

*Worldly Wagons  
or  
Sanctified Shoulders*

*By  
Pastor Star R. Scott*

*A Collection of Daily Devotionals*

*Calvary Temple Ministries  
50214 Triple Seven Road  
Sterling, Virginia 20165  
(703) 430-7307  
[www.swordofthespirit.org](http://www.swordofthespirit.org)*

*In Africa:  
Calvary Temple Ministries  
P.O. Box 1835 - 00200  
Nairobi, Kenya  
or  
P.O. Box 3332  
Eldoret, Kenya  
[ctkenya@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:ctkenya@africaonline.co.ke)*

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# Wisdom is the Whole Issue

*“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof ....” (Genesis 3:6)*

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There are only two wisdoms operating on this planet. There is the wisdom from above, which is pure, peaceable and easily entreated; and there is a wisdom that is earthly, sensual and demonic. These two wisdoms are the basic conflict in which man has been involved from the beginning. The Scripture makes it clear that Satan enticed Eve, saying, “Take of this fruit, for it is to be desired to make you wise.” Realize that wisdom is the whole issue. Where is the source of wisdom? From which wisdom do you operate?

If we marry the world system, prostitute ourselves, and play according to its rules, we may think, “It’s not that big of a deal; we’ve only chosen to use wisdom. After all, it’s being wise. The world showed us that you can be successful by using these principles.” What is the source of that wisdom? If it is not God’s wisdom, it is earthly, sensual and demonic; its root is in the temptation of Lucifer in the Garden of Eden.

The source or root of wisdom reveals the real truth behind it. The source behind worldly wisdom is rebellion and disobedience to God. God didn’t want man to partake of that source of wisdom—the earthly system in which many of us want to play around. Everything accomplished by this earthly system, regardless of how good it is, is evil. All of the good is evil if its source is evil.

The natural mind can’t comprehend how good could be evil. If

you tell people on the street or people seated in the pews of most churches that the “good” things they do are evil, they will think you have lost your mind. Godly wisdom is spiritually discerned, and is foolishness to the carnal mind. Beloved, in these last days we had better be able to discern the spirit in which we are operating.

If your wisdom tells you to stay home from church and rest so you can prepare for work tomorrow, or because you have other things to do, your wisdom is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For the wisdom of God says, “[*Forsake not*] *the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is ... and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (Heb. 10:25). These simple little decisions tell us where our mind is. Whenever you make a willful choice against the revealed will of God, you are moving in demonic wisdom, no matter how innocent it may seem.

“It’s only innocent. I mean, what’s the big deal? All I did was to decide to stay home from church to get some well-needed rest.”

You shouldn’t have stayed up so late watching television. You shouldn’t have worked so hard mowing your lawn. Everything you do is a choice. If you are choosing to get so worldly tired that you can’t serve in the kingdom, you are making the wrong choices.

This is a practical application of the wisdom of God. We can present theory all day; but if we don’t find out how to apply godly wisdom to our everyday lives, it won’t do us any good. Theology and philosophy don’t get us to heaven; obedience does.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 2,” April 16, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# A New Realm of Evil

*“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”*

*(Genesis 3:7)*

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God’s ultimate will is to lead us into victory so that we will not be caught up into the antichrist spirit in these last days . The antichrist spirit moves in the same wisdom as was in the Garden of Eden. The devil began by saying, “I understand that you can’t eat of any of the trees. I understand that God is holding back from you.”

“Oh, God is not holding back from us. God has blessed us. We can eat of all the trees of the garden except this one.”

“I wonder why? What’s God holding back?”

“I don’t know. He just said, ‘Do not eat it or touch it, lest you die.’”

The enemy then says, “The moment you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, you will know as God knows, and be gods like Him. It will bring understanding that you don’t have. You see, the understanding and wisdom that God has given you isn’t sufficient to make it here on this planet. I know; I’ve been here for awhile!”

She saw the fruit was desirable to make one wise. But the wisdom of which Eve would partake was the wisdom of the knowledge of good and evil. The other tree available to them was the tree of life. In studying the Scriptures, we find the tree of life is synonymous with the Word of God. Eve had a choice to partake of the tree of life—the Word of God, the wisdom of God—or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—natural wisdom. The original temptation was about which wisdom to walk in—the

wisdom of God or the earthly, sensual, and demonic wisdom brought forth by Lucifer.

The wisdom of evil originated in the heart of Satan. Its origin was pride and rebellion. Evil did not exist until sin was found in Lucifer's heart. God did not have a little cloud of evil that suddenly attacked Lucifer, who was minding his own business, and he became evil. Evil was created in Lucifer's own wisdom. He began to think he was smarter than God and should receive the praise, glory and accolades. The fruit of evil tries to usurp God's authority by injecting its own wisdom and understanding of life.

After Adam and Eve partook, their eyes were opened to a new realm of evil. In this earthly wisdom, they saw that they were naked. The covering of righteousness that man previously had fell from them.

God appeared as Adam was hiding in a bush. Adam said, "I heard You coming, and I ran and hid because I was naked." The wisdom of the world will always break fellowship with God. If you eat of the world's system, your nakedness and shame will cause you to hide from God.

Once Adam and Eve partook of that fruit, Lucifer then became the god of this world's system (2 Cor. 4:4). The spirit of rebellion, death, and separation from God—a new set of laws—was released into mankind and the universe. John tells us that all that is in the world's system is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). James says the wisdom of this world is earthly, sensual and demonic. The world's wisdom operates in the natural, sensual realm, but its origin is demonic.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching "Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3," April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

# The Real Wisdom

*“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”*

*(Matthew 7:24)*

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Having to pull down others while vaunting self is the mentality of the world’s system. God says if you will humble yourself in the eyes of men and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things will be added to you (Matt. 6:33). The world will not understand how you obtained “these things.”

Over the years I’ve received a lot of criticism from people who say, “Nobody can be as successful as you without being crooked.” This thinking is the world’s system; they judge from their own hearts. God has another system: Seek Me first, and I’ll add all of these things to you.

The world’s perspective of wisdom is one of deception, manipulation, “dog-eat-dog”, stealing, every man for himself, doing unto others before they do it unto you.

We are waging a war for our minds. *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*: a mind of humility and total submission to God. This type of mind is what Jesus calls wisdom. Let Jesus tell us what His perception is of real wisdom.

Who did God say is a fool? *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God”* (Ps. 14:1). *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house [his life] upon a rock [the Word of God]: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew,*

*and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man ...” (Matt. 7:24-26).*

We will either believe and do the Word of God (which is His wisdom), or we will choose the natural wisdom that has been put into our consciousness over the years. We have been trained to listen to our flesh and believe secular teaching, which is totally contrary to the mind of God. When we get saved late in life, there is much unlearning to do.

Our children are being trained to know the Word of God, but they still have to contend with the flesh. Nobody needs to teach them how to lie or to be selfish. That comes naturally as one of Adam’s kids.

You will be able to tell a difference when your children are born again. They may be disciplined and come to church, but there is a transformation in their spirit when they are born again. Likewise, you will know when they are filled with the Holy Spirit. Don’t assume that your children are born again because they attend children’s church; make sure they are born again. They need to be re-created.

Those who hear the Word of God but reject it are fools. Their lives are built upon sand. Life’s circumstances will continually bring them down to destroy them. Jesus says the wise man is he who hears the Word and does it. This is the real wisdom.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3,” April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

# Wisdom to Succeed

*“I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.”  
(Psalm 119:100)*

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*“Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me [not his enemies, but the commandments]. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts” (Ps. 119:98-100).*

It isn't a matter of what you have in your head, but what dictates your heart: *“... because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word” (Verse 101).* The wisdom of God is for those who hear the commandments and do them.

There are people who have multiple doctorates or fifty years of experience in the ministry, but have not yet obeyed the Word. Thank God for men who are doers of His Word and will not compromise! This is the wisdom of God. Once we understand this wisdom, we will pull away from the world's perception of wisdom and understanding. We will let God's Word dictate our lives, and God will take *“the foolish things of the world to confound the wise” (1 Cor. 1:27).*

At twelve years of age, Jesus was in the temple, confounding the doctors of the law. Years later, they said of Jesus, *“We never heard anybody speak like this!”* That was the hallmark of His ministry, because He spoke as one having authority. Why? He did the Word of God.

It is amazing how you can speak with authority when you do the Word of God. It will be alive and working in you. You won't be

guessing, but telling people what you know to be true.

Jesus said, “*Wisdom is justified of her children*” (Matt. 11:19). In other words, everyone can justify his perspective saying, “This is truth; and if you’re not doing it this way, it must be wrong.”

John the Baptist fasted and walked in Nazarite communion, and people said that he had a devil. Jesus came and ministered freely, yet they said He was a winebibber and a glutton. The same people will say you are wrong if you drink, and you are wrong if you don’t! Wisdom is justified of its own children. “Truth” changes based upon the current circumstances and what suits self best.

Because Jesus knew what was in man, He wouldn’t commit Himself to them (John 2:24). We know what is in unregenerate man: man is depraved. Except for being born again with the glory of God within, there is nothing good in a man. Once we understand that, we will see the need for the new birth.

God is calling us to hear and do His commandments. There is a natural wisdom, and there is a spiritual wisdom. Experiencing God’s ways gives us His knowledge and understanding.

I watched on television a spelling bee in which little children spelled words I have never heard. They were given hundreds of words to study which gave them knowledge of this subject. Aren’t you glad God has given us His Word? We are not left wandering around to generate this knowledge for ourselves. God has already revealed it to us. If we will study and understand the wisdom of God, we will be successful in everything we encounter in life, because God has given us His provision in His Word.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3,” April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

# Right Hearts, Wrong Methods

*“And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.” (2 Samuel 6:7)*

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For twenty years the ark of the covenant was in captivity. With David as king, Israel was going to bring the ark back. David was moving in the mind of the Spirit, and although His heart was right, his method was wrong.

Upon hearing the report of the loss of the ark, a child was named Ichabod, for the glory departed from Israel (1 Sam. 4:22). Isn't that one of the saddest commentaries found in the Old Testament? The glory of the Lord departed. My question today is, “Where is the glory of the Lord, and how is the Church bringing it forth to a depraved and lost society?” There are two ways that God's glory can be brought: on worldly wagons or sanctified shoulders, and only one is acceptable to God.

During all those years in which the ark was missing, things just continued to operate, and nothing was different. The people attended church and went through the various rituals, including lifting their hands and singing choruses. There was only one thing missing for twenty years: the presence of God. Isn't it amazing how people can go to church for such a long time without the presence of God!

After this period of twenty years, David became king and wanted to see the restoration of the ark into the house of God. However, the glory had been gone so long that the people had only religion and tradition. They had no fellowship with God, nor did they know how to act around God.

When it was time to retrieve the ark, they built a new cart on which to carry the ark. Wasn't it nice that they built God a new cart? After all, they weren't going to give God an old one. But God had commanded the Levites to carry the ark on their shoulders (Num. 7:9). They had disregarded the laws dictating how the ark was to be transported.

It's interesting to look today at all the new methods that people are using to transport God to a lost world. The new vehicles man has built to move God are through doctrinal, organizational, philosophical, and financial methods. Some churches try to draw more people by modern, seeker-friendly methods. There is always something new—a new vehicle to transport God.

God is not looking for any new methods. The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16). We don't need any new methods; we need to preach the cross—Jesus and Him crucified. The pure gospel offends the carnal, worldly cart builders. They don't believe the preaching of the cross is sufficient. They don't believe the gospel is dynamic enough to draw a lost world. They have to provide some new method to entice others.

While transporting the ark, all the religious form was present—singing, dancing, praising—but they didn't know Who they were praising. If they had, they would have known that God didn't need a steadying hand from man to prop up His program. They were God's little helpers.

Uzzah, whose name means "stout, hard, self-secure and majestic," reached up to steady the glory of God (2 Sam. 6:6). (Can you imagine? We surely wouldn't want God to get hurt!) Uzzah, a

Levite who should have known that the law forbade anyone to touch the ark (Num. 4:15), was instantly smitten and died.

*“And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah...”* (2 Sam. 6:8). Isn't it interesting how man can judge God? David was displeased with God. “God, we were only trying to help You. I mean, after all, Your program was failing. You were getting ready to fall off the cart. We were just trying to prop You up, and You judge us? Our hearts were right. We wanted you back in Jerusalem. We wanted Your name glorified.”

Their hearts were right. They wanted God glorified and desired the presence of the Lord, but they were moving in pride against the wisdom of God. Maybe their hearts were right, but their methods were wrong.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 1,” April 9, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# No Other Methods

*“For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.” (1 Chronicles 15:13)*

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After the ark was taken captive, it was brought to the temple of Dagon. The next morning, Dagon was on his face before the ark. Whether you know it or not, all the world’s systems are bowing before God on a daily basis. You may not see the circumstances changing, and you may not be able to discern it with the natural mind, but every morning every god bows. It may not be a literal bowing down, but there’s no question in the mind of principalities and powers Who is in charge. It’s man that has the problem discerning these things.

We’re living in a day when people believe that all you need are the right heart and right motives when representing God. Your motives may be right, but God has told us how to bring about the manifestation of His glory on this planet. His glory will not manifest through fleshly methods, such as demonstrations, political endeavors, or through economic prowess. His glory will manifest solely by the Spirit, as it did in the first century: each one of us individually preaching the name of Jesus, laying hands on the sick, and casting out devils. God will not have it any other way. Televangelists, super churches, or born-again politicians will not bring about the glory of God. God will make His glory known through each believer in the Church of Jesus Christ who knows who he is and the power that has been given to him. You cannot find any other methods in the Scripture because God has no other methods.

The world builds worldly wagons—television, radio, concerts,

great edifices—whatever is available to reach the lost. Programs and vehicles are built for the purpose of moving God. Some people believe they can move God by joining together to pray and fast.

People think, “*We* are going to move God. *We* are going to bring God into our presence.” God says He will visit us, but there’s a way in which His visitation will manifest. David said that God visited Uzzah and killed him because the work was not done in due order. Understand very clearly that God does not need man to prop up His operation. God does not need us to steady Him in this last day. If your god is shaking, you have the wrong God.

Having built a worldly wagon, they were operating on the wrong premise of moving God, and it brought judgment on them instead of blessing. David found out how it was supposed to be done. The priesthood sanctified themselves, put staves in the ark, and now carried it upon sanctified shoulders. They moved the ark the way God said to move it—by sanctified men. The power driving the ark was not oxen, but feet that were shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace and shoulders that had been sanctified.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 2,” April , 16, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# Priests or Kings

*“And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.” (2 Samuel 6:14)*

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*“Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD...[as] I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought not [God] after the due order” (1 Chron. 15:12-13).* David was upset with God, but he should have been upset with himself and the priests. They didn’t take time to seek God’s will or method to bring His visitation and to manifest His glory. They thought God would bless whatever program they built because their hearts were right, and they wanted God to get the glory.

Scripture says, *“We sought not [God] after the due order.”* It is easier to build carts than to sanctify lives, but God doesn’t accept our carts and our methods of transportation. It is easier to brainstorm and come up with a plan that uses man’s methods, such as mass mailings, television, or credit cards for church offerings. God wants sanctified shoulders. He has established an order. He wants clean priests bearing Him on their shoulders, not man’s programs or methods.

*“So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over the thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obededom ...” (1 Chron. 15:25).* We find David and the people dancing before the Lord, praising God.

No one was killed because things were done God’s way. The priests carried the ark on sanctified shoulders. This time, instead

of transporting God via oxen, every six paces they stopped and sacrificed oxen unto the Lord.

As David leaped and danced with all his might, Saul's daughter Michal saw David and despised him in her heart. She said, "*How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids* (2 Sam. 6:20). Hey, we've got status! People are watching us. What are you doing? We're rubbing shoulders here with the elite, the nations of the world." David said, "*It was before the LORD*" (verse 21).

The king's robe represented David's secular position of majesty and power. David stripped himself of all natural honor and majesty of the robe and danced and worshipped God in the linen ephod, worn by priests, to sanctify himself before God. He was despised of his own household: "You're down there like some old priest dancing before God. We've got to keep God on a level where He's impressive to the world."

Why are the most popular messages today in Christendom coming from psychologists, politicians and economists? Why is the Church being dictated by all types of social issues and compelled to minister to people through the arm of the flesh rather than under the unction of the Holy Ghost? We want to build carts that bring God to the public where He is acceptable. But do you know what that will bring? It will bring the death of Uzzah and the barrenness of Michal. God is saying, "I want priests; I'm not interested in kings."

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching "Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 1," April 9, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# A Choice of Two Wisdoms

*“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”  
(James 3:15)*

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How do we know when something is of God? How do we know if we have built a cart or if we are carrying the ark upon sanctified shoulders? What if Moses had been able to organize a coup, to usurp authority in Egypt, and to make a decree that would have freed God’s people? Would that have brought glory to God? To this day Israel would have images of Moses erected because he fulfilled the will of God. But in reading the biblical story today, there is no question Who the Deliverer was.

The Bible says there is a wisdom that is not from above, but is earthly, sensual and demonic (James 3:15). You have two wisdoms to choose from in this world. Both will produce results. Both can make you a winner in this life, but only one will make you a winner in the life to come. You can try to live under the guise of morality, but without Christ it is vain, foolish and damnable. The problem is that most Christians don’t want to draw the fine line that says, “If it’s not Jesus, if it’s not Bible, I don’t accept it.” That stance brings conflict and makes people uncomfortable.

We have wagons carrying arks up and down the street, passing each other. Where are the sanctified priests who will bring the cross of Jesus Christ? You are those priests. God has ordained you to be a part of this ministry. God has ordained you to hear the Word of God and to search these things with the wisdom of the Bereans. Be as noble as the Bereans to study the Word and to find what God is really saying. If you want to discern the difference,

then ask yourself the questions, “Who is getting the glory? Are things being done so purely that no one but God can be glorified?” If a clear line has not been distinguished, then things are being done in man’s wisdom. There is a way that seems right, but the end is destruction (Pr. 14:12). Unless the Lord builds the house, our labor is in vain (Ps. 127:1).

In the last days many will depart from the faith because they have chosen worldly wisdom. But also in the last days, God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh who will receive it. In the last days there will be doctrines of devils, but there will also be new revelation of the Word of God that causes us to stand. For where iniquity abounds, the grace of God does much more abound (Rom. 5:20).

We are thankful for the opportunity to be the generation that will know the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in power in this last day. We know we are going to be opposed on every side. Those who use worldly wagons will hate those who use sanctified shoulders, but he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22).

Jesus gave us power to be witnesses, to lay hands on the sick, to cast out devils, and to raise the dead. Programs founded in worldly wisdom won’t do that. They don’t cast out devils; they send them to psychiatrists. They don’t lay hands on the sick; they send them to doctors. There is a wisdom and power available to us, but we must sanctify ourselves to carry this glory. We must strip off the kingly robes to take on the priestly ephod.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 1,” April 9, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# Laborers for the Harvest

*“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:38)*

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*“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:35-38).*

Whose harvest is it? It is God’s. So many times we take the responsibility of ministry upon ourselves, thinking that it’s our job—in our timing, by our efforts, and by our expertise. This is God’s program, and He is well able to take care of it. In fact, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me, saying, “Learn the wisdom of the husbandman and the mystery of sowing and reaping.” For every thing there is a season. There is a time to sow, and there is a time to reap.

The Husbandman has been laboring in our midst by breaking up the fallow ground—turning over the crust that has come over the hearts and lives of individuals. The promise of God is that when the fallow ground is broken up, the Lord of righteousness will look down and rain righteousness upon us (Hos. 10:12).

We have been scattered as seed into new ground. Except the seed fall into the ground and die, it abides alone (John 12:24). By death to self-ambition and self-interest, the seed germinates, and

the life of God manifests. As the latter rain of righteousness falls upon us, fruit will come forth to righteousness, and we will know the visitation of God. The last visitation shall be this: “Come and blow upon our garden” (Song of Sol. 4:16). As the Spirit of God comes and breathes life, the glory of God will come forth. Men will know that what they’ve seen through germination and resurrection is of God and not of men.

When the Lord looked upon the multitudes, He was moved with compassion because there wasn’t a shepherd to lead the flock. Despite the fact that the best organized and most powerful religious system at that time existed—the religion of the Pharisees—the people wandered like sheep without a shepherd. There were many years of history and tradition which the masses drew upon, but they had no direction.

All over our nation people are wandering in and out of churches and running from this denomination to that denomination. They still haven’t come under the direction of the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus. Jesus’ heart is broken and moved with compassion. Therefore, He says, “I want you to pray that the Lord would send forth laborers into the harvest.” The “harvest” is not only the heathen. There are religious folks who don’t know Jesus and need the Shepherd.

When we pray, “Lord, send forth laborers,” who is He going to send? He will send you! That’s why most of us don’t really pray in faith. We say, “Here am I, Lord; send *him*. Since he’s paying the price and seeking God, I’ll support him.” Every one of us has been called to bring forth fruit; none of us are exempt of the responsibility to be laborers in this field. Jesus says to you, “Pray the Lord of the harvest, and He will send *you* forth.”

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# Full of the Holy Ghost

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me....” (Acts 1:8)*

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*“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me” (Matt. 10:40).* Jesus said you will receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you. Are you Spirit filled today? Sanctification is the first thing you receive after being baptized in the Holy Ghost, because it is a baptism of fire; and fire is always a sign of purification. If sanctification didn't come, there's a good chance you didn't get the baptism. Maybe you just spoke in tongues. Though tongues are the initial outward evidence, they are not the exclusive evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are many evidences of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, one of which is living a clean, sanctified life .

What is the purpose of praying in tongues? The Bible says when we pray in the Spirit we edify ourselves (1 Cor. 14:4). Is your life consistently being built up, or are you one who is up and down, up and down? We are to pray in the Holy Ghost, for “this is the refreshing” (Isa. 28:12). When you pray in tongues, do you just make noise or do you get refreshed? When the Holy Ghost is praying through you, you come out refreshed! It may have been tough going in, but you come out fresh.

Also, when you pray in the Holy Ghost, you're praying according to the will of God (Rom. 8:27). Jesus said, “If you ask anything according to my will, I will do it” (John 14:14). That means you're getting prayers answered when you're praying in the Holy Ghost.

When you have been filled with the Holy Spirit, you shall receive power to become witnesses. How is your life as a witness today? When you are full of the power of God, full of the Holy Ghost, “you shall be”—not “might be” or “choose to be”—“witnesses unto Me” (Acts 1:8).

Those who were filled with the Holy Ghost in the Book of Acts couldn’t help but speak the things they had seen and heard. They saw and heard because they were full of the Holy Ghost. They laid hands on the sick, and the sick recovered. They cast out devils. Because they had freely received, they freely gave.

They had something to talk about. Do we? This is what the Spirit of God is saying to us today. We need to lift up our eyes and look on the fields that are white unto harvest. There are people wandering as sheep without a shepherd. They need somebody who knows where he is going to say, “This is the way; walk in it. Follow me as I follow Christ.”

There will be a price to pay to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and to know the power of God. Instead of being willing to pay the price, we come up with “really good ideas” that shortcut the sowing and reaping process to give instant results. The “gospel” that sells easily says, “I can get saved right now and instantly be a king, priest, and conqueror. I’m automatically blessed and will never have any trials, tribulations or problems. God is a God of love, so I can live any way I want. He will embrace and wrap me in the robe of asbestos so that hell will never harm me.” Salvation isn’t for asbestos; it’s for righteousness.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 1,” April 9, 1989, Sun AM*

# No End to Compromise

*“Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king’s house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus....” (2 Chronicles 16:2)*

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*“Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law” (2 Chron. 15:3).* Tragically, in this nation we have been in this same situation for a long time. It is today as it was in the days of Jeremiah, when every man spoke what his neighbor said and rehashed the same principles without seeking God. They found that the popular message paid the bills, drew the crowds, and kept their programs going. But the presence and power of God were gone, as well as the teaching priests who brought the words of God.

God will not judge you based upon what you have done for Him, but whether He was the source of what was done. Having begun in the Spirit, you will not be made perfect in the flesh. If your work is of God, then He will support it; otherwise, let it die. Once you build beyond your faith, you need worldly wisdom to keep it alive instead of the Word and presence of God keeping it alive. You start compromising your message to appeal to the flesh and to the masses. You are worshipping the idol of ministry instead of the presence of God.

Following the prophecy of Azariah, Asa was motivated again to bring about even greater purity: *“And when Asa heard these words, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin ...” (2 Chron. 15:8).* As Asa tried to minister purity, his mom set up idols in his own home. He was tearing

them down, but she was setting them up. Verse 16 says, “*And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol....*” She was fortunate because he should have killed her according to the law (Ex. 22:20).

When you begin to seek purity, expect opposition from those closest to you. It’s a biblical principle. Somebody close to you—a husband, a wife, a child—will want you to compromise the Word of God. Be ready for it, and then choose which way you’re going to go.

“*Nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days*” (15:17). He wasn’t perfect nor did he do everything right, but he did the best job at that time. He sought God, fired his mom, and then brought vessels of silver and gold, which his father had dedicated, into the house of God.

Suddenly, Asa faced another trial. Israel put pressure on Judah by building Ramah outside the city. They wanted to keep supplies from coming in and out to starve the people of Judah.

Earlier when the Ethiopians were coming, Asa went to God. He said, “Lord, there’s no way that we can defend ourselves against these people. O God, visit us and bring judgment upon these people.” And God did.

But Asa had compromised in dealing with his mother. What he did appeared to be really good: he broke up the idols, stamped them down, and fired his mom—but that was not what the Scripture said to do.

Now trials, tribulations, and pressure were coming upon Asa. As the opposition came, Asa compromised by looking to the Syrians rather than seeking God. He brought out silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the Lord to give to the heathen to protect him. He took what was God's and gave it to the world for its protection. Once compromise begins, there is no end without repentance.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching "Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 2," April, 16, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# Decline and Death

*“And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.”*  
(2 Chronicles 16:7)

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God was not only going to deliver Judah from Israel, but He was going to destroy Syria. When we are overly anxious to move God by our programs, we miss the big program of God. We don't realize that by using a worldly method to get out of one little trial we make ourselves slaves to the world system. God wants to deliver us not only from the trial but from the bondage of worldly wisdom. When we make choices contrary to the will of God to get out of the immediate pressure, we bring ourselves into this bondage.

Though we know all kinds of scriptures on prosperity and victory, we don't really believe God wants us victorious and prosperous. If we did believe, we would let Him make us victorious and prosperous instead of trying to achieve this in our own strength. We believe we have to build wagons and hurry Him on our programs. We say, “God, You said You wanted blessings for us, so we'll take them.” God hasn't called us to take anything. He's called us to be obedient to the statutes that He's set before us. He will bless us, and the blessings will overtake us, the Scripture says.

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him ...”* (2 Chron. 16:9). To whom will God show Himself mighty and powerful? It is to those who walk in obedience, to those who absolutely trust God.

*“Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars”* (2 Chron. 16:9). Because of compromise Asa gradually declined in his ability to hear and to be obedient to God. When the next trial came, he chose to trust the arm of the flesh. The prophet of God came to restore Asa (correction, reproof and rebuke are to restore us to fellowship with God), but he was wroth with the prophet and in a rage (2 Chron. 16:10). He also oppressed the people who agreed with the Spirit of God.

In Asa’s final outcome, he became sick and sought not the Lord but the physicians, and died. That’s a bad ending for a good start. This time when trials came, he didn’t look to God at all. His mind had become so ingrained in and dependent upon worldly wisdom that he never gave God a chance. Asa progressively declined because he chose the world’s wisdom. He forgot that God’s eyes were searching to and fro for those to whom He could show Himself strong, those whose hearts were perfect toward Him.

Where are our hearts? Are they perfect toward God? Are we obedient even though it’s not feasible, logical, or what we want to do in the natural? Are our eyes upon God?

Are we like the Apostle Paul who said, “I’m not ashamed of the gospel; it’s the power of God unto salvation”? Do we trust in man’s wisdom or in the power of the Holy Spirit—the demonstration of what God can do in a life? Have we become so indoctrinated that we apply man’s methods to our trials and then give God the glory? That is what happens in many Christians’ lives and ministries today. We build our little wagons to put the ark on and worship Him, but we really worship the wagon, not the ark. Until we understand that, we’re going to stay in bondage.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 2,” April 16, 1989, Sunday A.M.*

# Offering Up the Natural

*“And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.” (2 Samuel 6:13)*

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The second time they went to get the ark, the oxen were not pulling a wagon. This time the oxen, the power that man trusted in before, were offered as burnt offerings to God.

Instead of trusting in your natural ability, you need to offer it to God. Do you have the Glory on your shoulder today? If you do, your Jordan River will open up before you, and you will cross over into the “Promised Land.” No one crossed the Jordan until the priests took the glory of God and stepped in. God stood the water in a heap, and His people went into the promise.

Which power will you trust in today? God will drive the Ethiopians out from before you. He will give the Syrians into your hands if your heart is perfect toward Him. Is there a voice within you saying, “It won’t work. I have to have something on which to fall back”? If those are your thoughts, lie right back on the cross and enjoy crucifixion. If you die with Him, you will be raised with Him; and if you are raised with Him, you will be like Him (Rom. 6:4-8).

Believe God to be the source for your healing, finances, emotional or domestic needs. Make your heart perfect before God and say, “I’m looking to God alone; He’s my source.” Whatever the need is, His eyes are searching to and fro over the earth, looking for someone to whom He can show Himself mighty (2 Chron. 16:9). In other words, God wants to help people. He is very

cognizant of your situation. He wants to move in and touch you with His power if you are seeking Him. If you expect to have something in the background in case God fails, He will not visit you. If you will seek Him, you will find Him.

Don't be foolish like Asa. Having begun in the Spirit, don't think you will be made perfect in the flesh. Take time to seek the will of God and ask what He wants to accomplish in your life. Lay your heart before Him and say, "Not my will, but Thy will be done."

The message of the cross—our crucifixion with Jesus—is not a popular message. Jesus said if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before Father (Matt. 10:33). But we will not deny Him before this world system. He is our only source and hope of victory. We will stand boldly and proclaim that if God doesn't do it, it won't be done.

Our faith declares, "King, we won't bow down to your idol. Even if God doesn't deliver us, He is able. And if He doesn't, we still won't do it your way."

When Jesus died and fell into the ground, the seed was planted. Now He's risen again—a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand, ten million strong. As each of us die to ourselves, the life of Jesus is multiplied through us by the power of God.

Where are you in this walk? Your God delights in helping you and in showing His power. He will not forsake you, nor leave you comfortless. You are His child, and He loves you. As your heart is perfect before Him, He will visit you. Look to Him alone as your source and strength.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching "Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 2," April 16, 1989, Sun A.M.*

# Making Quality Decisions

*“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank ....”*

*(Daniel 1:8)*

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*“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat ....”* The key word here is “purposed.” We need to make quality decisions as to whom we are going to serve and in what wisdom we are going to function. If we wait to make every decision based upon the pressure of the situation, our flesh will speak very loudly and clearly: “All you have to do is compromise a little bit to save your life. After all, you are the one who will help deliver these people.”

In this situation, do you think Daniel could have justified those thoughts? God had a different plan. As a young man, Daniel had already purposed in his heart what he would do. He didn’t wait until he faced the lion’s den. He made his decision when the king’s men brought him the first filet mignon, saying, “Eat; we are going to fatten you up, so you can serve us in our courts.”

*“Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs”* (Dan. 1:9). See how God is working on Daniel’s behalf. Once he purposed in his heart to do things God’s way, God changed the heart of the chief eunuch to give Daniel favor. Daniel and his friends could have drunk the wine and eaten the filet mignon. But Daniel said, “No, we won’t touch the king’s provision. Just bring us some veggies and water, and leave the rest to God.”

The eunuch came back after ten days to check on them. *“And at the end of ten days their countenance appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat”* (1:15). There are two wisdoms—two ways to live. There is the world’s system that tells you how to be a success, and then there is God’s wisdom of no compromise. God’s supernatural supply of vegetables and water caused them to be fairer than anything the world could produce.

*“As for these four children [Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego], God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams”* (1:17). After three years, the time came for the test. These young men who had chosen God’s wisdom were brought before the king. *“And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm”* (1:20). They confounded the mighty. When the final test comes, the world will see that the wisdom and power of God work.

Do not justify using the world’s wisdom. Do not give in to it and think, “I’ve tried so many times, and God’s Word hasn’t worked.” Believe God. Make a quality decision to say, “I’m not giving in to the world’s system this time. I’m not giving in to my flesh. I’m going to recognize Jesus as the Lord of my life.” Spend time praising and worshipping Him. Don’t focus on the problems; focus on the Deliverer, and the problems will fall around you.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3,” April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

# Which Wisdom Will You Choose?

*“But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Daniel 3:18)*

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Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel had two opportunities to compromise, almost justifiably: “Oh, we can bow down, but we won’t worship. We know that idols are nothing, so to save all the hassle, let’s just bow down like everybody else. It’s only an image.”

But these young men purposed in their hearts and saw what God could do with vegetables and water. They saw that God’s wisdom without compromise was far greater than anything the world’s kingdom could do. They said, “Either God is going to deliver us, or He isn’t. God has delivered us to this point. He’s given us wisdom and has brought us to this place of power and authority. If He wants us delivered at this time, so be it. But be it known unto you, *our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up*” (Dan. 3:17-18).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow. Full of fury, Nebuchadnezzar commanded his men to stoke up the furnace. The fire was so hot that the men who threw them in died. As Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went into the fire, something happened: the cords of the world, which had them bound, were burned off,

and they freely walked around in the furnace. If you go into the furnace for God, He will meet you there!

*“Then Nebuchadnezzar ... said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the King, True, O King. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose ... and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the son of God” (Verses 24-25).*

We read in verse 27 that the fire had no power over them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, nor did they have the smell of smoke on them!

The world wants you to partake of its own wisdom, saying, “Things are tough now, but here’s what you ought to do. Take this pair of asbestos long johns. They are the best ones made today and have a manufacturer’s guarantee. They’ll get you through the fire.”

The world may give you some asbestos underwear for the original fire, but it won’t be good enough for the fire that is stoked. Every provision you make in the natural will never be sufficient. If you walk in the wisdom of God, only the fetters will be burned off. As you look at the provision and wisdom of God, what method will you choose?

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching “Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3”, April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

# The Wisdom That Prevails

*“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:5)*

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The Spirit of God will bring fresh illumination for the decisions you will have to make—decisions in which many people (including Christians) will not stand with you, even though you are standing on the Word of God. Yet when the smoke clears, your wisdom will have proven ten times wiser than theirs because God will watch over His Word and perform it. The fiery trials of life come only to burn off the fetters from our hands, for there is a fourth Man in the furnace of God’s wisdom. He said He would never leave you nor forsake you.

The wisdom of God makes us victorious. There will be a fourth Man in the furnace. The angel of the Lord will shut the mouths of the lions. The glory of God will bring the walls of Jericho down. The breath of God will blow and divide the Red Sea. God’s people will look like fools to stand with an ocean at their backs and the armies of Pharaoh coming down upon them—fools until God opens the sea.

At every Red Sea, the arm of God is stretched forth through a Moses, the power of God through a man to deliver His people. There is a voice in every generation, the voice of Jesus. In our day, the Word of God manifests His voice through His prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and believers.

As each of us goes forth in the name of Jesus, God will confirm the words of our mouths with signs following. He has chosen every member in particular and placed us in the Body as it pleases Him, that the glory and the excellency might be of God and not of us.

When the world looks upon us and judges us as base, weak fools, He will judge us as wise, mighty, noble sons of God—heirs and joint heirs in Jesus Christ. That is His declaration and how we are to see ourselves.

If we are doers of the Word, Jesus says we are wise. Doing the Word will confound the mighty, perplex the wise, and cause us to be victorious in the name of Jesus. We will not insist upon the king's meat and wine in preparation for our victory, but will humble ourselves with the vegetables and water. The world will scoff at our wisdom, but this gospel is the power of God to salvation.

The wisdom of God will prevail, for we have purposed in our hearts not to defile ourselves with the world's wisdom. We have chosen to eat the Bread of Life—manna that came from heaven and is life to us. Rivers of living water will then flow out of our innermost being. We will pull down every evil imagination that exalts itself against God's Word. We will consciously reject the voices that say, "You will fail. You will die. Your business will never make it; your marriage will never make it; your children will never make it."

*"All things are possible to him that believeth"* (Mark 9:23). What is impossible with man is possible with God (Matt. 19:26). We can be set free from disease, bondage, lust, or appetite for food, sex, or nicotine. We will not bow before these things. The world says there is no answer, no deliverance, and no hope; but He has said our faith is the victory.

Father, it is possible if we will believe. We receive the victory, the deliverance, the healing, the peace, and the pureness in Jesus' name. Thank You, Lord, for Your deliverance, Your love, and Your presence.

*This is an excerpt taken from the teaching "Worldly Wagons or Sanctified Shoulders, Pt. 3", April 16, 1989, Sunday P.M.*

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