



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.6.1

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF begins the book *Christ in You - The Hope of Glory!*

Is your life full of affliction? Are you experiencing difficulties, sorrows, and a variety of sufferings? If you are a Christian, you should not think these things strange.

Hebrews 12:5-8

My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son

is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which **ALL** have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Notice the scope of the words of the apostle Paul. He says ALL are scourged. ALL receive discipline. If you are a son of God you will certainly receive of His discipline.

This present life is filled with many sorrows and difficulties, but we need to take a larger view of God's plan. This life is but our primary education. It is intended to fit us to walk as sons of God in long ages to come. Though this pre-

sent life be filled with difficulties, they are temporal. This life will soon be over, and long ages will arrive.

Sorrows and suffering are merely the "first things" that all of God's children must experience to fit them for future life as the glorified sons of God.

Revelation 21:4

And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the **first things** have passed away.

Food for Thought

"Labor to grow better under all your afflictions, lest your afflictions grow worse, lest God mingle them with more darkness, bitterness and terror."

John Owen

"To bless God for mercies is the way to increase them; to bless Him for miseries is the way to remove them."

William Dyer

Scripture Memory

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

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Christ in You - The Hope of Glory!

A Wider View

I believe much of the current tendency of the saints to get caught up in false moves of God, their inability to discern truth from error, the tendency toward low living, and an absence of honor and dignity in their character and activities is the result of having too narrow a view of the work of God. Most Christians spend very little time seeking to understand the mysteries of God. Few have comprehended the grand scope of God's work with mankind. Most Christians look very narrowly at the present moment, its needs and activities. Many are consumed with daily concerns, and this chokes them and makes them unfruitful.

Most Christians spend very little time seeking to understand the mysteries of God.

Luke 10:41-42

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Matthew 13:22

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Being consumed with paying bills, feeding a family, working a job, raising children, pursuing secular education, spending manifold hours in leisure and entertainment, and attending the meetings of their church, a majority of Christians find that the spiritual seed sown in their life becomes unfruitful, choked out as if by a multitude of weeds. These Christians rarely, if

ever, spend time before God seeking to discern things that are not delivered to them from ministers and Bible teachers who stand in their pulpits, or whom they observe on television.

Nearly all Biblical teaching being proclaimed in this hour is at an elementary level. Few Christians have gone beyond the spiritual equivalent of learning their letters and numbers and the names of colors. Most are still in kindergarten. All Christians must start out at a basic level, but it is not the desire of the Father that we remain perpetually focused upon elementary matters. There is a time when the sons and daughters of God are to move on to deeper things. Consider for a moment how much focus in the church is currently upon those things that the apostle Paul described as "elementary teaching."

Hebrews 6:1-3

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of **faith toward God**, of **instruction about washings**, and **laying on of hands**, and **the resurrection of the dead**, and **eternal judgment**. And this we shall do, if God permits.

What are elementary teachings about the Christ? I dare to suggest that there is probably nothing you have heard from a minister in any present day church that Paul would not define in this way. Many ministers repeat teachings endlessly that focus upon sin, repentance, salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, faith, judgment and resurrection. In addition there are endless teachings on spiritual gifts, Christian service, prayer, evangelism, and the admonition to study Scripture. (Not to mention the many false teachings which make up a large percentage of those things taught to Christians today.)

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I am not downplaying the need to lay a foundation of elementary teachings. The elementary cannot be skipped over. A good foundation must be laid. But God would have His sons and daughters to press on to maturity. As important as the message of redemption from sin and death is, the Scriptures declare that there are higher and deeper things. It is my desire to share some things in this writing that go beyond the elementary to focus upon deeper and higher subjects. As the apostle Paul said, “and this we shall do, if God permits.”

Few Christians understand why they are here at all. Few understand that which is the inheritance of the saints of God in the ages to come. Few discern the fact that this current age is only a preparatory work for something much greater. To them, this age is all there is. Their thoughts, considerations, activities, and spiritual pursuits are therefore severely limited by this myopic viewpoint.

There is great benefit in examining the ultimate goal of God’s work among the creation. His goal was never simply to save mankind from sin so they could go to heaven one day. Sin and salvation are intermediary issues of great importance, but they do not encompass the broader desire of God in His work with man. Yahweh’s original reason for creating mankind is not found in these doctrines, and a life that does not see beyond them will be hindered in the pursuit of God’s highest and grandest desire. We must discern Yahweh’s intent in creating mankind. His purposes have not changed.

God’s plan for you and I is so enormous, so glorious, and so staggering that many who will read about it will doubt whether these things can be so. Some coming to realize the truth will wonder how they could have ever missed seeing the truth of their calling, for the message is abundantly manifest throughout the word of God.

Yet even in discerning the truth, many will stagger at the great faith required to walk in it.

I began to write of the profound plan of God in creating mankind four years ago. Seven or eight chapters of this book were written and sent out to my mailing list at that time. I found, however, that the saints were not ready for this writing. I have no illusions, knowing that most are still not ready. Many who encounter this teaching will not be able to receive the things declared, for they are truly astounding.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Concerning [these things] we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Some will distort what is proclaimed. Some will charge me with heresy. Some will find what is written unpalatable and will get up from the table. Yet some will be able to receive these words, and it is for these few that they are written.

Few Christians understand why they are here at all.

Four years ago I was not fully prepared for these truths myself, but the Spirit has brought me back to them again. I believe there is a reason He has done so at this precise time. Many difficult things must be passed through by the chil-

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dren of God in the days ahead, and it will be necessary to keep in view the great goal before us. The coming days will be as a race that requires much endurance. Those who will run best will be those who discern what awaits them at the finish line. The cross is best borne when we can see the joy that lies beyond it.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Yahshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...

When I began to send out the chapters of *The Hope of Glory* four years ago, I was met with objections. None of the objections convinced me of error in that which was being shared. The chief objection was simply that those reading could not see the purpose and benefit of that which was being declared. A hope of future glory seemed to lack immediate relevance.

I am convinced, however, that understanding the things which will be shared in the chapters of this book will be radically transforming. They

Sometimes we cannot see the forest for the trees.

will encourage the fainthearted. They will add resolve to those who are wavering with taking up the cross. They will help to renew a commitment to follow Christ wherever He

would lead. They will result in a real and profound joy at the plan of the Father for His sons and daughters. They will also lead to a greatly heightened mindset, lifting the saints of God above the shallow expectations, low living, and base thoughts that are so prevalent among Christians today.

Joseph Herrin

The God Who is a Father

Sometimes we cannot see the forest for the trees. Sometimes things are so much in our face that we cannot discern what it is we are looking at. One of the most common appellations used by Christians in referring to God is "Father." Calling God "Father" is both proper, and scriptural.

Matthew 6:9

"Pray, then, in this way: '**Our Father** who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.'"

Galatians 4:6

"And **because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, '**Abba! Father!**'"

Referring to God as "Father" is something that Christians often take for granted. Most have not taken time to deeply consider the ramifications of God being our Father. It will serve us well to take a penetrating look into this matter. In approximately 270 occurrences the word "Father" is used in reference to God's relationship to mankind. We find the first occurrence in what is referred to as "The Song of Moses."

Deuteronomy 32:6

Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.

Beyond this, there are hundreds of additional instances where men and women are called the sons, daughters, children, seed, and offspring of God. It is apparent that fatherhood is very important to the heart of God.

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We can learn something about Yahweh's purpose for man as we look at the creation account in Genesis. Notice in the following verses the repetition of the phrase "after their kind."

Genesis 1:11-12

Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit **after their kind**, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed **after their kind**, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, **after their kind**.

Genesis 1:24-25

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures **after their kind**: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth **after their kind**"; and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth **after their kind**, and the cattle **after their kind**, and everything that creeps on the ground **after its kind**; and God saw that it was good.

Every living thing God created upon the earth had the ability to reproduce after its kind. Sheep give birth to sheep. Oak trees produce other oak trees. Salmon produce salmon. Everything brings forth after its own kind. Having demonstrated this principle the Lord then declared:

Genesis 1:26-28

"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him...

Yahweh brought forth something after His kind. Does it not follow logically that man is a god, even as his Father is God? Man is not merely a beast. Man is not the evolutionary equivalent of

a glorified ape. The original thought of Elohim, the triune God, was to create a being fashioned in His own image, after His own likeness, bearing such a likeness to Himself in all aspects that He could say, "This is My son!"

Satan, the great deceiver, has done such a profound work in diminishing mankind's understanding of the intent of God in forming man, that many Christians who have sat in churches and studied the Scriptures all of their lives recoil at such a straightforward declaration of God's design for man. Some hearing the words that man is a god, would cry "blasphemy!" They would pick up stones to cast at the one who would make such an assertion. The Jews did so when Christ suggested the same, and the Christian religious mentality does so today.

Yahweh brought forth something after His kind.

I have come across many Christians on Internet websites who proclaim that the message of sonship is heresy. They warn other Christians to stay away from those who proclaim a message of sonship. I do not doubt that some who have taught on this topic have entered into error. There is leaven present everywhere, for "we know in part and we prophesy in part" (I Corinthians 13:9). Some in their exuberance in understanding a truth they had not previously seen, run with such enthusiasm to share the message that their words outstrip their actual revelation.

Despite this tendency, it is very ill advised to cast out a doctrine that is pervasive throughout the Scriptures. Just because most have not understood it, or because the orthodox teaching of the day does not include it, is no reason to decry it as heresy. If God says something is so, and He declares it repeatedly, then it must be so.

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Psalms 82:6

I said, "**You are gods**, and **all of you are sons of the Most High.**"

Who is in view here? Some have declared that it must be the angels, for the suggestion that it is a reference to mankind is offensive to them. To

Man does not need to see himself as a worm in order to be humble.

say that man is a god goes against their understanding of the word humility. Humility, however, is not thinking lowly of oneself. Humility is agreeing

with God's thoughts. It is seeing things as God sees them. The man who understands that all things were created by God, and nothing of value in man's makeup was arrived at by his own power and effort, will refrain from boasting before God.

James 1:17

Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...

Man does not need to see himself as a worm in order to be humble. Man can discern that he was created in the image and likeness of God, and confess it to be so, and be humble. As long as the man understands that he has nothing personally to boast in, that he did not fashion himself, nor did his own thought lead to his creation, then a man is not made more humble by denying the grandness of his design. In truth, to deny what God has done is an act of pride. Some men glory in their abasement. Wisdom and humility is simply agreeing with the mind and thought of God.

It was not angels God had in mind when He had the psalmist pen the words "You are gods." Who

are the "sons of the Most High"? Yahshua the Messiah, the firstborn Son of God, reveals their identity.

Luke 6:35

"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, **and you will be sons of the Most High.**"

It is man who is spoken of in Psalm 82:6. It is therefore man who is in view in the statement "You are gods." Why is this difficult to comprehend? Why does it strike so many as blasphemy? If man was created in the image and likeness of God, then does it not follow that man was created like God, and he will one day be revealed in similar glory and power as a son of God? Yahshua quoted the verse above when the Jews charged him with blasphemy for calling Himself the Son of God.

John 10:33-37

The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." Yahshua answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

If a person were to carefully study the passage above they could discern many things. I have read numerous commentaries on this passage declaring that Yahshua was speaking of the angels, suggesting the angels were the ones who delivered the word of God to mankind. A plain and careful reading of this passage reveals that it was not Yahshua's intent to declare that the

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angels are gods, but that mankind are as gods. Yahshua was telling the Jews, “If your own law says that man is a god, then why do you charge me with blasphemy for saying I am the Son of God?” If one believes the angels were being referred to as gods, then the argument loses its force. It becomes a meaningless argument.

Yahshua was very clear, however. He speaks to the Jews in this way, “Has it not been written in YOUR Law, ‘I said, YOU ARE GODS?’” The Your and the YOU are references to the same entities. Christ is speaking of mankind. Christ then continues with the words, “If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came...” To whom did the word of God come?

I Kings 12:22

But ***the word of God came to*** Shemaiah ***the man of God...***

Chronicles 17:3

And it came about the same night, that ***the word of God came to Nathan...***

Luke 3:2

The word of God came to John (the baptist), the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

The word of God came to men of God anointed by God. This is what Yahshua is referring to. As the apostle Peter declared:

II Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Let us be very specific, lest there should be any

doubt in identifying those who are being called gods. Christ’s reference of those to whom the word of God came was in this particular instance a reference to those the prophet Asaph was speaking unto. Asaph was the author of Psalm 82, so when the Lord declares, ““If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came...”” He is referring generally to all those who received the words of the Law and the prophets. Yet He is also referring specifically to those who received the specific words he was quoting from Psalms 82. Asaph was a priest and prophet, and he is the author of this Psalm. To whom was Asaph writing? Was he writing to men or to angels? We know he was writing to men, and we are among those to whom he wrote.

Some might still hesitate to believe. They may say, “If you call man a god, then you are setting up man to be worshiped.” Let me be very plain. I am not saying that man is the original God, whose name is Yawheh (I AM that I AM). I am saying that man is the offspring of the original God. Man is the offspring of Yahweh even as an acorn falls from an oak tree and produces something in the exact image of the original.

*Man is the offspring
of Yahweh...*

Malachi 2:10

“Do we not all have one Father? Has not one God created us?”

I Corinthians 8:5-6

For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and ***we exist for Him***; and one Lord, Yahshua

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Christ, by whom are all things, and ***we exist through Him.***

There are many gods, but there is only one Father of all. As sons of God, we are as gods, but "we exist for Him." Though these sons of God are also to rule as lords, there is one who is "Lord of lords" and "we exist through Him." Therefore, mankind is to worship the One ***for whom*** we exist, and the One ***through whom*** we exist. Does it diminish God the Father in any way to say that He is the Father of gods? No! Just the opposite. Yahweh is magnified by this fact.

Before we leave the discussion of the identification of who is being spoken of in Psalms 82:6, let me cite the following verse.

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"?

Yet regarding men the following is written:

Romans 8:15-17

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but ***you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ***, if indeed we suffer with Him ***so that we may also be glorified with Him.***

It is man who was created to be a joint heir with Yahshua the Messiah, the firstborn Son of God. God has appointed men to be fellow heirs with His Son. We are not only heirs, but brothers.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be ***the firstborn among many brethren...***

The reason men call the teaching of sonship heresy is that we now see Yahshua as ascended to glory, seated at the right hand of God. We see man at present not clothed in this same glory. Our image in contrast with the glorious image of the firstborn Son of God is very humble. We do not yet appear as gods.

I John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and ***it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him***, because we shall see Him just as He is.

At this time it has not yet appeared what we shall be. We are merely in the womb of our formation. We have not yet emerged as that mature image and reflection of God for which we are destined. But the Scriptures declare repeatedly that we will be altogether different than our present appearance. The transformation will be so awesome, so enormous, so incredible, that it defies description. "It has not appeared as yet what we shall be." But we shall be like unto the firstborn Son of God in glory!

Romans 8:29-31

For those whom He foreknew, ***He also predestined to become conformed to the im-***

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age of His Son, so that He would be the first-born among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; **and these whom He justified, He also glorified**. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

What shall we say to these things? If our minds could get a glimpse of what awaits the saints we would sit in stunned silence. It has been Yahweh's intention from the beginning that man should be a perfect copy of His image and likeness. Yet before God can bestow upon mankind His glory and power, He must form in mankind His Spirit and character. This is the work of this present age of man. God is seeking to form an image of His own holy and righteous character within mankind that these men might be resurrected in glory.

Our current humble existence upon this fallen earth, struggling against the bonds of this sinful flesh that encapsulates us, has been designed with perfect wisdom to provide the fertile ground out of which a life in the image and likeness of God might emerge. Only those who wage war against the passions and desires of the flesh, crucifying the body of sin that enshrouds them, will find a new spiritual creature emerging when this body is left behind. Like the eaglet struggling to emerge from the shell of the egg, and the butterfly struggling to escape the cocoon, we must strive to overcome all that binds us within this body of death, this sinful flesh. Only as we successfully wage this war will we find ourselves fitted for the glory of the ages to come.

I John 3:2-3

We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. **And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

To those who would argue that they do not see the value of such a teaching as that found here, I would point them to the words of the apostle above. He spoke of the future hope of sharing in the glory of the Son of God as a glorified son of god. He then declared that "everyone who has this hope... purifies himself." **Everyone**. Perhaps the reason for so much low living among Christians today is that they do not have a vision of the glorious destiny set before them. Perhaps this is why so many are content to glory in the flesh, as vile and wicked as it is. Having a hope for nothing beyond the mortal frame they now possess, they become satisfied with a pursuit of carnal pleasure, living for the moment. These do not see the far surpassing glory which God intends for them.

*God is a Father.
Fatherhood is central to
His nature.*

God is a Father. Fatherhood is central to His nature. He will not rest content until He has sons who share His image and likeness in all aspects. These will share His Spirit. These will be conformed to His righteous character. These will receive glory and power in long ages to come. They will truly be as gods!

Raise your vision. Elevate your sights. God has far higher things planned for you than you have previously imagined.

I Corinthians 2:9

Just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

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The Powers of the Age to Come

Hebrews 6:5

And have tasted the good word of God and **the powers of the age to come...**

Yahweh is at this time preparing His sons to walk in the powers of the coming age. What is experienced in this age is but a “taste.” God has given men tokens of the power and authority of the coming age. This power was observed in Moses whom God appointed to be “as god to Pharaoh.”

Exodus 7:1

Then Yahweh said to Moses, "See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet."

Moses had an experience beyond any other man of his age. He was given the privilege of wielding the powers of the age to come. Moses took the staff in his hand, and with it wielded the power

Yahweh is preparing His sons to walk in the powers of the coming age.

of God. Moses turned the waters of the Nile into blood. He smote the earth and the dust became gnats. He raised his staff and frogs came up upon all

Egypt. He struck the land with plagues of locusts and destroying insects. He called out to Yahweh and great hail with fire and lightning came down upon the land of Egypt. At the word of Moses darkness fell upon the land, a darkness so deep it could be felt, and no man dared to move from his place for three days.

At the command of Moses miraculous events transpired until Moses and the God he served were held in high esteem by all the people. This

power continued throughout the journey in the wilderness. Moses stretched out his staff and the waters of the Red Sea parted. Moses prayed and the Lord sent quail. He struck the rock in the desert and water flowed forth.

Why did God choose this man to wield the powers of the age to come? Moses had been prepared for this task.

Numbers 12:3

Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.

In order for you and I to be entrusted with the powers of the age to come, we too must be perfected in humility. This humility was not something that Moses was born with. It had to be fashioned in him. Moses in his youth was not the humble man he would later become. Stephen speaks of the young Moses in this way:

Acts 7:22-25

And Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds. But when he was approaching the age of forty, it entered his mind to visit his brethren, the sons of Israel. And when he saw one of them being treated unjustly, he defended him and took vengeance for the oppressed by striking down the Egyptian. And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him; but they did not understand.

At the age of forty Moses was at the height of all his natural powers. He had the best education the world could offer. He was a man of power in words and deeds. He discerned that he had been created for a purpose, and the purpose was to deliver his people from the bondage of Egypt.

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Moses supposed that his people would recognize his ability and call, but they did not recognize it. Using his own power, Moses struck down a lone Egyptian, but he did not free a single Israelite.

Moses at forty is like the majority of mankind. They look to their natural abilities to accomplish every goal and desire. This self-sufficiency causes men to be independent of God. Feeling adequate in themselves to accomplish the purpose of their heart, even a God-given destiny, they do not wait upon God to direct their steps, nor do they look to God to bring it to pass. The result always falls short of the will and pleasure of God.

In order for a man to truly accomplish the will and pleasure of the Father, the man must be broken. He must come to place no confidence in the flesh. He must see himself as totally inadequate to do anything for God in his natural abilities. He must understand that only God can truly accomplish His desires, and He requires nothing from man other than complete surrender and obedience. Moses had to come to a place where his pride in his own attributes and abilities was shattered. His rejection by his people at the age of forty was the beginning of this breaking process. The work was continued through the next forty years in the wilderness as Moses tended his father-in-law's sheep in the land of Midian.

What a breaking this was for one such as Moses. It was the equivalent of a man with a doctorate's degree from Harvard, who had been a mover and shaker in the corporate world, being sent to a small, backwoods community to flip burgers, scrub toilets, mop floors and wash dishes for forty years. During this period of Moses' life he was completely emptied of all his former self-confidence. He came to know in a deep way that he had nothing to offer God. He was no prize

catch that God should glory in.

How foolish are Christians today who boast of some learned, talented, or wealthy man who has come to Christ, or who has joined their church? They brag that they will now be able to accomplish so much for God because a man of stature has come to Christ. In truth, the opposite is true. Until the man is broken he will never be of any use to God. He must not look at his own abilities as being of any value to God.

*What do we have that
God has not given to
us?*

Psalms 147:10

[Yahweh] does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man.

I Corinthians 1:26-29

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God.

What do we have that God has not given to us? What do we have that God needs? The answer to both questions is the same. **NOTHING!** Does the Almighty Who created man need anything from His creation? Of course not!

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Isaiah 46:11

Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

Daniel 4:35

And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'

Isaiah 40:15, 22

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales... It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers...

Moses had to come to a place where he understood clearly his own utter weakness and worth-

Moses did not take credit for the work of God.

lessness in the eyes of God. Moses had nothing to offer God, though he had the best education the world could offer and was considered a prince among

men. Before God he was insignificant. He was a speck. The entire nation of Egypt was as a single drop of water. How much less was one man among the nation?

Until we see ourselves in this same light, we will not be ready to be entrusted with the powers of the age to come. Moses was so reduced in his sight that when God appeared to him when he was now eighty years old, Moses sought to convince God that He had chosen the wrong man, for Moses had NOTHING to offer God.

Exodus 4:10, 13

Then Moses said to Yahweh, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue... Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

Moses judged rightly that he had nothing to offer to God. There was nothing within Moses to commend himself to God for this work. This is precisely why Moses was chosen. God was looking for a man who would wield the powers of the age to come, and who would not boast in what was done through him. Moses' testimony after being used of Yahweh in such a profound and powerful manner was always that it was Yahweh who had done it. Moses did not take credit for the work of God. Moses did not promote himself, nor did he seek any selfish profit from that which God chose to do through him.

Exodus 18:8-9

And Moses told his father-in-law ***all that Yahweh had done*** to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen them on the journey, ***and how Yahweh had delivered them.***

Is not our tendency to speak of what we have done for God? Our journey upon this earth is designed to teach us the same humility observed in Moses. Yahweh will lead His sons and daughters through wilderness places in order to teach them how dependent they are upon Him. He will place them in circumstances where they have no answer, no strength to deliver themselves or others, that they might come to look to Him alone. Yahweh will lead all of His elect into circumstances where they are reduced to poverty in every area of life that they might not boast in any ability, gift, or possession. In this way men are taught to reckon upon the strength

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of God, viewing themselves as utterly detestable in themselves.

II Corinthians 12:9-10

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Although Moses was reduced to the point of being the humblest man on the face of the earth, there was an occasion when he stumbled and misused the powers which were entrusted to him. Toward the end of the Israelite's forty year journey in the wilderness, the people once more grumbled against Moses, for they thirsted for water. Yahweh instructed Moses to speak to the rock and water would come forth.

Yahweh does all things according to His perfect wisdom and counsel. There were many things signified in this event, and speaking to the rock was a great parable to teach truth to the people of God. Moses, however, being impatient with the grumbling of the people did not carry out the instruction of Yahweh. Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck the rock with his staff, and this act was displeasing to God.

Numbers 20:12

But Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not obeyed Me, **to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel**, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

Later when Moses besought the Lord to allow

him to enter the land of promise, Yahweh commanded Moses to not even speak of the matter. Yahweh defined Moses' transgression with the following words:

Deuteronomy 32:51-52

Because **you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel** at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because **you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel**.

Moses was given as a sign to the people. Repeatedly we see the repetition of the phrase "in the sight of the sons of Israel." Those who are entrusted with the power of God must also reflect God's character. They must manifest God to those who observe God's power in them. The power is a testimony of God's presence, therefore the action and life of the one yielding the power must be in harmony with the One they are representing. The miracles of God are designed not only to show forth His power, but to reveal His divine nature and to bring forth a prophetic message.

*Power is a testimony
of God's presence...*

Consider how important a matter it is to be completely yielded to God. There are many ministers today who cry out for the power of God. Men are given gifts of the Spirit, and are entrusted with anointings, albeit relatively weak and small in comparison to that of Moses, or the apostles, or the Son of God. Yet, even with these small anointings these men are not careful to do only what God commands, and to speak only what He places in their mouths to speak. These men are moved by selfish motives, and act out the passions and desires of the flesh. They peddle the anointing, seeking to gain in reputation,

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or wealth; to incur some favor from those who are wealthy and powerful, or to gain the affection and admiration of the people of God.

Will not God judge these even as He judged Moses? Will they not disqualify themselves from entering into all that God would have granted them? Because these do not treat God as holy in the midst of the people of God, they will not prosper. The anointing will pass to another, and their ministry will be brought to an end they did not wish. Though they cry out to God, He will not repent.

For this reason it is necessary that all those who would be entrusted with the power of God be first subjected to a fiery wilderness experience where they learn to humble themselves before

It is necessary that a man be thoroughly broken...

God. They must learn to fear God, and to despise the flesh with its pride and stubborn will. Unless one submits to this difficult preparation, they will find

themselves corrupted by the power they earnestly desire. They will become puffed up as they observe God manifesting Himself through them in power.

The apostle Paul was given a taste of the powers of the age to come. Yahweh manifested His power through Paul, as well as granting visions and revelations to Paul that belonged to the age to come.

Acts 19:11-13

And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

Can you understand how a man who has not been taught a deep humility and been broken before God would make a shipwreck of his life if he were granted a similar experience of power today? It is reported that there are ministers currently who claim some healing anointing and they are SELLING handkerchiefs to be used to heal the sick. Such men should tremble in terror at the thought of such a diabolical action. Will they take the anointing of God and peddle it for personal gain?

II Corinthians 2:17

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

(NIV)

It is necessary that a man be thoroughly broken in order to be entrusted with power. A man must not desire anything for self.

I Timothy 6:7-10

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

There are Christians in this hour who are falling into temptation which will result in ruin and destruction. They have taken the gifts of God and sought to use them to fulfill "foolish and harmful desires." If you and I are wise, we will plead with God to withhold His power from our lives until we have been thoroughly broken and humbled before Him. When we are content with whatever He chooses for us, being content to have nothing beyond food and raiment, when

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we are desiring His will and pleasure above all else, only then will we be ready to receive His power.

This age is designed to ready the sons of God for the age to come. God will deal with our flesh severely in order to prepare us to walk in a “taste” of that which is to come. Even this taste can undo a man who has harbored some idol in his heart. If he seeks anything for self, the power of God can be his undoing. Some men, finding that God will not give them this power apart from the cross, open themselves up to seducing spirits from Satan. These unclean spirits will give men spiritual power apart from the requirement of being broken first. The use of this power is always attended with fleshly manifestations. Ministers who have not crucified the flesh offer a fleshly appeal to many. Carnal and immature believers are promised a release of finances, of worldly success, and even of spiritual power, yet apart from the working of the cross.

The apostle Paul was among the most mature spiritual sons of God in his generation. Even so, because of the surpassing nature of the power revealed in his life, and the exceptional nature of the revelations given to him, it was necessary that God preserve him from the corrupting influence of pride by giving him a thorn in the flesh.

II Corinthians 12:2-7

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows - was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak... And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a

thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me - to keep me from exalting myself!

Paul does not identify the nature of the revelations given to him. He declares that he “heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.” These revelations were a taste of things to come. In the coming age man will have the honor of being privy to some of the deep things of God that are at this time inexpressible. There is no way to make them known to man in his current sinful state without risk of injury to the man.

The flesh must be crucified, for it will distort and misuse every gift of God.

What is the nature of the risk? According to Paul, the danger to man is pride. Paul buffeted his body in order to keep it under subjection. Yet the revelations given to him were so great that his own ability to rule over the flesh’s tendency toward pride was insufficient. It became necessary for God to give Paul a thorn in the flesh to humble him. This was an act of grace. The thorn served to deflate the pride of the flesh. The thorn served as a needle to poke a hole in the inflated balloon of the flesh letting the air of pride out.

Once Paul understood the reason for the thorn in his flesh, he no longer asked God to remove it. When we understand the power that Yahweh plans to entrust to His sons, we will no longer shrink back from the working of the cross in our lives. The flesh must be crucified, for it will distort and misuse every gift of God. This misuse of the power of God will always result in harm to others and judgment upon ourselves.

During this age Yahweh has designed our experiences to prepare us to shoulder the powers

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of the age to come. This is why so many of the Christian's experiences are humbling, and painful. The flesh recoils at the cross, but it must be crucified. Yahshua said that all who would follow after Him must take up THEIR CROSS daily.

Luke 9:23-25

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

It was no idle word that the Lord spoke when He prophesied that His disciples would do greater works than He did.

John 14:12

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do..."

As incredible as this seems, Christ was testifying that His disciples would do greater works than

If we are to do greater works, we must first be conformed to the image of Christ.

walking on water, calming the storm with a word, casting out demons, and even raising the dead. If we are to do greater works, we must first be conformed to

the image of Christ. We must be as submitted to seeking the will and desire of the Father as Yahshua.

John 5:19-21

Yahshua therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He

sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel."

Yahshua only did that which the Father revealed to Him to be His will. Moses did the same in all of his works, save one. Yahshua ALWAYS did the will of the Father. Yahshua did all things "in like manner" as the Father. He never deviated from the will of His Father. We too must come to this place of surrender.

Man is born captive to sin and the desires of the flesh. Our experiences here in this age are designed to cause the spiritual seed in us to mature and to arise to ascendancy over the flesh. Day after day we are brought to occasions where we must choose to walk according to the direction of the fallen nature of Adam, or the higher nature of the Spirit Who indwells us. As we consistently choose the way of the Spirit, putting to death the desires of the flesh, we will find ourselves fitted to receive power. Yahweh is committed to bringing His sons to a perfect maturity in this regard. We are to be fully conformed to the image of Christ, the firstborn from the dead.

Ephesians 4:13-15

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ... we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ...

What glory awaits the children of God! We are told that Yahshua endured the cross as He looked to the joy set before Him. What joy is also set before those who share in His suffering? Paul states that our sufferings are not even

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worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us. The glory that awaits the sons of God is such that when it is revealed none will think it blasphemy to hear the words “Ye are as gods.”

We will be like the Firstborn Son of God. We will be like the Firstborn Son of God in His glory. We will be as gods. We will be radiant in the glory that is bestowed upon us. Yahshua’s delight and hope as He drew closer to the cross was in seeing His disciples crowned with glory, sharing in the glory that was His own destiny. He spoke of this shortly before His crucifixion.

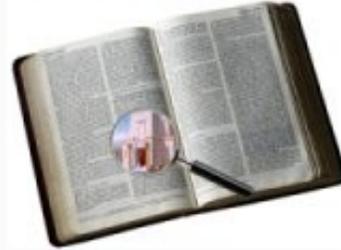
John 17:5

"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was... The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one..."

The saints’ future is to share in the glory that belongs to Christ; to share an inheritance with Him for ages to come; to share His authority, and to rule and reign with Him. The sons of God are to bear the power of gods in the ages to come. They must therefore be brought to a complete surrender to the will and pleasure of their Father. They must come to a complete conformity to the One who created them. Only then can He trust them with His divine power and authority.

God has determined that all men should come to this place of resurrection life and power. Yet not all will arrive at this state at the same time, nor will all be granted power, glory and authority in the same measure. We will look at what the Scriptures say in this regard in the next chapter.

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PARABLES PRECEPT—The Hebrew Alphabet



(Image source: Ancient Hebrew Resource Center's Website)

Depicted above is the Hebrew letter Shin. In the early form it was a picture of the two front teeth.

You might assume from looking at the Middle script that this letter is the origin of the English W. This is incorrect, however. The Greeks adopted the Middle script, but rotated it 90 degrees to the right. When it passed into Latin among the Romans, it was transformed further and became what we know as the letter S.

One Hebrew word that uses this letter is Shachah, which is translated into English as “worship.”

Shachah - שָׁחָה

The Hebrew word Shachah also meant “to depress,” with the thought of prostrating oneself on the ground. The ancient Semitic people were much more demonstrative in showing respect that people are in Western society today. It was common to bow oneself down, putting the face to the ground, as a sign of honor to another person. We read of Abraham doing

this before God, or Jacob prostrating himself before his brother Esau, of Moses bowing before his father-in-law Jethro, and many more instances.

It seems to me that mankind has lost much as they have departed from showing honor in such visible ways. If we would walk as lights and examples in this world, we should look for ways in which we can show honor to others regularly.

Honor needs to be restored to all realms of society, including among our families, on the job, in the church, and anywhere we meet with authority that God has established.

Leviticus 19:32

You shall rise up before the gray-headed, and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God.

Why not ask God today to show you how to demonstrate honor to those you meet in your life?