

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER"

DR. PAUL L. WALKER 9/25/83

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THE LORD IS SPEAKING TO OUR HEARTS HERE THIS MORNING. I JUST FEEL LED OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT THERE ARE THOSE OF YOU THAT YOU JUST NEED A REAL TOUCH OF HIS GRACE RIGHT NOW, AND I'M PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THAT YOU WOULD BE TOUCHED. FATHER, YOU KNOW EVERY HEART, YOU KNOW EVERY MIND, YOU KNOW EVERY SOUL, YOU KNOW EVERY SPIRIT, AND YOU KNOW EVERY BODY AND I PRAY NOW THAT YOU WOULD BRING A HEALING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK, YOU WOULD BRING STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEAK, YOU WOULD BRING FORTH JOY FOR THOSE WHO WALK IN DEPRESSION, YOU'D BRING LIGHT FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN DARKNESS, YOU'D BRING HAPPINESS FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN SORROW, YOU'D BRING REDEMPTION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN SIN, AND WE WOULD KNOW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT WITH YOUR STRIPES WE ARE HEALED. HALLELUJAH! WE RECEIVE THAT FATHER, NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER BUT BY YOUR SPIRIT, THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION IS BROKEN DOWN. THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE HAS BEEN RENT 'N' TORN AND YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST IS AT THE RIGHT HAND MAKING INTERCESSION FOR US AND WE RECEIVE YOUR GRACE GLADLY NOW IN JESUS NAME! AMEN AND AMEN! LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD. SHALL WE? MAGNIFY HIS NAME. GLORIFY HIM. HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! WELL. PRAISE HIM IN THIS PLACE. JUST MAGNIFY THE NAME OF THE LORD. HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED! HALLELUJAH BE TO GOD! HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED. AMEN! WELL PRAISE HIM, LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE LORD! PRAISE YE THE LORD! PRAISE YE THE LORD! HALLELUJAH! AMEN! NOW WILL YOU JUST TURN AROUND AND SHAKE HANDS WITH TWO OR THREE PEOPLE AND SAY GOD LOVES YOU, HE REALLY DOES. GOD LOVES YOU, HE REALLY DOES! FIND SOMEBODY. SHAKE HANDS. THEN YOU MAY BE SEATED!

I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE APPROPRIATE SONG JOHN THAN YOU COULD HAVE SUNG THAN WOULD BE AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MESSAGE OF THE MORNING BECAUSE THRES SOMETHING THE LORD HAS LAID ON MY HEART THAT I HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH, NOT STRUGGLING EXACTLY BUT THINKING ABOUT WOULD BE A BETTER WORD AND TRYING TO BRING IN SOME FRUITION IN MY OWN THOUGHTS AND LIFE THAT I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THIS MORNING. IF YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES TURN WITH ME TO COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3: VERSES 15-17. THREE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSES THAT WE CAN FIND I THINK IN THE TOTAL BIBLE FOR US TO LIVE, A METHODOLOGY FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CHRIST WANTS TO DO IN OUR LIFE AND TO GET AHOLD OF THE FACT THAT IS THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER. MY PRAYER IS THAT WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE THIS MORNING YOU WILL HAVE LEFT HERE HAVING BEEN RENEWED IN THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE IS THAT IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD. THAT SOMEHOW WHATEVER PROBLEM IN LIFE THAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH WE CAN PUT IT UNDER THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HERE THIS MORNING. THREE VERSES OF SCRIPTURE IN COLLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3: VERSES 15, 16, AND 17: AND I WANT US TO SING AFTER RIGHT AFTER THAT, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, AND AS WE SING THAT, I'D LIKE YOU TO OPEN YOUR HEARTS SO THAT THE WORD CAN COME ALIVE IN YOUR SPIRIT THIS MORNING. YOU KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT BROKE INTO OUR MIDST A WHILE AGO AND DURING OUR PRAISE TIME AND GAVE TO US THE MESSAGE THAT HE WAS BRINGING US HEALING AND HE WAS BRINGING US HEALTH AND HE WAS BRINGING US HOPE AND HE IS BRINGING US STRENGHT AND HE WAS BRINGING US POWER. AND BECAUSE HE IS BRINGING US THAT HELP AND HOPE AND POWER, THAT MEANS THAT WE CAN HAVE FROM HIM WHAT WE HAVE NEED OF THIS MORNING. AND WHEN WE REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEN THAT MAKES LIFE ALL THE DIFFERENT FOR US. AND THE LORD IS JUST LAYING ON MY HEART, JUST KINDA HAVE A DISCERNMENT IN MY SPIRIT THIS MORNING THAT THERE ARE THOSE OF YOU SITTING HERE TODAY THAT ALMOST THERE BUT NOT QUITE, SOME OF YOU'V BROUGHT ALOT OF HURT AND ALOT OF DIFFICULTY AND ALOT OF BURDEN INTO THIS PLACE. YOU KNOW A CHURCH IS A UNIQUE PLACE, IT'S MORE THAN A BUILDING, A CHURCH IS MADE UP OF PEOPLE, THIS BUILDING ISTHE ONLY PLACE FOR US TO COME TOGETHER AND THE CHURCH IS WHO YOU ARE, AND WHATS GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE AND WHATEVERS HAPPENING IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, YOU ARE THE CHURCH AND I'M JUST PRAYING THIS MORNING THAT SOMEHOW THAT WHATEVER REMARKS I MIGHT MAKE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD TAKE THEM AND PUT THEM INTO YOUR HEART. I HAVE A RARE PRIVILEGE AS A PASTOR, YOU KNOW LIVING EVERY WEEK OF MY LIFE WITH SOMEBODY IN DEEP PAIN AND DEEP HURT AND SOMETIMES WE GET DEEP PAIN AND DEEP HURT IN OUR OWN FAMILY, MY MOTHERS UNDERGONE A HEART ATTACK AND I WILL BE GOING DOWN THERE AGAIN TOMORROW, AND MY BROTHERS ARE WITH

HER TODAY AND IT HAPPENED ON THURSDAY. A RATHER SEVERE HEART ATTACK AND I HAD A VERY DIFFICULT NIGHT LAST NIGHT, I JUST TALKED ON THE PHONE BETWEEN THE SERVICES TO CHECK ON HER AND YOU KNOW WE ALL GO THROUGH THAT, NONE OF US IS EXEMPT, NONE OF US HAVE ... AH, YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT PROMISED A ROSE GARDEN, WE ARE PROMISED HIS AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES, WE ARE PROMISED THAT HE IS GOING TO SEE US THROUGH. WE ARE PROMISED THAT WE CAN MAKE IT, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS MORNING? WE'RE PROMISED THAT WE CAN MAKE IT, LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD FOR THAT, WE'RE PROMISED THAT WE CAN MAKE IT! HALLELUJAH! WELL, PRAISE THE LORD, HALLELUJAH! WELL, I FORGOT TO READ THE TEXT, LET ME READ THE TEXT HERE. CHAPTER 3: VERSE 15, 16, AND 17. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS SINCE AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY YOU WERE CALLED TO PEACE. BE THANKFUL LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY AS YOU TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER WITH ALL WISDOM, AND AS YOU SING PSALMS, HUMNS AND SPIRITUALSONGS WITH GRATITUDE IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD. THIS VERSE HERE IS A VERSE THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PATTERN MY LIFE AFTER EVER SINCE I'VE FOUND CHRIST, SOMETIMES I DO IT BETTER THAN OTHER TIMES, SOMETIMES I THINK I REALLY HAVE IT NAILED DOWN AND THATS WHEN IT ALL COMES UN-NAILED. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THROGH THAT SITUATION BEFORE? JUST ABOUT THE TIME I THINK I'M PERFECT, SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT I FIND OUT I'M NOT PERFECT, CARMELITA POINTS OUT A FEW THINGS TO ME AND THAT KINDA CHANGES THE WHOLE SITUATION. AND WHATEVER YOU DO WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM. (SING HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)

(PRAYER) FATHER NOW TAKE YOUR WORD AND MAKE IT OUR WORD, TAKE YOUR TRUTH AND MAKE IT OUR TRUTH, TAKE YOUR LIFE AND MAKE IT OUR LIFE, TAKE YOUR SPIRIT AND MAKE IT OUR SPIRIT, TAKE YOUR LOVE AND MAKE IT OUR LOVE, TAKE YOUR JOY AND MAKE IT OUR JOY, TAKE YOUR ANNOINTING AND MAKE IT OUR ANNOINTING. ANNOINT OUR EARS TO HEAR, OUR EYES TO SEE, OUR HEARTS TO RECIEVE OUR MINDS TO UNDERSTAND AND ANNOINT OUR LIFESTYLES TO LIVE IT OUT IN GRACE AND GOODNESS AND GLORY. AND WE THANK YOU FOR IT AND PRAISE YOU FOR IT IN JESUS NAME, FOR HIS SAKE, AMEN AND AMEN!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF LIVING OUT THIS DSICIPLESHIP LIFE IN CHRIST IS LEARNING HOW TO LIVE BY THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST THAT IS GIVEN TO US IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER. THE ASTOUNDING THING ABOUT LIVING BY THE AUTHORITY IN CHRIST IS TO UNDER-

STAND THAT WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE DESTINY OF GOD. SO MANY BELIEVERS TODAY LIVE IN THE FACT AND NOT REALLY KNOWING THAT WE ARE PART OF ALL THAT GOD IS DOING IN HISTORY. THAT THE HISTORY WE SEE WRITTEN ALL AROUND US IS NOT REAL HISTORY, THAT'S PSEUDO HISTORY. THAT THE REAL HISTORY THAT IS BEING WRITTEN IS BEING WRITTEN BY GOD HIMSELF THROUGH THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST IN US. WHEN GOD WRITES HISTORY, HE DOES NOT WRITE IT THROUGH GOVERNMENTS, HE DOES WRITE IT THROUGH POLITICS, HE DOES NOT WRITE IT THROUGH ECONOMICS, HE DOES NOT WRITE IT THROUGH WAR AND RUMORS OF WARS. HE DOES WRITE IT SOCIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. WHEN GOD BEGINS TO WRITE HISTORY, HE WRITES IT TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP. THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE TO OURSELVES, THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE TO HIM. GODS HISTORY IS A HISTORY OF FAITH AND THAT HISTORY IS WRITTEN OUR IN FAITH. FOR GOD THE CENTRAL POINT OF HISTORY IS NOT THE GREAT EMPIRES, LIKE BABYLON AND EGYPT AND GREECE AND ROME, FOR GOD, THE CENTRAL POINT OF HISTORY IS NOT IN THE GREAT POWERS OF OUR DAY LIKE CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA AND JAPAN OF OUR AGE. WHEN GOD TALKS ABOUT HISTORY, JESUS CHRIST BECOMES A CENTER OF ALL THAT HE DOES IN HISTORY. WE HAVE BEEN RAISED UP IN AN IDEA OF CYCLICAL HISTORY. THAT HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF AND GOING NOWHERE, IS GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES WITH NO DESTINATION, THAT HISTORY HAS NO REAL KIND OF PURPOSE, HISTORY HAS NO REAL KIND OF DESIGN, HISTORY HAS NO REAL GOAL IN MIND. CONSEQUENTLY, WE LIVE UNDER A PHILOSOPHY OF IGNORANCE AND FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR. THE WORLD IS IGNORANT OF REALLY WHAT HISTORY IS BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND GOD. THEY ARE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE THEIR PROBLEMS, THEY'RE IN DESPAIR BECAUSE THEY SEE NO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE AND THEY HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF ETERNAL LIFE. BUT WHEN GOD GETS READY TO WRITE HISTORY, HE WRITES IN JESUS CHRIST. NOW THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE SEE OURSELVES APART OF THAT HISTORY, WE ARE PEOPLE OF DESTINY, WE

ARE PEOPLE OF URGENCY. WE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MEANING, WE ARE PEOPLE THAT KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE. WE'RE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING, WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO, AND WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. THIS IS WHAT JESUS CHRIST IS SAYING TO US IN MATHEW 20:13 WHEN HE SAYS THAT ALL AUTHORITY IS GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH. AND HE TRANSFERS THAT AUTHORITY TO US, THROUGH A SOVEREIGN ACT OF GOD, BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT GOD DOES IS IN TERMS OF JESUS CHRIST. THIS IS THE MEANING OF COLLOSSIANS 1:17 THAT CHRIST WAS BEFORE ALL THINGS. THIS IS THE MEANING THAT WE HAVE IN JOHN 1:1, IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD, ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM WITHOUT HIM WITHOUT HIM THERE WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE, IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MAN. THIS IS THE MEANING OF HEBREWS 1:3 THAT CHRIST WILL REGULATE THE UNIVERSE THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS MIGHTY COMMANDS, THIS IS THE MEANING OF ROMANS 8:23, BUT WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. FOR THOSE WHOM HE DID FOR KNOW HE DID ALSO PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON AND THOSE WHOM HE DID PREDESTINATE HE ALSO JUSTIFIED, AND THOSE WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO CALLED AND THOSE WHOM HE CALLED HE ALSO SANCTIFIED. WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US. AND WHAT THIS REALLY TELLS US THEN, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL, THAT THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO YOU AND THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ME. THIS IS THE MEANING OF 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3:21-23 WHEN HE SAYS NO MORE BOASTING ABOUT MEN, WHETHER THAT WE'RE OF APOLLOS OR CEPHAS OR PAUL, WHETHER WE'RE IN THE WORLD OR LIFE OR DEATH, WHETHER IT'S THE PRESENT OR THE FUTURE FOR EVERYTHING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE OF CHRIST AND CHRIST IS OF GOD, AND WHAT THAT REALLY MEANS IS THAT WE CAN LEARN TO LIVE BY A PEACE THAT RULES OUR HEARTS,

WE CAN LEARN TO LIVE BY A WORD THAT DWELLS WITHIN US, WE CAN LEARN TO LIVE EVERY DAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE WE HAVE COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACT THAT CHRIST IS IN US, WE ARE IN CHRIST CHRIST IS IN GOD, WE ARE IN GOD AND IF WE'RE IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN GOD, WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE BECUASE THE FUTURE IS IN HIS HANDS, HE IS LORD OF LIFE AND IN THAT LORDSHIP WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING AND WE HAVE ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, IT DOES'NT MATTER WHAT COMES OUR WAY IN JESUS CHRIST, WE HAVE THE ANSWER. AMEN! AND AMEN! DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS MORNING? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS MORNING? WELL PRAISE THE LORD IN THIS PLACE. JUST MAGNIFY HIS NAME, GLORIFY HIM. AND ONCE WE HAVE THAT AUTHORITY OF CHRIST SET IN US WE BEGAN TO ASK THE QUESTION, WELL WHAT DOES THAT REALLY MEAN? WHEN I TALK ABOUT AUTHORITY, WHAT AM I REALLY SAYING? THE GREEK WORD IS EXUSIA AND IT REALLY MEANS TO EXERCISE POWER, IT MEANS TO EXERT RULERSHIP, IT MEANS TO MAINTAIN DOMINION, SO THAT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT AUTHORITY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT POWER, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RULERSHIP, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DOMINION AND IT'S INTERESTING THAT WHEN WE BEGAN TO LOOK AT IT, WE HAVE TO START HERE WITH VERSE 17. BECAUSE ACTUALLY IT IS REALLY AN ACTUALIZED AUTHORITY, IT IS AN APPLIED AUTHORITY IT IS AN ARTICULATE AUTHORITY, IT IS AN ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORITY, IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN OUR LIVES, SO THAT WHATEVER WE DO IN WORD OR DEED WE CAN DO IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE AUTHORITY THAT CHRIST HAS TRANSFERED TO US GIVING EVERYTHING TO US BY THE POWER OF HIS WORD IN US, IS THE AUTHORITY THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY HIM AT CALVARY. IT'S NOT SOMETHING OF THE PAST, IT'S NOT SOMETHING OF THE FUTURE, IT'S AN AUTHORITY THAT YOU AND I HAVE RIGHT NOW, THE AUTHORITY OF POWER, THE AUTHORITY OF RULERSHIP, THE AUTHORITY OF DOMINION AND WE HAVE THAT AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. I'M NOT SURE WE REALLY UNDERSTAND THE FULL IMPACT AND IMPORT OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, WE'VE GOT TO LERN HOW TO LIVE BY THE IN-CHRIST

MENTALITY. THE FACT THAT WE DON'T LIVE JUST FOR CHRIST, WE LIVE IN CHRIST. TOO MANY PEOPLE TRY TO LIVE FOR CHRIST AND THEY NEVER LIVE IN CHRIST. WE LEARN TO LIVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. IT IS HIS NAME THAT THINGS CHANGE. WHEN YOU LOOK AT JOHN 14 AND JOHN 15, THOSE TWO CHAPTERS, WE LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO REALLY BE IN CHRIST. IN JOHN 14, HE SAYS LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME. IN JOHN 15, HE SAID I AM THE VINE AND YOU ARE THE BRANCHES AND MY FATHER IS THE VINE DRESSER. AND IN THOSE TWO CHAPTERS, IT GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN CHRIST. WHEN WE BEGIN TO CHART IT, IT TELLS US TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE IN SPIRITUAL UNITY WITH HIM. TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE INGRAFTED INTO HIS POWER BECAUSE HE IS THE TRUE VINE. TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE INDWELLED BY HIS SPIRIT WITHIN US. TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE ENERGIZED BY HIS LOVE WHICH HAS COME TO US THROUGH HIM. TO BE IN CHRIST MEANS TO RETAIN HIS WORD AS IS APPLIED INTO OUR HEARTS. TO BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE INFILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT COMES FROM HIM, TO BE IN CHRIST MEANS TO BEAR FRUIT AND TO IMITATE HIS LIFE THAT HIS LIFE IS IN US. AND WHEN WE BEGIN TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE IN CHRIST THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE CAN DO THAT CHANGES OUR LIFE IN CHRIST. PSALM 153 VERSE 3 SAYS THAT WE CAN REJOICE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. WHEN WE BEGIN TO LOOK AT IT FURTHER, JOHN 12:31 SAYS THAT WE CAN HAVE POWER OVER SATAN THROUGH CHRIST. FIRST JOHN 3:23 SAYS THAT WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. HEBREWS 13:15 SAYS THAT WE PRAISE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. COLLOSSIANS 2:15 SAYS THAT WE DEMINISH THE POWER OF THE DEVIL AND HIS DOMINION THROUGH THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. IN JOHN 16:26 SAYS THAT WE CAN PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES RUNNING OUT OF GAS AND WE FIND OURSELVES COMING TO THE END OF OUR OWN STEAM AND WE FIND OURSELVES WANDERING HOW WE'RE GOING TO COPE WITH THE NEXT MOMENT OF LIFE, THERE IS THE POWER IN US

THAT IS GREATER THAN THE POWER THAT IS IN THE WORLD AND THATS THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST AND BY HIM WE ARE THE CONQUERORS. AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN! WELL PRAISE THE LORD! HALLELUJAH! AMEN! YOU KNOW, IS THIS MAKING ANY SENSE TO ANYBODY OUT HERE? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHO YOU REALLY ARE IN JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POWER THAT YOU HAVE IN HIM? SOMETIMES PEOPLE SAY, WHY ARE PREACHING LIKE YOUR PREACHING? I'LL TELL YOU WHY I'M PREACHING LIKE I'M PREACHING, SATAN IS MAKING HIS LAST BIG STAND, HE IS DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO DEFEAT EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS. THINGS ARE SHAPING UP FOR THE ANTI-CHRIST TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE'RE IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS, I BELIEVE WITHALL MY HEART, WE'RE GONNA SEE SOME OF THE GREATEST HISTORICAL CHANGES WE HAVE EVER SEEN AND ONLY THE DISCERNING, AND ONLY THE SPIRITUAL MINDED, AND ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE INSIGHT INTO WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WILL UNDERSTAND IT AND IN THE MIDST OF THAT HE'S RAISING UP A CHURCH THAT HIS AUTHORITY AND THAT CHURCH IS TO HAVE ONE RESPONSIBILITY AND THATS TO GET THIS WORLD READY FOR THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE HE IS COMING BACK AGAIN! AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN! HALLELUJAH! YOU KNOW I WISH I COULD PREACH IN A LOW KEY. MY WIFE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET ME TO DO THAT FOR YEARS, SHE SAYS YOUR KILLING YOURSELF PAUL, AND I SAY TO MYSELF WHEN I GET UP HERE TO PREACH NOW YOU'RE GONNA HOLD IT DOWN, YOUR NOT GOING TO GET EXCITED, YOUR NOT GOING TO GET ALL UP IN ARMS ABOUT IT BUT I'M DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU GET THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL RIGHT DOWN IN YOUR HEART AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, THAT GOOD NEWS IS JOU UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY AND I CAN'T HELP BUT GET EXCITED ABOUT IT. AMEN! WELL, PRAISE THE LORD! HALLELUJAH! YOU SEE IT IS AN ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORITY WHEN I LIVE IN CHRIST. THE OTHER DAY I HAD A YOUNG MAN IN MY OFFICE WHO HAD BEEN A DRUG ADDICT AND HE'D HAD SEVERAL YEARS OF COCAIN ADDICTION AND ABOUT JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HE WAS TRYING TO GET OFF AND FOR THE

PAST 9 MONTHS, HE'S BEEN TRYING HARD TO GET OVER IT, AND HE'S BEEN ON THE WAGON AND OFF THE WAGON AND HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN AND HE GOT MARRIED AND LOOKED LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING WELL BUT THEN HE'D GET BACK ON AND OFF OF IT AND THEN FINALLY SITTING IN MY OFFICE, HE SAID I WANT YOU TO KNOW, THAT FINALLY I DECIDED TO QUIT LIVING FOR CHRIST I DECIDED TO LIVE IN CHRIST, I DECIDED THAT THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IN ME WAS GREATER THAN ANY COCAIN I COULD EVER BUY. AND HE SAID I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE LAST THREE WEEKS HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST WEEKS OF MY LIFE BECAUSE I HAVE LIVED IN CHRIST, I HAVE'NT WANTED ANY COCAIN AND EVEN THOUGH MY WIFE IS THREATENING TO DIVORCE AND HAS MOVED OUT IN SEPERATED BECAUSE I WENT BACK TO DRUGS, SHE'S STARTING TO TALK TO ME AGAIN AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IN CHRIST MY MARRIAGE IS GOING TO BE RESTORED AND RECONCILED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HIM IN ME. AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN! THATS WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO! HALLELUJAH! IN CHRIST! IN CHRIST! YOU LIVE IN CHRIST! I WANT YOU TO SAY THAT WITH ME. I LIVE IN CHRIST. (I LIVE IN CHRIST) ONE MORE TIME. I LIVE IN CHRIST. SOME OF YOU ARE JUST NOW GETTING TO IT. WOULD YOU SAY IT ONE MORE TIME. I LIVE IN CHRIST. NOW PRAISE HIM LIKE YOU REALLY MEAN IT THIS MORNING. I LIVE IN CHRIST. I LIVE IN CHRIST. WHATEVER I DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, I DID IT ALL IN WHAT, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. BUT THE SECOND THING THAT I SEE, WHEN YOU LEARN AT THE VERSES 15 AND 16, THAT THIS IS AN ASSURED AUTHORITY, IT IS AN ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, IT'S ASSURED AUTHORITY THAT HE GIVE US PEACE, NOT ONLY DOES HE GIVE US PEACE, BUT HE GIVES US WORD, THE PEACE OF GOD RULES IN OUR HEARTS, THE WORD OF GOD DWELLS IN US RICHLY, THEN WE'RE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO VERSE 17. VERSE 15, LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEART, VERSE 16, LET THE WORD OF CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD DWELL IN YOU RICHLY, ALLOW IT TO BECOME THE VERY PART OF YOUR LIFE, I BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT THAT AND SUDDENTLY THE LORD GAVE ME A FORMULA.

AND THAT FORMULA IS THAT PEACE AND PLUS THE WORK EQUEALS PRAISE
AND IN REALITY, PRAISE IS A LIFESTYLE. AND WHEN I TALK ABOUT
PRAISE I,M NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST SINGING CHORUSES ON SUNDAY, I'M
NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF WORSHIP, I'M
TALKING ABOUT TAKING ON A BEHAVIORIAL MINDSET SO THAT YOU LIVE OUT
OF PRAISED MODALITY OF LIVING, SO THAT PEACE AND THE WORD DWELL
IN YOU AND PEACE PLUS THE WORD EQUEALS PRAISE AND THAT PRAISE
COMES ALIVE IN YOUR HEART AND WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT PRAISE WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT AN ATTITUDE, AN INWARD FEELING THAT IS TRANSLATED
INTO AN OUTWARD ACTION. THIS IS WHAT PAUL WAS TALKING ABOUT IN
2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4 VERSES 8-9 WHEN HE SAYS THAT WE'RE
HANDICAPPED ON EVERY SIDE BUT WE'RE NEVER FRUSTRATED, WE'RE
PUZZLED BUT WE'RE ARE NEVER IN DESPAIR, WE'RE ARE PERSECUTED BUT
WE DON'T STAND IT ALONE, WE'RE KNOCKED DOWN BUT WE'RE NEVER
KNOCKED OUT, THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT IT VERSES 16-18 WHEN HE SAID
THIS IS THE REASON WE NEVER COLLASPE, WHEN HE TELLS US THE OUTWARD
MAN INDEED SUFFERS WEAR AND TEAR BUT THE INWARD MAN RECEIVES FRESH
STRAIGHT DAILY, AND THESE LITTLE TROUBLES ARE REALLY SO TRANSOTORY
ARE WORKING OUT FOR US A FAR MORE SOLID REWARD OUT OF ALL PREPORTION
TO OUR PAIN, FOR WE LOOK NOT AT THE THINGS THAT ARE VISIBLE BECAUSE
THEY'RE TEMPORARY, BUT WE LOOK AT THE THINGS THAT ARE INVISIBLE BECAUSE
THEY ARE TIMELESS AND SUDDENLY WE GET AHOLD OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS
A PLACE IN CHRIST THAT WE CAN LIVE THAT HAS A CENTER OF PRAISE WHERE
TRANSLATE INTO EVERY DAY ACTIVITY THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACT THAT
CHRIST IS IN US THEN WE DON'T MEASURE OUR LIVES BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES
WE DON'T MEASURE OUR LIVES BY THE SITUATION, WE MEASURE OUR LIVES BY
THE FACT THAT WE BELONG TO HIM AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS HE IS THE
VICTOR AND BECAUSE HE IS THE VICTOR WE ARE THE VICTOR AND WE CAN OVEE-
COME ANYTHING THAT COMES OUR WAY. AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN!

THAT'S WHAT WE DO WITH HIM. THAT'S THE AUTHORITY THAT WE NEED.
 THAT'S THE AUTHORITY THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE. I GUESS THAT I'M JUST
 TIRED OF SEEING SO MANY DEFEATED CHRISTIANS, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE
 ASSURED AUTHORITY THAT CHRIST PAID FOR AT THE CALVARY. HE GAVE HIS
 LIFE THAT OUT OF WHAT HE DID AT CALVARY, THE WHOLE WORLD COULD KNOW
 THAT THERE'S MEANING TO LIFE. WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND THE ANSWER
 IN THE PRESIDENCY'S, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND THE ANSWERS IN DICTA-
 TORSHIPS, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND THE ANSWERS IN COMPUTERIZATION,
 WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND THE ANSWERS IN SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT. THE
 ONLY ANSWER TO BE FOUND IS IN THE FACT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD
 TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER AND HE'S GOING TO RULE AND REIGN AND THERE'S
 GOING TO BE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN! HALLELUJAH!
 THAT'S THE ANSWER! WELL YOU KNOW IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I PREACHED
 IN THIS 9:00 CLOCK SERVICE, I THINK I'LL JUST PREACH ON FOR A WHILE, SO
 JUST HANG LOOSE. YOU SEE IT'S AN ASSURED AUTHORITY. WELL WHAT DOES
 THAT ASSURED AUTHORITY DO FOR ME? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALWAYS WANTING TO
 KNOW, WHAT IS THE DEAL FOR ME? I HAVE THAT KIND OF AUTHORITY, WHAT
 DOES IT DO FOR MY LIFE? IF I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH A PRAISE LIFESTYLE
 HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME? IF I TRANSLATE THIS INWARD FEELING INTO AN
 OUTWARD ACTION, IF I LIVE WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULING IN MY HEART
 AND THE WORD OF GOD DWELLING IN ME, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
 WELL, IF YOU LIVE BY THE PRAISE STYLE, THE PRAISE STYLE STRENGTHENS
 YOU. EVER NOTICE ISIAH 40:29-31 "HE WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO THE WEARY,
 HE WILL INCREASE THE POWER OF THE WEAK, THE YOUTHS WILL GROW WEARY
 AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL STUMBLE AND FALL, BUT THEY THAT HOPE IN THE
 LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH, THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS AS EAGLES.
 THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY, THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT."
 PRAISE STYLE BRINGS YOU STRENGTH. AND WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF AT THE
 END OF YOURSELF, THAT'S WHEN PRAISE GIVES YOU STRENGTH, BUT HAVE YOU

EVER NOTICED THAT PRAISE REALLY THE PRAISE STYLE CLARIFIES YOUR VISION, YOU SEE WHAT THAT SATAN WANTS YOU TO DO IS GET YOU BLURRED, SO THAT YOU DON'T SEE THINGS VERY CLEARLY, SO YOU START MEASURING THE WORLD BY WHAT YOU SEE ON TELEVISION. YOU START MEASURING THE WORLD BY WHAT YOU HEAR ON THE RADIO. YOU START MEASURING THE WORLD BY WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSPAPER, YOU START MEASURING THE WORLD BY THE NUMBERS OF GOLD MEDALS THAT PEOPLE MIGHT WIN OR THEY MIGHT NOT WIN. YOU START MEASURING THE WORLD IN WHAT YOU SEE IN YOUR NEIGHBORS ROUND AND ABOUT YOU, AND IF HE CAN GET YOUR VISION SO OBSCURED, THAT YOU CAN'T SEE, THEN YOU LOOSE THE SENSE OF HIS PEACE IN YOU AND HIS WORD IN YOU AND THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IN YOU, YOU LOOSE THAT THEN. BUT HE WANTS TO CLARIFY OUR VISION, IF YOU'VE EVER NOTICED SECOND CHRONICLES CHAPTER 20, THAT GREAT PRAISE CHAPTER WHEN JUDAH WAS UNDER SEIGE OF THE MOABITES AND THE AMMONITES AND THE MEUNITES, AND JEHOASHAPHAT PRAYED OH GOD, THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM AND WE'RE NOT ABLE TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST SUCH A GREAT ARMY AND JAHAZIEL WAS ANNOINTED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND STOOD UP BEFORE THE COMPANY IN JUDAH AND HE TOLD THEM DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. AND DON'T BE AFRAID, YOU MARCH OUT AGAINST THE ENEMY, THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, IT IS THE LORDS AND THEN HE SAID YOU STAND, TAKE YOUR POSITIONS AND YOU STAND FIRM, DON'T BE AFRAID AND DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, THEN HE SAID YOU TRUST IN THE LORD AND YOU WILL BE UPHELD AND YOU TRUST IN THE PROPHETS AND YOU WILL HAVE SUCCESS! AND THE WAY THEY DECIDED THAT THAT'S WHAT THEY COULD DO IS THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAISE. IT OPENED UP THEIR VISION TO THE POWER OF GOD. AND AS THEY BEGAN TO PRAISE GOD AND TO SING BEFORE HIM, THEY PUT THE QUOR OUT AHEAD OF THEM AND MARCHED DOWN AGAINST THE ENEMY, THE LORD SENT THE AMBUSHES AGAINST THE ENEMY AND THEY GOT IN TO A CIVIL WAR AMONG THEMSELVES AND THEY REALLY POLISHED THEMSELVES OFF AND DEFEATED THEMSELVES AND THE NEWS OF THE GREAT VICTORY OF THE WAR WENT ALL THROUGH THE LAND AND THE SURROUNDING

COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY'RE VISION WAS CLARIFIED, JEHOSEPHAT COULD SEE CLEARLY, JUDAH COULD SEE CLEARLY, THE PEOPLE COULD SEE CLEARLY AND THEY LIFTED UP THEIR HEADS AND KNEW THAT THEIR HELP DID NOT COME FROM ANY INGENUITY OF THEIR OWN BUT THEY'RE HELP CAME FROM THE LORD. AND WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IN THIS COUNTRY, AND WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IN THIS CHURCH AND WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO IN YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL LIFE IS TO LIFT UP YOUR EYES TO THE HILLS FROM WHENCE COMETH YOUR STRENGTH. OUR STRENGTH AND HELP COMES FROM THE LORD. AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN! THAT'S WHERE IT COMES FROM. HALLELUJAH! THAT'S WHERE IT COMES FROM. IT CLARIFIES YOUR VISION, IT OPENS YOUR VISION UP JUST LIKE JEHOSEPHAT AND JUDAH. BUT THE THIRD THING ABOUT THIS PRAISE STYLE AND WHEN YOU REALLY LIVE BY PEACE AND YOU LIVE BY THE WORD, IT CLEANSSES YOU. PSALM 66 AND VERSE 13: THE PSALMIST SAID THAT IF I CHERISH SIN IN MY HEART THEN GOD WILL NOT HAVE HEARD ME! IF I'M GOING TO PLAY THE GAME BY THE RULES OF THE WORLD THEN GODS NOT GOING TO HEAR ME. IF I'M GOING TO LET MYSELF GET ALL CAUGHT UP IN THE PRESSURES OF THE WORLD, THEN GOD'S NOT GOING TO HEAR ME. IF I CAN'T LEARN TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND TO SET THE PACE FOR THE WORLD, AND NOT TO MARCH TO THE WORLD'S BEAT BUT TO SET A BEAT FOR THE WORLD TO MARCH BY WITH ME, THEN I'M GOING TO FIND MYSELF OUT OF PLACE WITH GOD. 1 JOHN 1:7 SAYS "WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT AND THE BLOOD AND JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN AND IT GIVES US THAT SENSE OF CLEANSING. NOW WE'RE SURROUNDED BY SO MANY NEGATIVES TODAY. AND WE ARE SO PROGRAMMED WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT IT'S HARD FOR US TO REALLY SEE GOD CLEARLY. THAT'S WHY THIS PRAISE STYLE, THIS AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER CLEANSSES US AND PURIFIES US, BUT THE FOURTH THING THAT IT DOES, IT GIVES US POWER IN PRAYER. WHEN YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AT THE POWER IN PRAYER, AND YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF PRAYER, THEN YOU BEGIN TO SEE WHAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO IN OUR LIVES AND HOW HE IS ABLE TO DO THAT. THE POWER OF PRAYER GIVES US THE UNDERSTANDING

WHAT PRAISE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT. BECAUSE PRAISE AND PRAYER REALLY GO TOGETHER. YOU LOOK AT PSALM 50:15-16 THE PSALMIST SAYS TO SACRIFICE OFFERINGS TO HIM. AND WHEN YOU REALLY SACRIFICE OFFERINGS TO HIM, IT SAYS THEN KEEP YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD. THEN IT SAYS IT THE TIME OF DISTRESS, YOU WILL CALL UPON ME AND I WILL HEAR YOU. PRAISE HIM AND SACRIFICE OFFERINGS TO HIM, KEEP YOUR VOWS TO HIM, THEN IN THE TIME OF DISTRESS HE SAYS I WILL HEAR YOU, I WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR PRAYERS. BUT THE FIFTH THING THAT THIS PRAISE STYLE DOES FOR US, IT MULTIPLIES OUR FAITH, IT GIVES US THE KIND OF FAITH THAT GIVES US THE ABILITY TO BE OVERCOMERS, THE ABILITY TO CONQUER, THE ABILITY TO STAND WHATEVER THE TEST MIGHT BE! THERE ARE MANY OF US HERE TODAY, THAT WE'VE COME TO THAT PLACE IN OUR LIVES THAT WE NO LONGER REALLY APPLY FAITH WHERE IT REALLY HURTS AND WHERE IT REALLY TOUCHES. HE WANTS YOU TO APPLY THAT FAITH. PSALM 55 VERSE 16 SAYS THAT WE HAVE A SWEET FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD. THEN IT SAYS THAT I CALLED UPON GOD AND THE LORD HEARS ME, THE LORD RANSOMES ME, THE LORD HEARS MY VOICE THE LORD HEARS ME AND AFFLICTS MY ENEMIES, AND VERSE 22 SAYS CAST YOUR CARE ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU. HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU, AND HE WILL NEVER LET THE RIGHTEOUS FALL. HE MULTIPLIES YOUR FAITH. YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO HERE THIS MORNING. I WANT YOU TO GET UP ENOUGH AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN START TO LIVE BY THE STRENGTH OF THE FATHER, ENOUGH AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN BEGIN TO SEE THINGS CLEARLY BY THE HAND OF THE FATHER. ENOUGH AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN BE CLEANSED BY THE POWER IN THE WORD. ENOUGH AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE, THAT YOU CAN BEGIN TO PRAY WITH STRENGTH AND POWER KNOWING THAT GOD IS GOING TO ANSWER THAT PRAYER. ENOUGH AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOUR FAITH WILL BE MULTIPLIED. AND IT CAN BE APPLIED AND WHATEVER PROBLEM YOUR FINDING YOURSELF IN. I'VE BEEN RENEWED IN MY RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU AS A PASTOR IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. THAT RENEWAL IS THAT MY

RESPONSIBILITY IS TO EQUIP YOU TO STAND, THAT WHATEVER COMES YOUR WAY, YOU CAN STAND, THAT WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS YOUR FAMILY, YOU CAN STAND, WHEN HE ATTACKS YOUR CHILDREN YOU CAN STAND, WHEN HE ATTACKS YOUR BUSINESS, YOU CAN STAND, WHEN HE ATTACKS YOUR HEALTH YOU CAN STAND, WHEN HE COMES AGAINST YOUR INTEGRITY YOU CAN STAND, AND HAVING DONE ALL TO STAND, AND THE GREAT MESSAGE OF THIS HOUR IS...STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS, YE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS. AMEN! AMEN! AND AMEN!

HALLELUJAH! WELL PRAISE BE THE LAMB OF GOD! AMEN! HALLELUJAH! WELL PRAISE HIM IN THIS PLACE! MAGNIFY HIM IN THIS PLACE! HALLELUJAH! GLORIFY HIS NAME, HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED, HIS NAME IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED! HALLELUJAH! AMEN! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET DOWN HERE TO PREACH! YOU CAN'T DO THIS AT 11: 0 CLOCK, THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE AND I THOUGHT YOU KNOW, THIS FEELS PRETTY GOOD, THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO PREACH, IT GETS EVERYBODIES ATTENTION. PARTICULARLY THE PEOPLE IN THE FRONT ROW. YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE LORD DID FOR YOU, HERE IS A MAN THAT WAS DELIVERED FROM DRUGS AND HE AND HIS WIFE WERE SEPERATED AND DIVORCED AND REMARRIED NOW. THE LORD IS DOING A GREAT WORK IN THEIR LIFE. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER. NOW YOU KNOW WHY SOME SUNDAYS I JUST LOOK OUT HERE AND CRY. I COULD GIVE YOU THAT STORY OVER AND OVER AGAIN. TIME AND AGAIN! BECAUSE IT'S THE AUTHORITY THAT CHRIST PUTS IN YOUR LIFE AND HE PUTS IN YOUR HEART. YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE TWO SCRIPTURES THE LORD LAID ON MY LIFE THIS MORNING TO GIVE TO YOU AND ONE IS ACTS 2:39 THE PROMISE IS TO YOU. TO YOU. THE PROMISE IS TO YOU, TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TO THOSE THAT ARE FAR OFF, PETER SAID ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, BUT THE ESSENTIAL PART OF THAT IS THAT THE PROMISE IS TO YOU, AND THERES ANOTHER ONE IN JAMES 5:17 THAT ELIJAH WAS A MAN JUST LIKE US. NOW THATS HARD TO FATHOM ISN'T IT. ELIJAH WAS A MAN JUST LIKE US? THAT GREAT TISHRITE OF GOD WHO DID SO MANY EXPLOITS WHEN HE WAS A MAN JUST LIKE US? BUT, YOU KNOW WE COME OUT

THE REFORMATION, WE ARE A REFORMED CHURCH, WE ARE OUT OF THE WESLEYIAN TRADITION. AND WHEN YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AT THAT, YOU BEGIN TO SEE THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER WAS AN ISSUE IN THE REFORMATION. THE REASON THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION CAME WAS TO ESTABLISH THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER. THE REASON WE SIT IN A PROTESTANT CHURCH TODAY IS BECAUSE THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER. JOHN WESLEY, YOU KNOW SOMETIMES I GET TO THINKING WELL, YOU KNOW THIS IS A HARD JOB, THEN I LOOK AT WHAT HE DID. HE RODE 5,000 MILES A YEAR ON HORSEBACK PREACHING THE GOSPEL. IN 54 YEARS, HE RODE 290,000 MILES ON HORSEBACK TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. I GET TO THINKING ABOUT HOW MANY TIMES I PREACH EVERY WEEK YOU KNOW, AND 54 YEARS HE AVERAGED PREACHING 15 TIMES PER WEEK. 15 TIMES PER WEEK. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HISTORIANS THAT JOHN WESLEY'S PREACHING KEPT ENGLAND FROM HAVING A BLOODY REVOLUTION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORSE THAN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. JOHN WESLEY BROUGHT THE REVIVAL TO THIS CONTINENT AND WE'RE HERE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE WESLEYIAN TRADITION BECAUSE HE ESTABLISHED THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER. MARTIN LUTHER WAS A MAN THAT NAILED THE THESIS ON THE WHITENBURGH WALL AS YOU REMEMBER ON THE DOOR. AS YOU RECALL, IT COST HIM HIS MINISTRY WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION BECAME A REALITY. THEN THERE WAS A COUNTER REFORMATION THAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ITSELF AS A RESULT OF THAT. BUT THEY SAID OF MARTIN LUTHER, HE WAS A MAN THAT HAD SUCH AUTHORITY WITH GOD, THAT HE COULD GET ANYTHING THAT HE WANTED. I'VE BEEN READING AFTER HIM A LITTLE BIT THIS WEEK AND MARTIN LUTHER ON ONE OCCASION WAS CALLED TO THE BED SIDE OF ONE MAN THAT WAS DEMON POSSESSED, AND THEY SAY IN THIS CHRONICLE THAT HE JUST LAID HIS HANDS ON HIM AND PRAYED IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND IMMEDIATELY THE MAN WAS DELIVERED AND SET FREE. PHILLIP MALANGTHAN WHO WAS ANOTHER ONE OF THE REFORMERS WAS DYING. HE HAD STOPPED EATING. HE WAS IN A SEMI COMA

LUTHER WENT TO HIS BED AND TOOK HIM BY THE HAND AND SAID PHILLIP
STAND UP. YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE BECAUSE OF GOD OF LIFE AND THE GOD
OF DEATH IS HERE AND HE WILLS YOU LIFE AND HE STOOD RIGHT UP AND HE
WAS HEALED AND HE WAS MADE WHOLE. ALOT OF PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND
THAT ABOUT THOSE EARLY REFORMERS. THAT THEY BELIEVED IN THE AUTHORITY
OF THE BELIEVER AND THAT WAS THE VERY POWER THAT BROUGHT US INTO
EXISTENCE AND ANOTHER OCCASSION. MICONIOUS WHO WAS ANOTHER LEADER IN
THE REFORMATION WHO WS IN THE LAST STAGES OF TUBERCULOSIS. MARTIN LUTHER
HEARD ABOUT IT AND HE WROTE HIM A LETTER AND HE SAID MICONISOU. DON'T
LET ME HEAR OF YOU DYING WHILE I LIVE. HE WROTE HIM SOME SCRIPTURE
AND TOLD HIM TO GET HEALED AND MICONIOUS SAID THAT WHEN I GOT
THAT LETTER IT WAS AS THOUGH THAT CHRIST WAS SAYING LAZARAS. COME
FORTH AND HE SAID I WAS TAKEN UP FROM THAT BED AND I WAS HEALED AND HE
LIVED MANY YEARS AFTER LUTHER. AND HE EVEN ATTENDED LUTHER'S FUNERAL.
THAT SHOWS YOU THE POWER OF THE LIVING GOD. I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU
SOMEHTING THAT IS BRAND NEW. I'M NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING THA
COMES OUT OF A FOUR COLOR BOOK. I'M NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU SOME KIND
OF A NEW DOCTRINE. I'M TRYING TO GIVE YOU THE BASIS OF WHY THAT WE'RE
IN THE WORLD TODAY AND THE MEANING OF BEING ALIVE TODAY THE FACT
OF THE AUTHORITY IN JESUS CHRIST IN US AND IN HIM WE HAVE LIFE AND
WE HVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY! AMEN! AMEN! AMEN! HALLELUJAH! WELL,
PRAISE THE LORD IN THIS PLACE! PRAISE THE LORD IN THIS PLACE. MAGNI-
FY HIM IN THIS PLACE, GLORIFY HIM. HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED. IT
IS AN ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORITY, IT IS AN ASSURED AUTHORITY. THE ACCOM-
PLISHMENT IS EVERY DAY IN WORD AND DEED AND THE NAME OF JESUS. AND
THE ASSURED AUTHORITY IS PEACE AND WORD AND IT'S STRENGHT AND IT'S
CLARIFICATION OF THOUGHT AND IT'S CLEANSING AND IT'S PRAYER AND IT'S
FAITH. YOUR SITTING HERE TODAY AND THERE IS AN EED IN YOUR LIFE.
THERES A PLAC E WHERE THAT AUTHORITY NEEDS TO BE APPLIED. THERE'S

A PLACE WHERE YOU NEED TO HAVE SOME CHANGES MADE. ALLOW THAT
AUTHORITY TO COME INTO YOUR HEART RIGHT NOW. WOULD YOU STAND
WITH ME ALL OVER THIS CONGREGATION PLEASE? COULD WE JUST JOIN
HANDS ALL OVER THE CONGREGATION? KEY OF E FLAT PLEASE.
(SING "IF YE ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORD ABIDES IN YOU")
DO IT ONE MORE TIME AND BELIEVE WITH YOUR HEART NOW!