

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 9043 • KNOXVILLE, TN 37940

May 2017
Knowing We Are God's Sons

Dear Friend,

Lately, God has been reminding me of a teaching I did a few years ago regarding our place in God's family as His children, particularly how we share the position of "son" with the Son of God. This message was a turning point in my life and ministry, both in a good way and in a not so good way. I can still remember one particular service in which I stood in front of the congregation and announced that we are sons of God in Christ. I recall how at that moment, standing there making that bold declaration, I knew inside that I was waving a red flag in front of the devil and he had to do anything and everything he could to shut me up. It quickly became evident that the enemy's tactics for destroying a person, which in this case was Debbie and me, was to exploit our weaknesses, as well as, using the weaknesses of others against us.

It has been about 4 years since the day I stood making that declaration and my life looks nothing like it did before. My entire ministry has changed. I no longer stand in front of that same congregation. To many, it would appear as though the devil won, but the reality is that the devil only wins if we quit and Debbie and I have no intention of quitting. In case you are wondering about the details of the events that brought us to where we are today, suffice it to say that the enemy's fear of the spreading of this message about being sons of God was displayed in the magnitude of the attack we experienced. It seems that the enemy is more than happy to allow people to play church all they want, but when anyone approaches this truth about being sons of God, the devil must do anything he can to stop them.

I seemed to know that day as I stood there making that bold declaration about being a son of God that I was in for a fight, although I had no idea just how devastating the fight would be. The point of this letter isn't to elaborate on the enemy's tactics, although this is a good place to briefly shine a light on how the enemy can hurt you. For example, if you are someone who needs the affirmation of your peers the enemy will use that weakness to try and destroy you. He does so by turning those around you whom you have been striving for approval from to

see you in a negative light. I believe this is how the enemy destroys many good people. One minute everything seems to be fine and the next minute their life is upside down. Thank God that when Debbie and I had no place to turn, God was still right there.

Yes, the enemy may have landed a few very solid punches and for a time it was hard to understand what happened. But, the reality is that he ultimately managed to uncover weaknesses in me, and those around me that were always present and could have always been used against me. I have come to realize that there cannot be anyone or anything that stands between me and my Father. Whatever you allow to remain will be the very thing the enemy will use to try and destroy you. For me it was my need for the approval of others. The reality is that when we know we are God's sons we will no longer be looking for the approval of man.

This message about discovering and walking as a son of God is really what the New Testament is all about. The fact that the devil camps right here and wars against anyone who approaches this subject is proof positive of its validity and potency. The devil did everything he could to stop The Son of God and failed miserably. Now, he has to contend with the entire body of Christ and up till now he has had considerable success in neutralizing believers by deceiving us to think our sonship rights are for the sweet by and by. (John 1:12)

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on His name.”

Occasionally, someone will uncover this truth for themselves and begin to walk as the son of God they truly are and these people become the ones that we write books about because they end up shaking the world. Since the devil can't seem to stop these individuals, what he will do is convince the rest of believers that these few are the special ones and God has chosen them to stand out from the rest. For far too long the church has bought into this lie and elevated these individuals as though they are somehow more special than the rest of us, or “more anointed”. Often they are viewed as somehow being closer to God than the rest of us.

Nothing could be any further from the truth. We have scripture that tells us that God does not in any way play favorites. (Romans 2:11)

“For there is no respect of persons with God”

We can look at these words and mentally accept them as truth, and still believe in our hearts that these people have something more than the rest of us. Believe me, I know what I am saying happens because it happened to me. I could look at verses like Romans 2:11 and see that God does not like or prefer any of us more than the rest. Yet, as I looked at those historical figures in our recent past who stood out from the rest of the body of Christ I could see certain people who seemed to be operating in something that appeared to be more than what I had. I wanted what they had and was willing to do anything to get it. The truth is, they had what all the rest of us who are born again have, sonship. Is it possible that some who have stood out from the rest have done so because they discovered who they were as sons of God and walked in this knowledge?

Yes, I believe that a good portion of those who have walked in the miraculous power of God have done so because they discovered their place of sonship in God's family.

Unfortunately, all too often, church leaders have explained away the individual believers responsibility to fulfill their call as sons of God by pointing to those who stood out and proclaimed that these people have a special anointing from God as though it is not available to the rest of us. In so doing, the pressure is off the church leader to explain why they are not experiencing the same miracles, as well as, the church members themselves.

When Jesus gave us the great commission to go into all the world and lay hands on the sick and they would recover He was not saying this would happen only if you were one of the special ones with super-duper anointings. Yet, in our minds we see these words and we struggle to believe that He was talking to us, the "normal every day run of the mill" Christians. (Mark 16:18)

"...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Instead of seeing these words and identifying ourselves as the people who are supposed to participate in the delivery of these supernatural healings, we come up with all the reasons why we won't or can't be a part of God healing the sick. We think; "I'm not anointed like that person." "I'm not special like that person." "I haven't done what they have done spiritually so I'm not eligible." The list of excuses is endless, I know because I have used these excuses myself. The truth of the matter is that we are God's sons and each one of us should be seeing these miracles in us and through us. If we don't, it's because we simply don't believe we are who God said we are, His sons.

What I am about to say can easily be misunderstood. If a person wants to misconstrue this statement and think that I am in any way speaking disparagingly

against the following disciplines, then they can easily do so and miss my point entirely.

If any of these people who appeared to have something more than the rest of us ever speak about **doing something** to achieve these results, we are ready and willing to do whatever they have done to see the same results in our own lives. **Instead of taking God at His word and believing He will fulfill His word when we act on it**, we look for formulas that will result in God's miracle working power manifesting through us. So when the minister with all the miracles says they did this or that and suddenly miracles began to happen, in the minds of most believers they think that if they did the same thing they should also have the miracles. In other words; $A + B = C$.

For example, one person who saw thousands healed raved about all the benefits of fasting so I went on a number of extended fasts. Another spoke of how confession of God's Word changed their life so I began to make confessions. Another spoke about how extended times of praying in tongues changed their life so I picked up that banner and began long seasons of praying in tongues. Another spoke about spending hours and hours reading the Bible and how this enhanced their fellowship with God and so I followed suit. Every single one of these disciplines is wonderful and we need to have them in our life. But, when we point to any one of these and say, "this is the reason for the miracles you see in my life," then what we have done is taken credit for what Jesus alone accomplished for us. If and when the miracles begin to show up in our lives it isn't because we did something that somehow magically opened the box of miracles. Nor do our efforts in any way convince God that we are now viable candidates for His power to flow through.

The truth is, each of us are eligible for God to use us in His miracle working power for one reason and one reason only, because God has made us to be His sons.

That being the case, all the fasting, praying in tongues, confession and meditating on the Word won't convince God to show up when we pray. The addition of these disciplines should be working to convince us of who we are as sons of God. It is this knowledge of being a son of God that will produce the results in our life and **not** the fact that we fasted so long or prayed this many hours or read these chapters so many times and finally we earned the right for God to show up when we pray. When we know who we are as God's sons we will see the same results that the Son of God experienced when he walked the earth.

For the longest time I looked as these great men and women of God from years gone by and wondered what they did to walk in such power. If only I could find out the key to their success I could duplicate that in my own life. The real key isn't what they did it is what He did for us. **Jesus died for us. Jesus paid the price for us. He rose again from the dead and made a way for each and every one of us to be born again as sons of God.** When we focus on what others have done and come up with the 5 steps to more power or the 10 things to do to get God to show up in our lives we have just taken the spotlight off of Jesus and what He did and pointed it onto ourselves and what we can do. At times these schemes might seem to produce some kind of results, but they are generally short lived.

What we want are long-term results that will impact the kingdom of God for years to come and those results can be found when we discover our place in God's family as His sons.

It saddens me to recount the events that transpired after that day I stood in front of that congregation and boldly declared that I am a son of God. I knew in my heart that I had crossed a line in the sand that activated something in the enemy's camp, although I had no idea how devastating the attack would be. Once the dust settled I could have easily decided to keep my mouth shut the rest of my life and wait for heaven, but Debbie and I have chosen to take the fight to the devil. We have uncovered what satan is truly afraid of and it would be a huge mistake on our part not to walk in this truth, or share this truth with others.

I truly believe the miracles will follow as we act on this knowledge that we are sons of God, joint heirs with Christ Jesus. There's no magic key that opens some secret box of miracles that only the special ones among us are eligible to take advantage of. Every one of us who have made Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives share jointly in Christ Jesus in the most treasured position in all of God's kingdom, sons of God seated at the right hand of the Father. It's time for us to be the sons of God that we are. Amen.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins