoked him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. ~ Psalm 78:40-41*

God's instructions to King Saul were to utterly destroy **all** of the Amalekites, leaving nothing alive, yet Saul chose to be selective in what portions of the instructions given he would follow because he was concerned about what his subjects would think. Our sacrifice means nothing to God nor does it honor Him if we are not going to obey Him. The One who is Lord and King of all heaven and earth, who framed all of creation by speaking a Word, creating us for His purpose and pleasure, is looking for us to obey Him. He knows how all that was created is supposed to operate. He knows the thoughts of man afar off (Psalm 94:11). He even knows our end from our beginning (Isaiah 46:10). The word of God says that His ways and His thoughts are higher than ours but yet we will not listen to His instruction on how to come into the fulfillment of what He alone purposed for our lives (Isaiah 55:9). Does not the word say that ***in our hearing and in our obeying*** we shall eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19)? In other words, there are some things God promised you and me we would come into with a greater measure of ease if we made a decision to listen to His instructions for everything



and then obey what He instructs us to do. Divination (the way of the Amorites) is a seduction which involves listening to any voice other than the voice and instructions of the Lord.

*Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.* ~ 1 Corinthians 15:45-50

Christ paid the ultimate price for us to receive an inheritance – the same inheritance that He received which through His death brings us into life and access to the Kingdom of God. But 1 Samuel 15:23 clearly states that when we reject the word of the Lord, He rejects us from being king. Therefore, we become locked out, cut-off, without access. Divination means “to divide” or to “partition out.” The Lord is holy, in other words He is single and there is no variability or division within Him (James 1:17). Even in the functions of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, there is oneness, just as Jesus consistently explains when He says that He and the Father are one; when you see one you see the other (John 8:28). We too are to be in unity and oneness with God for we are of the same spirit in the image and likeness of Christ. When we deviate from that singleness where we are not in agreement and alignment with His divine nature and character, we are essentially divided or partitioned from Him. The word declares that a house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25). For the Lord to say through the Prophet Samuel that “*rebellion is as the sin of divination*” means that when you rebel you are pushing against an estab

lished order, causing divisiveness, lack of cohesion or unity – the results being a willful separation from the Source of Life because of hardness of heart.

While rebellion is as the sin of divination, presumption on the other hand is a form of self-confidence, which causes one to make over-confident assumptions concerning one's importance or rights. Presumption is criticized as a form of arrogance or pride that is unacceptable among believers, whose lives should characterize humility and dependence on God alone (Micah 6:8).

*It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man*  
 ~ Psalm 118:8 (KJV)

*In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.* ~ Proverbs 14:26 (KJV)

*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.* ~ Proverbs 16:18

Presumption is a “self-will” stemmed in pride where one is insistent upon having his own way. It is unacceptable in the eyes of God because it causes one to be “puffed up” in being higher than they ought to be. Lucifer was presumptuous in believing that he was important enough to be as God and in the spirit of pride set his will above God's will in trying to ascend his authority above God's seat of authority – the One who created him. The same attitude was evident among those who purposed to defy God in building the tower of Babel (Genesis 11). Their instructions were to be fruitful and to multiply to the ends of the earth but instead they chose to try and make a name for themselves by building a city and tower that would ascend to heaven. In both instances, God dealt

swiftly with their arrogance and cast them down. King Saul presumed to offer sacrifice that God did not want with animals that God wanted destroyed. Even though it may have been customary for sacrifices to be offered, God had a very specific purpose in the instructions that were given to King Saul in destroying **every** inhabitant in the land of the Amalekites. When our works become tested by fire as we come before the Lord's seat of judgment, how much of what we have done in the name of the Lord will not be consumed because He never asked for it? There is a great difference between a good idea and a God idea – one is only temporary and the other is eternal and lasting.

Presumption is as iniquity which is unrighteousness that causes us to deviate from the right way of doing things in accordance with God's word or His instructions. Iniquity is a sin that is considered to be particularly evil in that it involves a depraved action (great moral corruption or wickedness) on the part of an individual, strongly conveying the idea of twisting or perverting a behavior deliberately. Iniquity carries along with it the guilt from conscious wrongdoing: in other words being fully aware of the choice to do evil as a deliberate act and not being concerned about the consequences of that action. We must make a conscious choice not to repetitively walk in perversion or depravity. When an individual purposefully and habitually chooses to do evil, they are making a choice to "bow down" to the evil act instead of humbling themselves under the mercy of God. It then creates a systematic stronghold that is passed down from one generation to the next. It not only becomes a learned behavior, it becomes a snare by deceiving individuals and blinding them to truth, thereby encouraging unrighteous behavior. The way to keep iniquity that passes through generations from coming upon you is to do what is lawful and right in accordance with God's standard, which is the word.

Unlike iniquity, idolatry is the practice of image worship

ping or divine honor paid to any created object. It is a rejection of the knowledge that God is the only one, true, living God deserving of honor, worship, and allegiance. Anyone who chooses to practice idolatry forsakes God because we cannot serve two masters. We will serve one and despise the other (Matthew 6:24). Anything outside of the divine nature of God is void of life and will cause those who connect with it to sink into ignorance and moral corruption (Romans 1:21-25). Idolatry can take many forms. Objects of idolatry include the worshipping of nature, inanimate objects, animals, or individuals we hold in inordinate high esteem. Idols are not only man-made objects but they are *anything* that is allowed to compete with God for ultimate loyalty. When we exchange the glory of God for an image created by God, it is detestable and offensive in His sight because there is no power given outside of what God allows. God is a jealous God and He shares His glory with no other (Exodus 34:14; Isaiah 42:8).

There is only one God; so idolatry of any kind is evil, foolish, wrong, and harmful. Worship of other “gods” robs the true God of the devotion and glory He alone deserves. According to Jesus, money can become an idol. Therefore, greed, lust, and impurity are also indicators of idolatry (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5). Idolatry is foolish, deceptive, and dangerous—and may even involve demonic activity (1 Corinthians 10:19–20). Because there is only one God, He alone should be the ultimate object of the believer’s affections. He alone deserves absolute allegiance and obedience. The Great Commandment in Deuteronomy 6:5 states: “*Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*” This should be continuously on our heart for the one true God deserves all we are and have. He deserves wholehearted love because nothing compares with Him. So God rejected Saul as King because he had already rejected God by not following His in

structions which is His word. To whom much is given much is required (Luke 12:48).





## **Chapter 6**

### **Being Locked Out**

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things, will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*  
~ Galatians 5:19-21

**K**ing Saul's actions cost him several things. Not only did it cost him the kingdom that would have been established had he only obeyed God, it brought upon him a spirit that tormented him. Where did this spirit come from? In biblical times, every kingdom had a king and the presence of a king in the land signified its connection with, and access to, supernatural forces from which the king's power, resources, and leadership were derived. This power is presumed to set the king in office and to be the source of all his wealth, health, wisdom, and military strategy. We can see this premise for those who submit to the authority of Christ as King. His power comes from God the Father and the Holy Spirit. However, another example is found in Daniel 10:13 and 20, where there was a prince assigned over the kingdom of Persia which fought against Gabriel to keep an answer God was sending to Daniel from being delivered. This prince was not a natural man but a demonic power assigned over the kingdom of Persia. There was also a prince assigned over the kingdom of Greece with whom both Gabriel and Michael, the chief angelic prince, had to contend. Therefore, it can be deduced that there was a demonic power assigned over the king of the Amalekite kingdom. Had the Amalekites been utterly destroyed as instructed by God, the demonic power assigned over that kingdom would have been displaced. Because of Saul's rebellion and rejection by God, he now legally opened a spiritual door for the demonic power that was assigned to King Agag (who was killed by the Prophet Samuel) to now torment him.

In order to be positioned in the Kingdom of God, we must deal with and overcome any area in our lives that involves the flesh, corruption, or the works of the flesh. These are legal door openers to the enemy and God cannot permit us to possess our heritage as a result. In Genesis 3:22 God spoke and said that Adam had become as one of them and could not be



permitted to have access to the tree of life and live forever. Adam and Eve were then driven out of the garden and Cherubim with flaming swords were posted to guard the entrance and the tree of life. The Garden of Eden is symbolic of our inheritance in the Kingdom of God. He will not permit evil to dwell there for it will spread like a cancer. Why do you think God would either destroy groups of people or always instruct Israel to utterly destroy those who fell into particular types of sin? It would spread unless it is stopped in its tracks at its source.

If you have ever had the blessed experience of being in the midst of a tangible presence of God, you would become consciously aware of your uncleanness. The stronger His presence, the more you would be aware of sin, for He is a holy God. The prophet Isaiah, as he had an encounter with the presence of the Lord in Isaiah chapter 6, experienced this very thing. The weight of the Lord's presence was so great that he began to cry out, "*Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!*" (Isaiah 6:5) Had he not repented, I wondered if he would have lived, for then his mouth was touched by a burning coal which took away the guilt of his uncleanness and atoned for his sin. Our atonement is in the blood of Jesus, but conscious sin, which is iniquity, will not dwell in His presence.

Joshua would have prevented the deaths of many Israelites at Ai had he not presumed to take the city because they enjoyed the glorious victory at Jericho. There was sin in the camp because Achan transgressed the commandment of God and touched the things God specifically told them to destroy (Joshua 7:7-11). God would not even deal with Israel until they dealt with the sin among them because He knew that with sin among them He, a holy God could not be in the presence of sin. Achan's disobedience created a legal ground for the enemy to come in and the only way to shut the spiritual

door was for Joshua to cause Achan's whole bloodline to be come wiped out. Why was all of Achan's family destroyed? God said the iniquity of the father would be visited on their children and their children's children even to the third and fourth generation. Israel still had to finish dispossessing the inhabitants of the land and they could not afford the iniquity to show back up in the camp. Let us deal with whatever sin may be in our camps, no longer tolerating it so that we can enjoy and be blessed by the abiding presence of the Lord. The price has already been paid and the way has been made for us.

We must live a holy lifestyle that is without spot or wrinkle. Anything found within us that is not of God connects with that which it is like. Even Jesus said the enemy could not find anything in Him. What He was saying was that Satan could not find anything within Jesus to connect with to gain access legally because Jesus purposed to be obedient in every way. It is not enough to have the confidence of Joshua or Caleb to say, "We are well able to possess the land." We must walk in godly character and uprightness of heart before the Lord – seeking Him for instructions on how to overthrow not only the enemy that torments our soul, but also the enemy of others we are called to serve and assist in setting free.

Works of the flesh locks us out of access to the glory of God (Galatians 5:19) and our disobedience in utterly destroying the works of the enemy leads to opening a door for chastisement. King Saul not only continued to be tormented by the spirit he opened a door to, he went on to seeking answers from a witch; ultimately, his life and the lives of his children were destroyed. When King Saul was walking upright before God, he had outlawed the practice of witchcraft and divination in the land. Yet, the further he got away from God, the more he began to seek out those things which God was against. The only momentary relief Saul would receive would be from the hands of David, who was not only his successor

appointed by God, but he was also anointed by God to play sacred music that would sooth Saul's tormented mind.

As we walk upright before God in the power, grace and anointing made available to us as part of our covenant relationship with Him, we too will be able to relieve the torments of those who are being oppressed by the works of the enemy.





## **Chapter 7**

### **What Do We Do?**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*~ Romans 12:2*

First, each of us must ask ourselves, “Do I want the inheritance God prepared for me before the foundation of the world? If so, do I want to receive it by doing things God’s way?” Many do not. Many want to continue doing what they are doing and that is their choice to do so. They’ll still make it into heaven; they just won’t receive the benefits of the covenant that are promised by our Heavenly Father. In other words they won’t walk in the benefits of the Kingdom of God. Esau despised his birthright and sold it to his brother Jacob to satisfy his flesh with a bowl of pottage and bread (Genesis 25:31-34). *“The Kingdom of God (which is our inheritance) is not meat and drink; it is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”* (Romans 14:17 *emphasis mine*) Because Esau hated his birthright, which was to be given from God, he became servant to his brother Jacob and had to work to remove the yoke of being beneath from off his shoulders. Because he despised the kindness of God, God despised him and his descendants promising to lay Esau’s inheritance to waste (Malachi 1:3-4). Every time they would try to build, the Lord would be against them, taking away their strength and their heritage. The Lord will not impose or enforce His will upon anyone. We have a choice in whether we willingly want to be pleasing unto God or not. We are not to live by our sense realm in the satisfaction of our flesh, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Without the words of life, we cannot produce faith and without faith it is impossible to Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Restoration is the enactment of bringing us back to the place of walking in the fullness of God by adhering to and obeying His instructions. Our obedience, trust, and faith in God as we follow His instructions in the laws and precepts given to us separates us from that which is not of Him. We cannot walk in the fullness of being His representative without being holy. We as His holy kingdom of priests should

be teaching the world by our examples: that which is clean vs. unclean, that which is common vs. uncommon and that which is holy vs. unholy.

We have been given the grace to overcome any area that hinders us. As long as we continue to operate in sin, it will keep us from thinking from a godly perspective because sin affects the way we think. We are called to no longer be conformed to the world's way of doing things but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in the Word of God (Romans 12:2). The world and all of its lusts is an enemy to God for it directly opposes His nature and His will (James 4:4). Anyone who is a friend or is in allegiance with the world and the world's way of doing things is an enemy to God and cannot have access to the Kingdom of God. The Lord came not to bring peace but a sword that would bring separation between light and darkness, truth and deception, righteousness and unrighteousness, and holiness and unholiness. That which is in the world produces death while that which is in the spirit produces life; we can no longer be of two opinions. We must choose both to love God wholeheartedly and serve Him only or go by the way of the world. To love Him is to do His commandments (John 14:15).

Second, if you've decided you want all God has for you, then you must repent and turn to His way of doing things while there is yet still time to do so. For if we continue to deliberately sin after receiving truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins but a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that will consume those who oppose God's will (Hebrews 10:26-27, 29). It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Lord for chastisement and punishment. Too often we mistake His correction for trouble we are encountering from the devil. He loves those whom He chastises, and He holds the power to destroy both our soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28). Fear no one but Him. He's calling us to perfection and each of us has something in our lives that must

be dealt with. He's provided the power and grace we need through and by the Holy Spirit to walk in all that He's given to us pertaining to life and godliness.

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. **For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

~ 2 Peter 1:3-11

So begin to add to your faith that you may walk in the excellence of God. We must understand that without increasing the measure of Christ in our lives and adhering to the covenant that was established to write the laws of God upon the tablets of our heart by the Holy Spirit, the heart of man continues to be truly wicked. God no longer curses the land for man's sake so we have the potential to be fruitful in our level of productivity but by man's choices and actions a harvest is produced from whatever he sows. If we sow corruption, then corruption is reaped. If we sow life and godliness, then life and godliness will be reaped. We have the right to



choose life or death, blessings or cursing, by whether or not we choose to obey God.

As we obey God, we tap into the power and authority to possess our inheritance. God goes before us to defeat His enemies so that we can dispossess them. It takes a king to defeat a king. When we understand we go in the authority and the power of our King Jesus Christ, who not only has authority over the kingdom of men but also has authority over all things including principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and wickedness in high places, we will be able to possess the land and make the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15).

What we have to do is invoke His rule of authority in the places He has given us dominion or possession to displace not only the enemies of our soul but also to set other captives free. The kingdom of God has been prepared for us as an inheritance from before the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34). I purpose to possess my inheritance so I can hear my Lord and King say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your King.”* (Matthew 25:21) Will you choose to possess it also? If you choose not to, the Lord will take the kingdom from you and give it to a people producing its fruits (Matthew 21:43). What are the fruits? The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25) and fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:4-11) are the fruits of the Kingdom.

Do not become like the five foolish virgins who did not have enough oil (the anointing of the Holy Spirit) to manifest the Light of Christ, and then had to go out and buy some. The wise virgins exercised discretion in that they knew not to give up their birthright, not even a portion, to those who were behaving foolishly. The foolish virgins missed their time to enter in and were locked out, for the Lord did not know them.

When we reject the goodness and the severity of the Lord,

not only do we remain slaves to the lusts of our flesh, we also are subject to the rule of the kingdom of darkness. We are proclaimed by the Lord to be the head and not the tail, we are to be above only and not beneath. In a position of rulership or dominion we walk in the authority of Christ released to us as we submit to His way of developed, equipped and matured. Severity means to cut off or to sever. That which does not bear the fruit of righteousness in Christ is cut off. Just as Jesus stated in John 15, we have to be connected to Him, for those who are not [connected to Him] do not bear the kind of fruit the Father is looking for. According to verse 6, they will be “*severed, cut-off while men will cast them in the fire to be burned (torment).*” But those who bear fruit in Christ are purged to bear more fruit. As we abide in Him and His word abides in us, we can ask what we will and He will do it for us because we will not ask amiss, knowing and understanding the will, the way and the heart of the Father.

We can do nothing of eternal value that is glorifying to God outside of abiding in Christ. Christ was sent that we may live (1 John 4:9). It is in Him we live, and move and have our being for we are His offspring (Acts 17:28). This is part of the heritage for the saints of God. Just as Christ through His weakness was crucified and lived by the power of God, we too have that same level of access in Christ in order to live for the benefit of others (2 Corinthians 13:4). When we decide to choose life and to obey Him, we demonstrate our love for Him while His love in us becomes a weapon to destroy the works of the enemy. In that He is well pleased. My beloved, do not forfeit your inheritance in Christ – He is all we will ever need!

## *Prayers for Salvation and Repentance*

To see the kingdom of God, you must first be born again (John 3:3). Therefore, if you want to fully benefit from the inheritance that has been made available to every believer, begin by praying this prayer:

*Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21)." I am calling on You. I pray and ask you, Jesus, to be Lord and King over my life, according to Romans 10:9-10. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now, I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.*

Now that you are saved, find a good, word of God preaching and teaching church. Become part of a church family that will love and disciple you. It will strengthen you in your Christian walk and it is part of His plan for us as the body of Christ.

If you are saved but feel there are areas in your life that is hindering your from receiving the full benefits of your covenant relationship with the Lord, begin by praying this prayer:

*Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus and repent for I have sinned against you and you alone. I thank you that as I humble myself before you, that in your unconditional love you are faithful and just to forgive. I ask you now to cleanse me of all unrighteousness by the blood that was shed upon the Cross. Holy Spirit, you have been provided to me as a Comforter and Teacher. I ask that you would teach me the way of Christ that I may know Him. In Jesus' name. Amen*

## *About the Author*

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Valerie Rogers is one of the emerging clarion voices of the Kingdom of God in this season. Many biblical examples detail the touching of God as prophetic people were released to bring forth the prophetic utterances of God's instruction for His people; so too has Valerie been touched by God and suffered many things to be formed and shaped in order to win Christ for the excellency of His specific word to be proclaimed in this hour to those who have an ear to hear and a heart to listen. As author, prophetic psalmist and prolific teacher, her resolve is to impart to those who have an ear to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to His people in seasons to come and what they ought to do. Prophets of God are to know seasons and times and the books she published: *Prosperity Foundation*, *God's Divine Order for Prosperity*, *Get Rich thru Your Niche*, *Establishing the Kingdom: Ruling with Character* and *Kingdom Release for Prosperity* are all essential for the Body of Christ's preparation to maximize what God is requiring of us in the coming years.

Valerie Rogers is spiritually covered by and accountable to Bishop R.S. Walker, Senior Pastor of Heritage Church International in Waldorf, Maryland and Founder/Senior Prophet for Another Touch of Glory Covenant Ministries. Under Bishop Walker, she received her license to minister in 2002, was ordained as an Elder in 2005, was released into the Office of the Prophet in the same year and was set aside as a Prophetic Presbyterian within the Another Touch of Glory Covenant Ministries.

Having experienced firsthand, hardship and adversity, Valerie's greatest passion is to assist in instituting a proper foundation for individuals with a desire to walk in true Kingdom prosperity. Her expertise and vast knowledge clearly lends her distinction and lines of demarcation in this field. This is coupled with her passion to fervently advance people's lives by imparting knowledge and understanding to all who hunger to receive revelatory truth that is being proclaimed in this season for advancing the Body of Christ to build within their Kingdom purpose.

As the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Hesed Ministries International, a non-profit organization dedicated to demonstrating the loving-kindness of God towards those who are: in need of help emotionally, imprisoned, and/or impoverished, Valerie preaches, teaches, and proclaims the gospel of the kingdom of God, educating these persons on how to establish foundational truths in their lives. It is these truths that will facilitate avenues of prosperity into their lives and communities causing them to be an asset to themselves and to society.

She also serves as a business development consultant. Her unswervingly keen insight into sound kingdom principles helps facilitate, develop, and build business foundations that will last. Her experience also includes helping non-profit organizations accomplish their business goals. As a prolific teacher, she helps individuals establish businesses in accordance with kingdom principles, while simultaneously providing a witness and an authentication in the earth that demonstrates how the principles work when applied.

Among her most significant accomplishments is her devotion to her daughter Nikiyia, devoted and loving wife of Pedro, and her grandchildren: Kayla, Antonio, and Jaiden.

**That you may know His joy – building lives one brick at a time!**

The Kingdom of God is placed in every believer when we become born again. Yet, are we really tapping into the fullness of what is provided to us as part of our spiritual inheritance? Our covenant relationship with our Heavenly Father avails to us tangible benefits - benefits which brings us into a place of walking in dominion authority while we're still here on earth. However, there are factors and behaviors we should be aware of that, according to God's standards, will deny us access to the heritage He made available to us through the blood shed by Jesus Christ.

The truths laid out in this book are for the body of Christ! You will be compelled to examine what you understand to be truth according to the word of God. The key to access is obedience, for commandments and the laws of God are designed to reveal to us His nature and character which we are to be conformed to by our Helper, the Holy Spirit.

As we gain greater revelation about being part of a kingdom as a royal priesthood, we will understand that a kingdom is a result of all that is the essence of the King being reproduced in His subjects: His labor, His knowledge and His character are all portrayed in His subjects (Revelation 5:10).

Jesus says in 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.*" We cannot be effective in doing the greater works until we overcome the works of the flesh and the works of the enemy.

You don't want to be locked out of what has been given to us as our inheritance. This book is a must read to prepare for the last days.

Valerie Rogers  
Hesed Ministries International