

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

# Insights

The Way to a New Life | JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014



## Your Place *as a Son*

developing an *awareness* of God's indwelling

# Your Place *as a Son*

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE



*"It is this Sonship that we have received from Him. The very idea that God refers to Himself as our Heavenly Father emphasizes the truth that having sons is His priority."*



Of all the titles Jesus has received, there is one that He shares with every believer: *Son of God*. He is many other things as well, including the King of kings and the Lord of lords. But to each member of His family, He has given the same status He has before our Heavenly Father.

Jesus is no longer the only begotten Son of God as He was throughout His ministry recorded in the gospels. When He rose up out of death and ascended to the Father, He became the "first born among many."<sup>1</sup> Now by faith in Jesus' finished work on our behalf, we become sons of God.

Jesus experienced an important transition time shortly before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was in the Garden that He prayed what has been called His high-priestly prayer. He prayed to the Father for all believers, including all who would become His disciples through the ministries of those who were with Him in the Garden. The prayer is found in John 17:22-23:

**"We are loved! It is unconditional and complete. And if there are no conditions, every one of us qualifies for it! We are loved. This is the most powerful discovery that exists...."**

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

When Jesus gave to His disciples the glory bestowed on Him, He pointed to the results we can expect: first, that we will grow up and become mature in Him and, second, that we will discover we are loved by God as much as Jesus is.

This is where the religious mind struggles, but the heart of the child of God soars. We are loved! It is unconditional and complete. And if there are no conditions, every one of us qualifies for it! We are *loved*. This is the most powerful discovery that exists — and it's framed by Jesus to be the result of receiving the glory the Father gave to Him.

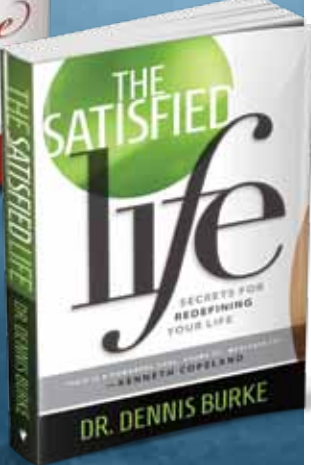
So what *is* that glory? The Apostle Peter describes how this glory was bestowed on Jesus from the Father in Second Peter 1:17-18:



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For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

When the heavens rolled back and the voice of the Father God declared Jesus as His Son, Heaven's glory was revealed.

It is this Sonship that we have received from Him. The very idea that God refers to Himself as our Heavenly Father emphasizes the truth that having sons is His priority.

In First John 3:2, we read that we are now sons: "Beloved, now we are children [or sons] of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Hebrews 2:10 provides more light regarding our sonship:

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Keep in mind that sonship is not in any way an issue of gender. Men and woman enter into sonship through covenant. When people receive Jesus as their Lord, they enter into the covenant between the Father and the firstborn Son — Jesus. They become *sons* through Him.

When Jesus told the story of the prodigal son and how both sons were distant from their father, He gave us a picture of how God will pursue and restore His sons. In Luke 15, Jesus tells of a young son who came to his father

and asked to receive his inheritance. The father granted his son's request and gave both of his sons their portions. With that, the younger son left and wasted his entire inheritance.

When the young son returned home, something remarkable happened. The father ran to meet his prodigal son and embraced him, welcoming him into his house. Then the father put the robe and ring of the family on him, as well as the shoes of a son. This son was not only fully restored into the family, but he was also given a position he had never before stood in.



This is exactly what we step into as sons in this New Covenant. We have been dressed in the robe of God's righteousness, the ring of His authority, and the shoes of our Sonship in Christ. We stand in a place that only Jesus stood in. We are now sons

of God in the earth. We are His hands, His voice, and His body to fulfill all He has planned for His family.

The picture Jesus gave that day would have shocked the listeners when they realized He was describing God as One who would pursue people. The religious mind never saw God pursuing people — people had to pursue *God*.

Yet this is God's way of doing things. He pursues us to reveal Himself to us, fill us with His abundance, and demonstrate His love through us. He stands before us as our loving Heavenly Father. All He has, He has given to us. His house is our house. His and His joy is now ours.

So enter into all He has with His joy and the confidence that all He has is yours!

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

All scriptures are taken from the New King James Version.

by  
Vikki  
Burke



The New Testament reveals three positions Jesus accomplished for believers when He rose from the dead: *God for us*, *God with us*, and *God in us*.

The first position Jesus won for us is made clear in this bold declaration: "...If God is for us, who can be against us?"<sup>1</sup> This passage of Scripture wasn't written by a novice who had never experienced the threat of death, but by a man who had encountered more life-threatening danger than most of us could ever imagine.



DEVELOPING AN  
*awareness*  
OF GOD'S INDWELLING





One thing is certain—when you get into impossible or hopeless situations, that's not the time to trust in yourself. You must do what Paul did: trust in the God who raises the dead!"



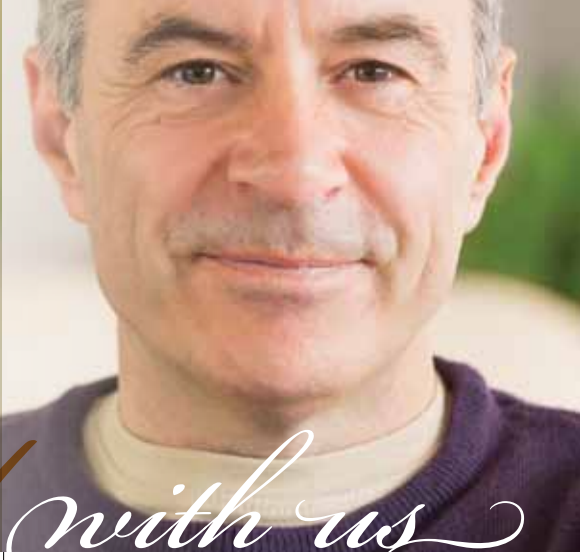
This is how the Apostle Paul expressed his experience as a Christian: "...we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us."<sup>2</sup>

Maybe at times you have felt, just like Paul, that the "sentence of death" described *your* life well. One thing is certain—when you get into impossible

or hopeless situations, that's not the time to trust in yourself. You must do what Paul did: trust in the God who raises the dead!

God has promised that no matter who is against us, He is on our side and will bring us victory. We can expect our enemies to be defeated in every battle! No matter how powerful, influential, or numerous they may appear, they are powerless when God is for us. When God is on our side and we appropriate His Word in our situation, we are sure to win!

Even though Satan launches his most fiery darts in our direction, Jesus



God with us

declared that "...he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."<sup>3</sup> And when the world unleashes its greatest threat against us, Jesus stated that He has overcome the world!<sup>4</sup> Although we may wrestle with principalities and powers, Jesus has publicly disarmed and put them to shame. They have been defeated once and for all! When God is *for* us, it means every opposing force that sets itself against us will eventually come to nothing. Who dare fight against us while God is fighting for us?

**God With Us**

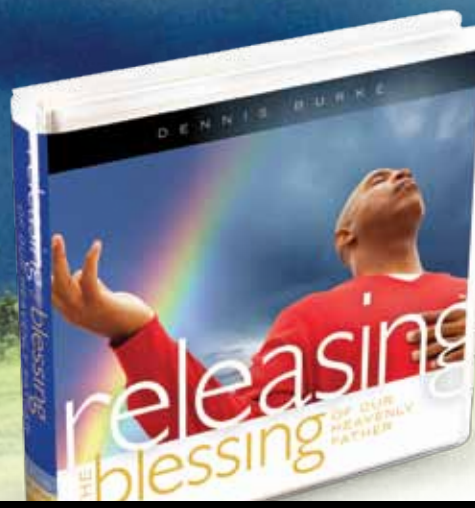
"God *with* us" is the second position Jesus secured for us. This means that wherever we go and whatever we do, it is in the company of Almighty God. He is our faithful Companion and Attendant. We are never alone or without a friend because we live under the constant protection and security of a covenant-keeping God. Psalm 91:15 (NLT) makes this promise to us as believers: "I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them."

When Daniel refused to obey the king's decree, he was thrown into the lion's den as punishment for his disobedience. The king sealed a stone over the mouth of the lion's den so no human being could rescue Daniel. But when morning came, the king ran to the lion's den and called out to Daniel, hoping his God had delivered him. Daniel answered, saying, "My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me...."<sup>5</sup>

No matter where we go or what we

release the blessing of our  
**HEAVENLY  
FATHER**

Jesus brought to Earth a fresh concept: the all-powerful God of Heaven is a tenderhearted Father who yearns to make Himself known to us. Now we can know the truth of God's plan for each of us from the beginning of creation.



face, we have nothing to fear because the Lord is with us. His Word is our assurance of safety and assistance. "The Lord himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid."<sup>6</sup> What's more, Jesus leaves us with the assurance of His perpetual presence when He said, "...And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."<sup>7</sup>

## God in Us

It's essential to know the third position Jesus attained for us. We can know that God is *for* us and that He is *with* us, but we can enter a deeper dimension of authority when we know that we are the habitation in which Almighty God dwells! First Corinthians 3:16 (NIV) says, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

One man, in an effort to become more aware of God's presence in his life, referred to the Holy Ghost as "the Holy Guest." When we have guests in our home, we honor them by putting their desires before our own; we prepare for their arrival; and we put on our best behavior. Similarly, we can become more aware of God's presence by asking ourselves these questions: *Do I yield my desires to the "Holy Guest," or am I more interested in getting what I want in life? Do honor Him by preparing myself to enter His presence? Am I an extension of His healing touch? Am I cautious to walk the narrow path that He walked while on this earth?*

When we dare to let the Holy Spirit loose in our lives and give Him the freedom to flow through us, He

will do what no other can. The Holy Spirit wants to lead and guide us, to strengthen us, to make us successful in all our endeavors. According to Romans 8:11 (Phillips), when the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead indwells you, "...He will bring to your whole being new strength and vitality." God will cause His divine influence to turn

what the devil means for harm to our advantage, just as He did in the life of Joseph (see Genesis 50:20)!

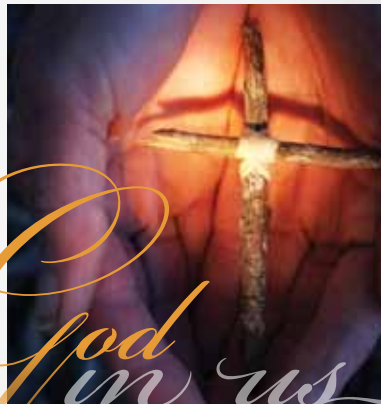
When the Holy Spirit moves into our lives, He imparts God's life in us. The life of God is absolute life—which means the absence of death. Death has lost its grip on us when we enforce God's Word against it. Sickness and disease are powerless when up against the Word of God!

When the Holy Spirit moves in with

us, He brings His power with Him. The Apostle Paul tells us just how much power He brings in Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV): "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever."

The word "power" in the original Greek is *dunamis*, which means *miracles, power, strength, mighty work, moral power and excellence of soul; the power and influence that belong to riches and wealth*. Each of us has the potential to

*When we dare to let the Holy Spirit loose in our lives and give Him the freedom to flow through us, He will do what no other can."*



dennis & vikki burke



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“When we become God-inside minded, we, too, are aware of the power not only available to us but active in us.”

continued from pg. 7

experience this kind of power working through us, not because we are special, but simply because God is in us.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth.”<sup>8</sup> Paul was constantly conscious of God’s indwelling—aware that *dunamis* dwelt in his body and was at work within him. Paul knew that the *dunamis* power in him could do greater things than he could even imagine!

When we become God-inside minded, we, too, are aware of the power not only *available to us* but *active in us*. We will begin to meditate on what God will do through us when we are utterly yielded to the indwelling Holy Spirit. John 14:12 (*NAS*) says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.”

Has Jesus gone to the Father? Do you believe in Him? If you answered yes to those two questions, you’re a candidate for greater works. Philippians 2:13 (*Phillips*) says, “For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.” He is at work in you, solving your problems, building His strength in you, making His wisdom your wisdom, His ability your ability, His power your power.

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine and shall disclose

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it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.”<sup>9</sup>

You can have the confidence that God is not only *for* you, but that in every circumstance of life, He is *with* you. “In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration, but be of good cheer [take courage, because confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]”<sup>10</sup> No matter how big the trial or how hopeless the situation, Jesus has deprived it of its power to harm you. Come into agreement with Jesus. Forbid the situation you’re facing to harm you! Declare, “Greater is He who is in *me* than he who is in the world!”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Romans 8:31 *NKJV* | <sup>2</sup>2 Corinthians 1:8–10 *NAS* | <sup>3</sup>Colossians 2:15 *NLT* | <sup>4</sup>John 16:33 | <sup>5</sup>Daniel 6:22 *NLT* | <sup>6</sup>Deuteronomy 31:8 *TEV* | <sup>7</sup>Matthew 28:20 *NKJV* | <sup>8</sup>Acts 1:8 *NAS* | <sup>9</sup>John 16:13–15 *NAS* | <sup>10</sup>John 16:33 *AMP* | <sup>11</sup>1 John 4:4