

RESPONDING TO THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD

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(FYI: These notes are **incomplete and unedited**. They were originally written as my personal notes from which I teach. However, I decided to share them with anyone who is hungry for more of God. Therefore, I have added to the notes for the sake of clarity but please know that the topics herein are not complete studies. As time and opportunity permit, I will eventually teach more in-depth on the subjects herein. ENJOY!)

INTRODUCTION:

We have all heard about the prize of the high calling of God. But do we understand it?

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

The HIGH CALLING of God has to do with a calling to the HIGHEST, the GREATEST, ABOVE ALL, and the ULTIMATE that can be obtained and experienced in God. The High Calling of God goes beyond a calling, it is greater than a calling – the High Calling of God is about ‘election’. The High Calling can only be obtained by heeding and by responding to the calling and the election that God placed upon you before time ever began.

God works by Divine laws and eternal principles of Truth that never change and have never changed through the eons of time or since eternity past. The Tabernacle, and the Temple of Solomon, were both given to Israel under the “Law” (The Law was God’s blueprint of His purpose, picture of His Son, and visible demonstration of His heavenly Kingdom). The Tabernacle/Temple was divided into three parts, levels, and dimensions; The courtyard, the Holy Place, and the Holiest of All. The courtyard was open to the nation. The Holy Place was only entered by those ‘called’ into the priesthood. However, the Holiest of All was only entered by the one who was elected by God into the office of the ‘High’ Priest.

The High Priest was chosen by God into the highest office within the entire nation of Israel as far as ministry unto the Eternal God was concerned. This office was not simply a calling, it was an election. Only the High Priest was welcomed into the Holiest of All. He who wore the crown that bore the inscription “Holiness Unto the LORD” was the only one to enter this high and holy place (Exodus 39:30).

...and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. (Exodus 26:33)

In Hebrew, holy is the word qo-‘desh. The verse above reads in the follow manner in Hebrew: *And the vail shall divide between the qo’desh and the qo’desh qo’desh*. The highest place was known to the Jews as the place of *all holiness, double holiness*, and as the space *named holy holy unto the LORD*. What a calling and election! And, what a place to be invited into. In this space was

nothing but the Ark of God and the Mercy Seat where God's Glory presence resided and rested between the Cherubim.

Jesus is our 'High' Priest (Hebrews 9:11). The calling and election of God (the high calling being an election) is to become like Him, a high priest fulfilling the high calling within the highest place offered to man!

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ephesians 1:4-5).

God did not create you then decide what His purpose for your life should be. No, He predestined those whom He chose according to His own will. But what did the 'calling and election' look like? He chose us in Him to be holy. The highest of God's predestined purpose for His called and chosen/elected is to be holy in the sense of being **transformed and restored into the likeness and image of Jesus.** This calling and election of God is to become like Him – the High Priest.

For whom he did foreknow (to know before, ordain, foresee), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

Those whom God foreknew were called and chosen for a specific purpose. God's highest predestined purpose for the called and the chosen is to be transformed into the LIKENESS of the Son of God. Everything else connected to the High Calling of God is birthed out from, stems from, is the result of, and is the fruit of His likeness formed in our lives. (this matter is viewed in more detail later in this study).

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father... (1 Peter 1:1-2).

The Apostle Peter's first epistle sent to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia was addressed to "The Elect according to the foreknowledge of God". The elect are a special breed, as it were. They are called and chosen to go beyond the norm. They are called to walk the road less traveled. They are set apart unto the One who is worshipped as "Holy, Holy, Holy".

God's predestined purpose was placed upon you and within you through His calling and election. But a calling (or His predestined purpose) does not guarantee that you will accomplish or reach the highest of God's purpose. To be predestined simply means to be fenced in; it is a guarantee that you will receive, hear, and know His call upon your life. However, what you do with what you hear, and how you respond to what you know will determine the outcome of His calling and election.

1. THE CALLING & ELECTION

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10-11).

These verses along with the verses leading to them are power-packed and full of guidance for those with a desire to fulfill God's purpose for their lives. In connection with recognizing and being persuaded of your calling and election, Peter stated: "for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall". Do you find yourself falling or failing in your spiritual life. Many who find themselves falling do so because they have either never been persuaded of God's calling and election, or you have lost it. Is your calling and election sure? Are you persuaded and convicted of that which God has called you for, and moreover elected or chosen you unto?

For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14)

These words are misinterpreted and misunderstood by many. God has called many unto redemption. He has called many unto various heights of spiritual experience. However, those whom He has chosen or elected to travel beyond, to the highest and to the 'above', are few. It is incredibly difficult for many to accept this truth. This truth is explained away with all manner of attempts to discredit 'the few'.

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:14)

Don't ever despise the day of small things (Zec.4:9-10).

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (Deuteronomy 7:7)

God chooses the few. He is not looking for those who are strong and mighty in their own eyes. He is looking for the weak through whom He can declare His glory and power. The might, strength, and dominion authority displayed in the elected few is found in the glory and dominion authority of God. It is not found in the strength and greatness of those whom God has elected.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Revelation 17:14)

Many are called, few are chosen, but even fewer are faithful to the call and to God's election. If your calling and election is not sure, secure, steadfast, and firm, then you cannot be faithful. Many have heard the call of God upon their life but few have experienced God severing them by His choosing unto a high place of union and relationship with Himself – unto the holy holy place.

FAITHFUL TO THE CALLING AND ELECTION

...and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Revelation 17:14)

Who are the *called, chosen, and faithful*? They are the ones who have made a commitment to stand with the Lamb of God, to follow Him wherever He goes, and as a result are known as the ones who are *with Him*. The “with Him” people, if I may describe them as such, are the ***remnant church of God*** made up of the Bride of Christ and the Manifested Sons of God. The Manifested Sons of God are the revealed and manifested fruit of the Bridegroom and the Bride relationship. Hence, the fruit of the Bridegroom and bride’s union is described as the “manifested sons” of God. The manifested Sons are also known as the adopted sons and sonship.

“Many are called but few are chosen”. Multitudes have experienced the call of God upon their lives. Fewer have known what it means to be set-a-part as an elected one chosen by God unto His specific purpose – a remnant people. However, even fewer (and I might add very few) walk in *faithfulness* to God’s calling and election. ***Faithfulness will ultimately be the determining factor as to whether the calling and the election of God upon the life of a believer become an eternal reality or not.***

Allow me to reiterate, many are called, few are chosen, but even fewer are faithful. Without faithfulness the calling and the election of God are nullified. Without faithfulness the calling and election cannot become a fulfilled, eternal reality. Faithfulness becomes the flame that ignites the power of God’s calling and election upon those who choose to walk and stand *with Him*. The remnant few are the faithful few!

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found **faithful**. (1 Corinthians 4:2)*

*He that is **faithful** in that which is least is **faithful** also in much: (Luke 16:10)*

*His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and **faithful** servant: thou hast been **faithful** over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21) (Highlights by the author)*

The meaning of the word faithful is multiple. Among other things, faithful means: to foster as a parent or as a nurse, to build up and support, to be firm in the sense of being permanent, immovable, and of long continuance. It also means: to trust, believe and to be certain, to be established, steadfast and sure. Clearly being faithful is connected to being ‘sure’. Faithful also means: to go to the right hand (The right hand is where Jesus is seated in the presence of His Father. The faithful are *with Him* seated in heavenly places at the right hand of God. Revelation 3:21, Ephesians 1:20, Ephesians 2:6).

Faithfulness to God’s calling and election for your life (*the election being His purpose*) will ultimately lead you to the right hand of God. Faithfulness opens the door into the throne room of God and ultimately to the throne of God itself. The highest goal and pursuit of the believer is not to have a powerful ministry. Neither is it to become a great success on the stage of the church

world. It is not about displaying great power. The ultimate experience of a believer is not to heal the sick or even raise the dead. All these aspects of ministry and demonstration of God's power are important. **However, the ultimate goal and vision of the faithful is to be seated where the Lamb of God is seated (to be like Him) and be with Him at the right hand of God. There is no higher calling and election than to be like the Son of God and to be with Him where He is.**

It is for this reason that the one hundred and forty-four thousand follow the Lamb "whithersoever He goeth" (Revelation 14:1-5). In other words, they copy Him. What He does, they do. What He says, they say, Where He stands, they stand. Where He goes, they go. This is exactly how Jesus lived His life among men. He carried the image and likeness of His Father. Hence, He commanded His disciples to follow His example (John 13:15, 1 Peter 2:21).

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:7-9).

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. (John 12:49-50)

Jesus followed His Father in ALL things. He displayed the image and likeness of His Father. As His Father did, so did He. He is our example of what we are also called to be like. He was totally and absolutely, faithful to the Father's purpose for His life upon this earth among men. Jesus manifested His Father's image and likeness whilst clothed in a human form.

Faithfulness must be the daily bread of those who will dwell within the throne of God and the Lamb. Faithfulness and obedience to the will of God will lead you to the throne of God, the ultimate eternal destiny. Union, harmony, and oneness with God and the Lamb will result in the high calling of God becoming a reality in your life (Philippians 3:14, Hebrews 3:1).

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads (Revelation 22:3-4).

God's "servants", His stewards, have discovered the ultimate. They have discovered the Kingdom of God. The LORD's Name is engraved upon the foreheads of the servants of God as an eternal display of God's ownership and authority over the lives of the called and chosen. **His Name inscribed in their foreheads reveals faithfulness to the ownership and authority of the LORD their God.** His engraved Name upon the most obvious part of man's body demonstrates the commitment, loyalty, and uncompromising obedience that the servants display before God and the Lamb. He is the Lord and King of their being. His Kingdom has been established within them only to serve as the door leading them into the eternal Kingdom in heaven. We cannot inherit the eternal heavenly Kingdom without the Kingdom having "come to us" within.

2. RESPONSE TO THE CALL

How can you be faithful if you are not sure of the calling and election of God, and moreover have not first responded to the calling? ***When a call is made a response is required***. But the election goes beyond the calling. The elected are God's remnant people. The remnant people have not only responded to God's call, but they also submitted and surrendered to God's "choice", God's election, and the highest purpose of God for their lives. To this they became faithful. To be chosen means to live for that which God has purposed you. Faithfulness produces fruit, faithfulness fulfills God's purpose. Who are invited into the presence of the LORD

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21)

The remnant (remaining, survivors, the left portion) are also those whom God has called and chosen.

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. (Joel 2:32)

And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. (2 Kings 19:30-31).

The remnant are the delivered ones, the overcomers, the ones who have escaped the wars and who have produced fruit unto the LORD their God. Obviously, the remnant people responded to the call. The remnant that returned from Babylon to Jerusalem did so because they responded to God calling them to return to His purpose.

The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. (Isaiah 10:21-22).

However, throughout history God's people have been slack and slow to respond to the calling, and moreover to the election of God. This generation is no different. I see a church world that is deaf to God's Word, indifferent to His commands, instructions, and the moving of His Spirit, a church that has religious forms but denies the power of God. I see a people that are slow to move when God moves and who are more inclined to turn over in their bed of ease rather than to arise and be active in their walk with God.

Many people do not consider the fact that God responds to those who do not respond to Him. Our Eternal Father responds in a similar way as a natural parent will respond to their children who do not respond to their call and command.

And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; (Jeremiah 7:13)

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: (Proverbs 1:23-25).

What a tragedy! Imagine, the God of Israel, the Master, the One who has the plan for His chosen, the One who designed and equipped them to be His people – imagine Him 1. pouring out His Spirit, 2. making known His words, 3. calling them, and 4. stretching out His hand to them, **but no man regarded** (kaw-shab / to prick up the ears, to listen, hearken, give heed, and incline).

There are consequences to face for those who have had such an experience as described in the verses above and who do not or who will not respond to God's Spirit, Word, Calling, and outstretched hand. Many of God's people experience these consequences but are unaware that it is the hand of God attempting to bring them into an awareness.

Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. (Isaiah 65:12)

How and what God does to them who do not respond will vary, but **God will never allow a non-response to His calling to simply fall away without consequences**. What have you done, what are you doing with the calling and the election of God in your personal life.

Responding to the call begins with developing 'fellowship' and a relationship with the Son of God.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Fellowship means: partnership, communion, communication, intercourse, companion, and partaker.

The word fellowship expresses close and deep-felt intimacy and harmony with Jesus. It MUST begin here. Reaching the High calling of God cannot be obtained without fellowship with the Son of God. We are called to this fellowship!

3. FRUITFULNESS – THE REMNANT

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (John 15:16)

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)

Once the Lord chose those whom His Will and purpose so desired, He then required something from them. The response to His calling and election is to produce something. That something is **FRUITFULNESS!**

After God blessed Adam and Eve He then commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. God created man outside of His paradise then placed him/them therein. But a responsibility was placed upon them, and God expected him/them to make choices in response to their responsibility whilst they were in their perfect state. People often argue that God does not require obedience to His commands in the New Testament era. They argue that the time of obedience to the commands and requirements of God are obsolete. They argue that commands and requirements belong to the Law but not for those who walk under grace. This is false!

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (Genesis 2:15-16).

The first command ever given to man was not under the law. It was whilst man was in a state of perfection within a perfect paradise that the first command was ever given to man. Sin did not exist at the time when God gave His first command to man. Obedience to the command of God was a requirement if man was to continue living within God's paradise. God 'demanded' a response if the highest, best, and most precious holy presence of God was to be enjoyed. He has not changed. He still requires that man responds to Him? Why? Because the call upon your life still sounds!

God calls and God elects, but man chooses whether he responds or not to the calling and election of God. Man's response is evidenced through producing fruit or becoming fruitful.

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. (Jeremiah 23:3)

This is the calling upon the remnant – the chosen and elected people of God, **FRUITFULNESS!**

DOMINION AND FRUITFULNESS

We gain an overflow through fruitfulness. This fruitfulness is evidenced through the character, nature, power, and authority of Jesus being worked in and through our lives.

2 Peter 1:3-10 PARTAKERS OF HIS DIVINE NATURE – FRUITFULNESS is dominion and power.

THE DOMAIN AUTHORITY IS CALLED OUR *MEASURE* - Our measure should increase and as a result dominion will increase.

For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure... (2 Corinthians 10:14)

Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours... (2 Corinthians 10:15)

STOP SITTING IN YOUR MISERY – Subdue and take dominion by the power of the Spirit of God! This happens as you grow and increase in the image and likeness of that which is born of God. (1 John 5:18)

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people who are the saints of the Most-High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Daniel 7:17-18, 21-22, 27).

The Kingdom of God, the greatness of the Kingdom, and the dominion power that comes with the establishment of the Kingdom of God, is given to saints of the Most High God. To be a “saint” means to be set apart, holy, sacred, a holy sanctuary, sanctified, and dedicated. True *fruitfulness* is the result of inner and outer separation and dedication unto God.

John 15:1-8 (read all 8 verses)

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, *being fruitful in every good work*, and increasing in the knowledge of God; *Strengthened with all might*, according to *his glorious power*, unto all patience and longsuffering with *joyfulness* (Colossians 1:10-11)

Before dominion power could be realized, fruitfulness had to first and foremost be evidenced. Subduing power and dominion authority over the earth were the result of fruitfulness.

THEN GOD SAID:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:27-28)

- God's Image and Likeness
- God blessed them
- Fruitfulness, **PAW-RAW = bear fruit, bring forth, increase, grow**

- Multiply, RAW-BAW = multiply, increase, enlarge, grow, be full, be in authority
- Replenish (have restored what was lost), MAW-LAY = be fenced, be filled, be full of, be furnished, overflow
- Subdue, KAW-BASH = tread down, to conquer, subjugate, bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection.
- Have dominion, RAW-DAW = to tread down, subjugate (bring under authority), have dominion, prevail against, reign, bear rule, rule over, take by force.

We must realize and understand that the earth had existed before the time of Genesis 1:2. God drew the earth up out of its fallen, empty, and void state. The earth had already existed in prehistoric times.

Genesis 1:1-2

The Spirit, *roo-akh*, of the LORD breathed over the condition of devastation and death that hovered over the earth. God's Spirit moved and brought forth life. Within God's breath, the breath that was breathed into man, was the power of:

- BLESSING
- FRUITFULNESS
- MULTIPLICATION
- REPLENISHING
- SUBDUEING
- DOMINION

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: (Psalm 8:4-6)

Oh, "I am just a poor little man", we say, and "Oh, what is man? I can't do anything." What we should be saying is, "What is man that You have actually given him dominion over the works of Thy hands and have put ALL THINGS under his feet?" "What is man that You have placed such responsibility on him to rule – to be kings, priests, and prophets?!" That's who we are – think about that! God has called His people to conquer, to rule, to have dominion authority over creation. But the ruling, dominion power must begin within our-selves first. It was within where the breath of God was originally placed in mankind. Now, rise-up and take it, speak it, take charge over the obscurity and death in your life and live! Be filled with the inspiring breath of God. Be fruitful and have dominion!

Dominion is about Kingdom authority. But without authority, without Kingship, without living under the Kingly authority of God, there can be no Kingdom, hence no dominion power.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

Dominion authority begins with you and I ruling (taking dominion, have power, to reign) over our own spirit. The evidence of true ruling authority is seen by man ruling over his own spirit.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. (Psalm 145:13).

The *eternal* Kingdom of God is His *o'lawm Kingdom*. This is the eternal domain within you that must be subdued. (...also he hath set the world / o'lawm = eternity / in their heart... - Ecclesiastes 3:11)

The following verses sum up everything that we have been discussing concerning fruitfulness and dominion.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3-8).

God's Divine power has given us everything that leads us to (pertains to) life and godliness. We are called unto the glory and virtue (excellence, valor, strength) of God by being partakers of His likeness which is His Divine nature. Ultimately, this is all provided for the purpose of producing fruit! It is not God's will for you and I to remain fruitless. We have been designed by God to carry and display His glory through His likeness. This is the ultimate fruitfulness – the High Calling, Christ likeness.

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. (Isaiah 43:7)

4. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POWER vs AUTHORITY

God's first and foremost plan and highest purpose for man was that he bear, display, manifest, and walk in the image and likeness of God. Secondly, God also desired for mankind to possess and operate in the dominion power and authority that is joined to and operates by His image and likeness. We cannot be fruitful in the highest without bearing His likeness. Operating in dominion power without the likeness of the One who is the source of all power is like attempting to fly a jet without a pilot's license. It is dangerous to place such power into the hands of one who is not equipped to use it.

And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. (Luke 4:36)

Here we see a differentiation made between authority and power. What is the difference between power and authority? The best way to describe this difference is by looking in the natural world and the structure of governing powers.

And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. (Luke 20:20)

Power has to do with the ability to accomplish something, whereas authority carries the extent of that ability. Authority speaks of the domain over which your power extends. Authority is about the territory over which you have dominion. We have all been given a certain degree of power, however, authority is another dimension and spiritual experience altogether.

Through the Spirit of God the believer has been given power. We have power to:

- Power to tread of serpents and scorpions – Luke 10:19
- Power over unclean spirits – Mark 6:7
- Power over devils and diseases – Luke 9:1 – Mark 3:15
- Power to become sons of God – John 1:12
- Power of the Holy Ghost – Acts 1:7

Yes, we have power! All God's children have received power! We have power through the blood. We have power through the Holy Ghost and fire. We have power through the Name of Jesus. This power is activated and used by and through the Spirit by faith. It is spiritual power. God has also given to some a certain amount of dominion (authority) along with the power.

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1) - (Mark 13:34).

Power and authority over demonic forces and diseases (diseases inflicted by demonic entities) was given to Jesus disciples and to His servants (bondmen – as in Mark 13:34). It's one thing to

be a believer, it's another thing to be a disciple (a pupil, learner, and follower of the Master's example) and a servant/bondman. The Master entrusted such power and authority to His disciples and servants. They were given power and authority over demonic entities and realms of domain to which they had been called to have oversight.

However, this is not the authority I am attempting to explain. I am talking about throne rulership authority and Kingdom power. This power is known as ***dominion authority***. Dominion is beyond simply having power – dominion is authority over a domain. This dimension of authority is not simply given to us, it is gained through experience and through Kingdom inheritance received by overcoming. It is gained through fruitfulness and being changed into the likeness of the Lord. A domain is territory over which one rules. A domain is an area over which one must exercise the power that has been granted. The greater the domain the greater authority and dominion power one must have.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:23)

Here we see an example of what I am referring to. We have already briefly considered 'faithfulness'. Faithfulness is the crowning jewel of the called and chosen. Those who are faithful over that which God has entrusted them with are granted 'ruling authority' over the greater things of God. To be made ruler over 'many things' mean to be given authority over abundance, that which is great and plenteous, and that which is large. This level of authority is not given, it is 'earned'. God will never entrust the authority over the domain of His Kingdom into the hands of the immature and unfaithful. Yes, you have been given power. However, does your life exhibit a domain that your fruitfulness has spilled over into like waters that overflow from river banks?

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. (Matthew 8:9)

True authority and the level of authority that you carry can only be evidenced by the level of authority you are under. The more authority you submit yourself to is the same level of what you will be entrusted with. The Roman centurion understood this principle of truth because he himself carried the authority of the Roman Empire because he was under that authority. He had power in his ability to use the sword, he no doubt had power in his training as a soldier, however, he had authority because of his position under His Roman governors. The Roman Centurion had a domain over which he ruled and over which he exercised his power and authority. This principle also works in the spiritual world!

5. HIS LIKENESS

*And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth (**Genesis 1:26**).*

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:28**)*

In man's original state, when he was perfect, when he still carried and displayed the image and likeness of God, he was given the command to be fruitful. The fruitfulness that God required would ultimately lead to the entire earth to becoming a garden paradise and covered with the glory of God. The fruitfulness that mankind was commanded to produce was to be birthed from man's likeness and image of God. Through the likeness and image of God evidenced through mankind the dominion authority of Eden would have eventually spread and covered the earth as the waters cover the sea. This perfect plan of the Eternal God will yet become a reality during the end age called the Millennium.

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)

On the seventh day, or the last thousand years of time, God will bring about His purpose for creation. The whole earth and all the inhabitants of the earth will be subdued under the knowledge of the LORD and the ruling dominion authority of His glory.

When man lost God's likeness and image, he also lost his ability to be fruitful in the sense of multiplying for the purpose of replenishing the earth with "God-likeness". Man lost the dominion and authority when he lost God's likeness and image. When he lost the glory of God, he also lost the power and authority of God. When he disobeyed God and removed himself out from 'under God's authority', he lost his own authority 'over' creation.

True fruitfulness is evidenced in being transformed into the likeness of the Son of God. Being transformed into **His likeness** leads to dominion – and not just dominion, but dominion *over all!!* Oh, we say, "I need to be more like Jesus and just humble myself." (Yes, amen, true – we should also remain in a state of brokenness and humility.) However, what about being more like Jesus and taking dominion over your fallen nature, dominion over your pride, dominion over your past, dominion over the stronghold weaknesses within you, and moreover, dominion over demonic powers?! This, too, is part of your inheritance and spiritual practice as a called, chosen, and faithful believer.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ephesians 1:4-5).

God did not create you and then decide what His purpose for your life would be. No, He predestined those whom He chose according to His own will. The highest of His predestined purpose is His likeness.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

God's highest predestined purpose is for man to manifest the LIKENESS of the Son of God who is the likeness of the Heavenly Father (Hebrews 1:3). This is the high calling. Fulfilling the High Calling will take you back to Eden. Going back to His likeness and image. Going back to dwelling in God's presence. Going back to union and fellowship with God through His Son, the Tree of Life. The High Calling is reached through entering a very personal relationship with the Bridegroom-Lamb as a bride has a union with a husband. This is God's predestined purpose and calling upon your life. But a calling (or His predestined purpose) does not guarantee that you will accomplish or reach the highest of God's purpose. To be predestined simply means to be fenced in. In other words, it is a guarantee that you will receive, hear, and know His calling. However, what you do with what you hear and what you know depends on your own choices and depends upon your response to the calling and election of God (see part 2, page 6).

THE STAGES OF CHANGE TO THE HIGHEST / HIS IMAGE

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Reaching the highest, His likeness, is a process of going **from and through glory to glory.**

*They go from **strength to strength**, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. (Psalm 84:7)*

Reaching the highest is about going from strength to strength

*So David waxed **greater and greater**: for the Lord of hosts was with him. (1 Chronicles 11:9)*

*Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed **stronger and stronger**, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker. (2 Samuel 3:1)*

To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beer-sheba. (2 Samuel 3:10)

Going from glory to glory, strength to strength, greatness to the greatest, from fruitfulness to much fruit, from light to light, and from height to the highest becomes a reality through a transition of power and authority. The kingdom within must be translated back to the original King. Saul, the king of the flesh, must yield to King David, the Master and Redeemer, Jesus.

Obtaining the inheritance of the highest is not simply given to you – no, it is conquered by overcoming something. It is fought for. It is obtained through a wrestling match. It is entered into through striving and warfare.

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:24)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. (Matthew 11:12)

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (Luke 16:16)

Redemption is a gift from God however, the Kingdom of God can only be gained by those who press into it, who take it by violent force of spiritual warfare, and who strive to enter.

6. IMAGE & LIKENESS OF GOD AND DOMINION

Dominion was birthed out of the likeness and image of God. It was not man's personal power, abilities, or his own authority that gave him godly dominion power. It was the image and likeness of God *in* and *on* man. The fruitfulness birthed from God's image and likeness would consequently subdue the earth – in other words, Eden was to expand. Furthermore, the image and likeness of God also displayed God's glory presence and power. The level of likeness and image you possess is the level of royal, kingly power and authority that you will carry and display. It goes with the territory! God only entrusts kingly dominion power to those who carry His image and likeness. Imagine God giving dominion authority to your fallen image. For mankind to possess dominion power and authority without God's likeness would cause chaos, devastation, ruin, and destruction because man would use God's dominion authority for his own personal gain.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness (Genesis 1:26).

- IMAGE in Hebrew is *tseh-lem*. This word means: shade, phantom (a spirit – the unseen), representative figure. This has to do with the *WITHIN* portion of man (the spirit, in the shade, in the unseen, the inner core of man.)

The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly. (Proverbs 20:27).

It is clear, that man carried the image of God within, in His Spirit!

- LIKENESS in Hebrew is *dem-ooth*. This word means: model, shape, fashion, similitude. This has to do with the *WITHOUT* portion of man (The body, the shape, and form carried the image within. The visible outward fashion and similitude displays godliness and character of God).

Man carried the likeness of God without!

a. THE IMAGE OF GOD – WITHIN

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God's predestined purpose for the called and the chosen is for man to be transformed into THE IMAGE OF HIS SON. The image is the character and nature of the Son of God. The image is birthed, is formed, and grows within. You cannot visibly display the likeness of Jesus without His image first being formed within. The candlestick that displays the Light of His nature and truth must first be raised within.

2 Corinthians 3:18

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

The first and foremost part of our being that is in need of change is that which is within. It is within where we take on the image of God as His glory sanctifies and transforms us. We cannot truly display God's likeness from and through our lives without the transformation taking place within.

1 Corinthians 15:49-50

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (See verses 45-50)

The "image of the heavenly" is the spiritual man within. God's image is not carnal or earthly, but heavenly and divine. In man's perfect state, before the fall, the image and glory of God housed within clothed man's body with the likeness, glory, power, and light. Hence, mankind knew no shame. He was not aware of his nakedness because the glory of God clothed and saturated him.

The dominion power that comes out of the image of God's Son is HEAVENLY. It is HEAVENLY DOMINION – HEAVENLY POWER AND AUTHORITY – IT IS DIVINE! God's dominion authority working in and through your life cannot operate from or through the carnal man. It works through the spiritual man that carries the image and likeness of God.

a. THE LIKENESS OF GOD – WITHOUT

- Romans 8:3 - Jesus took on the *likeness* of sinful flesh (the flesh, the body)
- Philippians 2:7 - Made himself of no reputation, took on the form of a servant...was made in the *likeness* of men

Man lost the image of God, hence God's LIKENESS was corrupted and became sinful flesh. Jesus took upon Himself the "likeness" of sinful flesh, yet he knew no sin. Imagine that! Jesus lived for 33 years clothed in flesh and blood that had lost the glory of God. He was tempted in every aspect of life as we are tempted, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) Because of His life, death, and resurrection we can once again find and be transformed into the image and likeness of God. Through the image within, the quickening Spirit, that which is born of God, the likeness is clothed again with incorruption!

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

We are changed within by spiritually looking into the glass of God's Word and beholding His glory, nature, power, and likeness. As we behold and have our eyes opened, we too can be changed into the same image – the image that will bear His likeness and glory presence and dominion power.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4).

The quickening spirit (the new man - that which is born of God) overcomes the world (that which is without). However, this birth from God is activated by faith. The "image and likeness" of God, that which is born both within and without in the life of the believer, overcomes, conquers, and demonstrates dominion authority.

*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be **made like unto his brethren**, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18).*

Jesus went through everything that we go through. He felt everything that you and I feel. He was tempted in every aspect just as we are. He understands the void, empty place of being destitute of God's glory. He suffered separation from His Father's glory and presence when He died upon the Cross and when His soul went to Hell. (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27) He took the fall of the image and likeness upon Himself in order that we may be restored to the image and likeness of God once again.

When God's image is restored within us through the continuous work of the Son of God, His likeness is the result. His likeness is displayed in our lives through the fruit of the character and nature of Jesus manifest through our behavior, in our words, deeds, actions, and reactions.

1 John 2:5-6

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 Peter 2:21

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

(Ephesians 4:22-24, 1 John 3:2)

By once again taking on the image and likeness of the Lord God, the likeness of the character and nature of Jesus, dominion authority is the result.

7. OVERCOMING

The end of all conflict is always recognized by who rules, who controls, and ultimately who resides on the throne of power. The highest calling of God will be a reality when the Lord and King is recognized as the supreme ruler – that He is King and Lord of all. Obtaining your inheritance in God is accomplished through overcoming to the highest.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Revelation 21:7)

Inheriting the ALL THINGS is the result of overcoming all things. Yes, there is an inheritance by gift, but we are talking about the HIGH CALLING, the greatest, the ultimate, and the center part of the will and purpose of God. This high calling and election has to do with God's Kingdom, His throne, and power of rulership and dominion becoming established in your life.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

The throne, the highest, the ultimate, is inherited by those who overcome.

OVERCOME = to subdue, conquer, prevail, and get the victory.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:27-28).

First, we see God's image in mankind.

Second, God blessed Adam and Eve

Third, God commanded them to be fruitful.

Fourth, fruitfulness led them to multiplying.

Fifth, multiplying led mankind to replenishing – this is the work of restoration.

Sixth, they were commanded to subdue.

Finally, seven, they were to take dominion.

Dominion is the ultimate. But before dominion authority can become a reality, ***fruitfulness and subduing power*** must first become a reality. Fruitfulness and subduing are the result of the relationship of the Bridegroom and His bride. Subduing is born out of fruitfulness. Then from fruitfulness and subduing spring forth the Sons of God who are caught up to the throne and given a rod of iron (dominion authority) – Revelation 12:5. Dominion is the seventh stage of fulfilling God's purpose. This has to do with the throne and Kingdom of God. This is the high calling – **dominion authority.**

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

The church in Laodicea was the seventh and final church that Jesus spoke to through the Apostle John. It is also the seventh and final church age of the New Testament era. Finally, the seven churches depict stages of growth and maturity experienced by believers as they progress upon their spiritual journey. Hence, the church in Laodicea prophetically reveals the final stage of spiritual maturity of those elected unto the high calling of God. But it is also the final stage of growth in the fulfilment of the high calling of God. So many people want spiritual power and authority manifest in their lives. However, the reason few are living in the election of the chosen is because there are few who accept the requirements to possessing Kingdom authority. To operate in Kingdom authority, one must be under authority. To possess Kingdom authority, one must overcome and subdue the world, flesh, and the works and temptations of the devil.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

- DOMINION in Hebrew is *raw-daw*. This word means: to tread down, subjugate (bring under authority), have dominion over, prevail against, reign, bear rule, rule over, and take by force.

God gave mankind the dominion (*raw-daw*) over:

1. The FISH OF THE SEA = TO ROAR, NOISY WAVES, THE DEPTHS
2. The FOWL OF THE AIR = THE LOFTY HEIGHTS, THE HEAVENS ABOVE
3. The CATTLE = BEASTS OF THE SURROUNDING FIELDS
4. The EARTH = THE WORLD, THE COMMON PLACES, THE FIELD (and harvest), NATIONS BEYOND
5. And ALL CREEPING THINGS = REPTILE, CRAWL SLITHER ON BELLY, GLIDE SWIFTLY, DARK PLACES

Whatever your battle is and wherever the origin of your struggle comes from whilst striving for the likeness and image of God through fruitfulness and subduing, you have dominion over that! Dominion authority in the Spirit of God does not know bounds. Dominion authority covers every aspect of your life; your natural life, your spiritual life, that which surrounds you, and that which is within you. The Spirit of God directs your life to take dominion, whether it be in the heights, depths, surrounding spaces, and beyond. There is no limit to the dominion authority of God that He desires to demonstrate through your life.

Ultimate dominion power and authority belongs to those who have overcome in the heights of God's high calling. However, for you to reach that place in your life you also need to use power and authority that you have been given no matter how great or small it may seem. Through the

death and resurrection of Jesus we have been provided with all the power we need to overcome at every stage and level of spiritual experience.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)

Upon believing upon Jesus as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, God grants us power to become not just children/sons by birth, but Sons by adoption. This is a calling, a high calling – the Sons of God adoption (the subject of “sons by birth and sons by adoption” will be taught in coming lessons).

8. SPIRITUAL DOMINION - Within

Genesis 1:26 > ...and let them have dominion

Dominion comes with territory, or with a domain.

- DOMINION means: sovereignty and control over a certain territory > AUTHORITY OVER
- DOMAIN means: the territory controlled by a ruler or sovereignty > TERRITORY OVER WHICH AUTHORITY IS GIVEN.

The earth was in a particular condition just prior to God revealing His will concerning mankind. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:1-2).

The earth was without form, and it was void. Darkness also ruled over the earth.

WITHOUT FORM means: to lie waste, desolation, desert, a worthless thing, confusion, empty place, without form, nothing, nought, vain, vanity, waste, and wilderness.

VOID means: to be empty, a vacuity (empty space), undistinguishable ruin (cannot identify it), emptiness, void.

DARKNESS means: the dark, darkness, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, night, obscurity, and wickedness.

These are the conditions that many still live under in their personal spiritual lives; with no form of life within - (no form – no image of God within); void of Light, power and substance, with darkness hovering over their deep - (no glory, no likeness, no power of God).

We must arise out of despair and darkness and begin to bring forth the fruitfulness of our union with God; fruitfulness of being filled with the Spirit and breath of God. This, in turn, will also produce SUBDUING POWER AND DOMINION AUTHORITY! This is what true sonship looks like. It is Kingly, throne authority!

When you experience the no form, void, and darkness dominating your personal, spiritual life – that’s when you need the breath of the Spirit of God to breathe on you so that you can arise out of the obscurity and be infused with subduing, dominion power!! IT’S TIME TO TAKE DOMINION.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city (Proverbs 16:32).

First of all, the city means a guarded, fortified place with watchmen. This speaks of working “without”, overcoming things on the outside, tasks of ministry, and all that which is visible. We should indeed take down and occupy the territory of the outward world in service and ministry. However, the greater one is he who RULES his own spirit- within!

To RULE is the Hebrew *maw-shal*. This means: to have dominion, be governor, to reign, bear rule, and to have power.

It is within, in the core of your own being, where the spirit resides. Here, in the spirit, is where God established the “Garden Kingdom”, the Eden paradise, the *o’lawm* eternity (Ecclesiastes 3:11 – world within, *o’lawm* – eternity), the fenced fortress or stronghold, the throne room, the Kingdom of God – this is what we find within the spirit of man!

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls (Proverbs 25:28).

What this verse explains to us is that a spirit that has not been conquered is like a weak defeated city. It is within the spirit that dominion authority is exercised. It is within our own spirit that dominion authority first begins to take shape. It does not begin in the ministry or in the outward, visible world. It does not begin with the laying on of hands upon others for healing etc. It does not begin in having a position in the church or holding a credential or license. Dominion authority begins within the stronghold of your own spirit where God desires to establish His Kingdom! It begins in the eternity within and therefore relates to the greater works that said that we would do.

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. (John 14:12)

The greater works, or the higher works, are the eternal works that will never end.

It all starts within you first, within the place *WITHOUT FORM, VOID, and full of DARKNESS*; within the fallen, corrupted, kingdom. THIS IS YOUR DOMAIN, first and foremost! However, be not

mistaken, not only are we to practice dominion within, but also without. There is domain within and domain without. We are to conquer the image within, as well as the likeness without.

a. Taking Dominion Little by Little

Deuteronomy 7:22

And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

Exodus 23:33-38 > LITTLE BY LITTLE DRIVE THEM OUT UNTO THE BORDERS

Israel was not permitted to take the land to the extremity of the borders or the complete domain that had been given to them by God, until they were able to fill that domain with life – with warriors – with power - inhabitants! This was God’s protection upon His people. If they overcame too much territory and were unable to occupy, then the land would be overtaken by wild beasts or other nations. You cannot overcome, either within or without, more than you have the growth to “occupy”.

It was not until the giants in the land were defeated, the many domains occupied, the nations of the “ites” wiped out, and the nation of Israel had grown, that the KINGDOM was established through David! THE DOMAIN WAS CONQUERED! The Kingdom was now ready to come into a reality in the land. So, it is also with us!

b. Dominion – The Effect of an Increase

Review: It is within, in the core of your being, where the spirit of man resides. Here, within man’s spirit, is the place that God established the “Garden Kingdom”, the Eden Paradise, the o’lawm eternity, the fenced fortress or stronghold, the throne room, the Kingdom of God. This is what is found within man’s spirit!

Proverbs 25:28

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

To understand this principle further, we must go back to the beginning, to Eden, to the establishment of God’s original purpose with man whom He had created. God placed man in Eden – within the fenced walls of His Paradise. This was to be man’s residence, his habitation, and his dwelling with the presence of God.

Genesis 2:8

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

The name ‘Eden’ means: pleasure, delight, pleasant, and to live voluptuously (meaning to live in luxury). The fenced Garden of Eden was an incredible place. It was not an earthly garden – it

was a spiritual Garden. The Tree of Life and of Knowledge of good and evil were not earthly trees. They were spiritual trees and yet, it was a mixture of that which was natural and spiritual as was the Rock that followed the nation of Israel through the wilderness. (1 Corinthians 10:4, Exodus 17:6). The Rock was obviously visible, tangible, and could be physically smitten and as a matter of fact, it was smitten by Moses. Yet, at the same time it was also a spiritual, eternal Rock – it was Christ.

So, also, was the Garden of Eden. It was a spiritual Garden whilst at the same time visible, tangible, and a habitable place for man. The Garden was a fenced paradise and was the first temple of God among men. It was the first Zion and place of God's habitation. (Isaiah 51:3)

Genesis 1:26-28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

From the Garden which was the Temple, the Tabernacle of God, and the residing place of God's presence, mankind was to subdue the earth and have dominion.

“LET THEM HAVE DOMINION” means TO RULE over a domain.

Eden was not the entire earth. Eden did not cover the whole earth. This garden paradise was a limited place, with a fence and an enclosure. Yet, God said for them to have dominion over everything on earth. How was that to take place?

1 Chronicles 18:1-3

Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines. And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts. And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates.

- DAVID SUBDUED the Philistines (Philistines mean: to roll in the dust) To SUBDUE means: To BRING DOWN and INTO SUBJECTION.
- DAVID STABLISHED HIS DOMINION. Dominion means: BORDERS, STRENGTH (This was his sovereignty)

David established his *dominion unto Euphrates* where the King of Zobah was attempting to stablish his domain. However, the opposite happened!

EUPHRATES means: to overflow, rushing flow, powerful, to break forth (the banks would flood and overflow and water all the land).

This is a prophetic picture of the rushing power and overflowing rivers of the Spirit of God! Be filled with the Spirit! DAVID MOVED TO THE EXTREMES OF THE DOMAIN TO THE PLACE OF OVERFLOW, to the place of INCREASE.

- This was David's DOMAIN! He overflowed with increase – growth – and fruitfulness.

A domain is territory that is contained within specific borders, or boundaries. When you step over a border, you are invading into someone else's domain – and when others step over the border that has been allotted you, they are *stepping into your domain*. God has granted you an inheritance – a domain, within borders, borders that need to increase with the increase of your fruitfulness. In other words, as you grow, and as you increase in God, and the fruit of your relationship with Him spills over, your borders also grow. God gives you more, He entrusts you with more – your domain grows and your dominion power increases.

Isaiah 54:1-7

Enlarge the place of thy tent (this was talking about the time of Israel's return from Babylonian captivity) – TAKE DOMINION

1 Chronicles 4:10

Prayer of Jabez - ENLARGE MY COASTS

Exodus 34:24

I will enlarge thy borders (coasts – your domain) (Exodus 23:33-38 - little by little)

Genesis 1:28

Eden was only a limited location. However, it was God's intention for His creation to have dominion and sovereignty over the larger domain without ever leaving the Eden Paradise. Had man followed God's plan and obeyed His command, Eden would have expanded through the fruitfulness, increase, replenishment, and subduing of the earth. This would have been the visible result of their union and relationship with God.

9. WORTHY OF THE CALLING

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: (2 Thessalonians 1:4-5)

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (2 Thessalonians 1:10-11)

The High Calling of God is the call and election to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is inherited by those who are worthy of the Kingdom. To be saved, one does not need to be worthy of anything. Actually, no one is ever, or can ever, be worthy of the gift of salvation. Quite the opposite. We are forevermore unworthy of the redemptive work that Jesus accomplished on Calvary. Salvation cannot be worked for or attained by merit or favor. Salvation is free! However, the Kingdom of God is not.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church about the patience and faith that they exhibited in their persecutions and tribulations. Paul explained that the sufferings experienced by the church was due to God's righteous judgement (His true and right verdicts). God, in His wisdom and foresight, makes sure that those whom He has called unto the Kingdom should also be refined in the fire of suffering. Not for the sake of destruction, but rather for the sake of being made worthy of the Kingdom of God.

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (1 Thessalonians 2:12)

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, (Ephesians 4:1)

To be worthy means to be deemed fit for something. It means to become suitable for a particular place or position. It also means to be entirely deserving of something. Clearly, the Kingdom of God is not a gift. The greatest eternal inheritance offered to mankind is not free. It is costly, very costly.

The worthiness of the high calling and election, however, does not begin with you or with your decision to be made. The worthiness of living in the blessings, power, and authority of the High Calling begin with God. God is the originator of "The Call". He designed the blueprint, purpose, and destiny of your life. You did not decide your beginning or end – God did!

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (1 Peter 5:10)

The calling to God's Eternal Glory has to do with the High Calling – being called by His Name and elected unto His highest purpose! His glory is His highest.

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. (Isaiah 43:7)

What does it mean to be “called by my Name?” Clearly, not every person is called by the LORD's Name.

I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. (Isaiah 65:1)

God was attempting to show His people, the ones whom He had called by His name, that they were rebellious and obstinate toward Him as their God who had spoken His Name over them. Others, who were not called by His Name were seeking after Him. So not everyone is called by His Name. This is a calling to higher degree of fellowship and relationship with God. But with the call also comes a responsibility and a need for a response to the CALLING!

In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. (Amos 9:11-12)

When I was born a birth certificate was written by the authorities. On the birth certificate I was given a name – PAUL MATTHEW HANSSSEN. This Name has been my identity. Part of this name was personally mine (PAUL MATTHEW), but the other part was part of an inheritance, a family name, the name that showed to whom I belonged (HANSSSEN). This part of the Name has been passed down from generation to generation going back hundreds of years. This part of my name reveals...

- My roots
- My ancestry
- My origin
- My history

I possessed this name at birth, but as I grew and matured the name grew and matured with me. As a child I could use my Father's name to do things on his behalf (like go to the store and purchase items on his name and credit). But as I grew that power and authority of the Name that I have carried became mine. Now, not only my roots are in the name, but my present life is hidden in the name that was given me, depending on what I have done with the name. Now my name becomes an authority in my own life because I have used it, developed it, and made it my own. Today my bank account is in my name, my car is in my name, my house is in my name, my work (books, sermons, ministry) is known by my name – the name by which I was called at birth is now my own identity, power, and authority.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE CALLING OF HIS NAME – The Name that God spoke over you, called upon you, the Name He gave you, the Name you carry?? God requires from those who are called by His Name. It is impossible to reach the fulfilment of the High Calling of God without responding to the calling of His Name.

Everything about you is in your name. So also, it is with God and His Name. Everything about God is contained in His Name. His eternal purpose, His power, His authority, His possessions – it's all in His Name. As a new-born (reborn) baby His name is yours. The power of His Name is yours. However, the eternal inheritance of what was spoken over you is something that becomes personally yours by growth and by how you respond to the calling of His Name and how you use His Name.

This is where PREDESTINATION comes in. What is predestination? How does it work? This is an entirely misunderstood topic in the church today, and yet there are four references to predestination in scripture, therefore it needs to be looked at and put in its rightful place.

10. PREDESTINATION

The word predestination means limit in advance, predetermine, foreordain, determine before, appoint. From the meaning of this word many have concluded that those whom God has predestined have no power of choice. This could not be further from the truth!

The doctrine of predestination is among the most controversial subjects in the Christian world. Some go to the extreme to say that predestined man has no power of choice whatsoever. Then some go to another extreme and say that created man has total power of choice in determining his destiny and there is no predetermined purpose of God as far as an end result or destiny. Both extremes are wrong as far as God's Word is concerned, yet both sides contain Truth. This is one area where balanced Truth is in order or where "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" is in needed. (2 Tim 2:15)

Predestination also means that since before time began, a "fence was placed around" those whom God had predetermined and they were "fitted in advance" for a particular purpose according to God's foreknowledge, purpose and eternal plan.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)

Jesus Himself was foreordained, predestined, to come to this world as the Lamb of God.

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:19-20)

Even though Christ was foreordained He did not come into this world as a robot. All the days of His earthly journey he was faced with the power of "choice." If He had no choice, He could not have been tempted because with temptation comes the power to choose. Yet, he was equipped, or *fitted in advance* with all He needed to fulfill His predestined purpose, the Father's will.

- Grace of God was upon Him.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)

- He had the Spirit without measure.

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. (John 3:34)

- Father gave all things unto Him.

The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. (John 3:35)

- Father commanded Him what words to speak.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. (John 12:49)

In the wilderness, Jesus was faced with choice. (Matt 4:1) In the garden of Gethsemane, He was faced with choice. (Matt 26:39) Before Jesus went to the cross, he was faced with choice. (Matt 26:53) He was tempted in all points, just as we are, throughout His earthly journey, yet He was without sin. In other words, He never *missed the mark*, which was His Father's predetermined will for Himself.

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

God's predetermined will moved on Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles and the Jews to gather together against Jesus and to crucify Him so the predestined purpose for His son could be fulfilled.

*For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.** (Acts 4:26)*

Through all His earthly journey Jesus maintained His relationship with the Heavenly Father. He kept His human will in submission to the will of His Father. He never missed the mark and hence He fulfilled or accomplished the Father's predestined purpose for Himself.

Likewise, the predestined souls and spirits of mankind are guaranteed, fenced up, determined, and appointed to be both equipped and "fitted" for all God's will has predetermined for them to *be* and *do*. But it does not guarantee an end-result! God's highest and ultimate purpose of His predestined will is to conform His chosen, the *elect*, into the image of His Son.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (1 Peter 1:2)

*For whom **he did foreknow**, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)*

Because of His predetermined choice, or His predestined purpose for His chosen elect, God shakes heaven and earth for His will to be accomplished. He has "fenced in" those whom He has chosen. This fence places a wall around the life of the predestined that guarantees that God will work all things for His will and purpose to be accomplished in the life of those whom He has pre-ordained. The ultimate, predetermined "end result" of God's will is the image and likeness of His Son, Jesus, manifest in the life of His chosen.

*Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will.** (Ephesians 1:5)*

*In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who **worketh all things** after the counsel of **his own will.** (Ephesians 1:11)*

God works *all things*, every circumstance, every situation, every blessing, every pain, every mountain, and every valley according to His Own will and predestined purpose. It is guaranteed that He will work all things in, around and through the lives of those predestined souls so that they may find, know, and accomplish His purpose and will. But what man does with the knowledge, or how he responds to God, will determine the end result.

*...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not **written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. (Revelation 17:8)*

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8)

There are names written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. This however does not guarantee eternal redemption.

*And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part out of the book of life**, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:19)*

*He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and **I will not blot out his name out of the book of life**, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Revelation 3:5)*

Having your name “pre-written,” or predestined, in the book of life does not mean a guaranteed end. In the above verses it clearly states that names can be taken away or blotted out from the book of life.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

Having said all of this we must also acknowledge there is another side to the Truth about predestination. God has chosen, called, predetermined, preordained, and purposed *certain ones* of His creatures for very specific purposes in time and eternity, both for good and evil. On one side God predetermines and places a fence around predestined souls called to the image of His Son. Yet obviously they maintain the power to choose. As already mentioned with His predestined purpose there is a guarantee of God making a way for His will to be fulfilled. He will work all things according to His will and give all needed substance for His chosen and elect to reach the predestined end. This is according to God’s choosing, not mans.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ephesians 1:4-5)

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (John 15:16)

God predestined His people Israel from before time began yet He also placed before them the power of choice.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)

And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death. (Jeremiah 21:8)

However, on the other side of the scales we also see God pre-ordaining those whom He has chosen for a specific calling or work for none other reason but the purpose of God might be accomplished. Man cannot judge God. Neither does man have the right to question God. All things are made for His pleasure, purpose and Name's Sake. He has the plan and He fulfills the plan. For example when Pharaoh tried to yield to Moses and allow the people of God to leave Egypt God hardened Pharaoh's heart because He had raised Him up for a very specific purpose.

- Pharaoh Was Raised Up For God to Declare His Power and Glory

For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. (Romans 9:17)

And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land. (Exodus 11:10)

- God Chooses Those Upon Whom He Has Mercy

What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (Romans 9:14-16)

- The Wicked Are Made for The Day of Evil

The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. (Proverbs 16:4)

- Judas Was Chosen for a Specific Task

Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? (John 6:70)

- God Loved Jacob and hated Esau According to His Election

(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. (Romans 9:11-13)

- God Places His will in Hearts to Accomplish and Agree with His Word and Will

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. (Revelation 17:17)

Conclusion: It is clear, that God's Word teaches predestination with choice, yet it is also clear that God's Word teaches God's predetermined will is purposed on others for the fulfillment of His will, without their choice. Both sides are true and scriptural.

11. MAN'S POSITION BEFORE GOD

We have already covered the following portions of scripture in this study. However, I want to reiterate the matter once again as we close this study.

Spiritual dominion and authority are not accomplished by simply confessing and speaking words, even though confession is a vital part of dominion-authority praying. However, confession alone is not the origin and the root of dominion power and authority. (Confessing and speaking the Truth in authority is an effect – it is not the cause of dominion power). The power or the authority of spiritual dominion working in a believer's life **begins with your position before God.**

Luke 7:8-9

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

The Son of God, whose image we are to strive to duplicate through that which is born of God in us, was always submitted to His Father. Jesus repeatedly said, "I do what my Father says" – "I speak what I hear my Father speak". His authority came from being under the Father's authority!

Kingdom authority comes from the throne of the King. To be submitted to the King on the throne is the root of kingdom authority in your life. It is not possible to possess the image and likeness of God without submission to the King. Mankind lost the image and the likeness when they rebelled against the authority of the King.

The power and authority that Jesus possessed (whilst clothed in human flesh) was due to the position that He took before His Father. He was always submitted!

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

The word *JUDGE* means: to condemn, punish, sentence, determine, and decide.

If your spiritual life is powerless, consider your position before God.

- What is happening with that which is born of God within your spirit?
- What role does this new birth play in your daily life?
- To what degree does His will play a role in your daily life?
- Is seeking God's will a part of your daily practice?
- What is your position before God in every situation of your life?

The degree of likeness and image that you possess of the heavenly nature will be the level of power and dominion authority that you possess. You cannot possess true spiritual authority that is not birthed from the image of God by the Spirit of God within.