PEACE, POWER, AND PROVISION

REVEALING THE "THREE P'S" OF YOUR GOD APPOINTED PLACE:

By

DAN DUKE

DEDICATION

To my sons and daughters

PREFACE

This booklet is a transcription of a teaching series that I produced on cassette. The sermons were transcribed and reproduced in booklet form with minimal editing to maintain the integrity of the message and the spirit of the sermon itself. I hope that what the booklet lacks in literary excellence will be superseded by the anointing emanating from the words of its message.

The purpose of this booklet is not to impress the reader with a flowery array of literarily significant prose, but rather to challenge him with a message that I believe is critically relevant to this prophetic generation and to the coming time of revival that God is preparing for His church. I pray that God will bless you, touch you, fill you with His fire, fill you with His glory, and rub you down with His anointing today as you enjoy this booklet on The Power of Your Place.

Dan Duke

INTRODUCTION

This is one of the most tremendous principles I have ever learned in my life or have ever seen in the Scripture. Really, it has so much to do with the anointing. If I were to ask you today, "Do you want God's anointing? Do you want that Holy Ghost fire and anointing working in your life?" Of course you'd say, "Yes!" Every believer wants the fire, the glory, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit in his life.

One thing I've learned is that the anointing is associated with being in your place spiritually and geographically. In your place is where you'll have the richest anointing on your life. So in this booklet, we're going to be talking about the power of your place. The benefits of being in your God-appointed place are absolutely enormous. That's where you'll discover what I call the "three P's" of your place. They are peace, power, and provision.

First of all, in your place is where you'll have peace. I can assure you that you'll never find true, lasting peace outside of your appointed place of service.

Secondly, in your place you'll have power. By "power" I mean true spiritual authority and anointing. You'll discover your anointing, your "unction to function," when you're in your place. If Satan can entice you to step out of your place—if you get offended, angry, or whatever, and abandon your place—you will lose your anointing and the power that comes from being in your appointed place.

So it's peace, power, and number three of the "three P's" is provision. Your God-appointed place is where you find your provision in every realm. That's where God meets you with His provision. The prophet Elijah told Ahab there was going to be a famine in the land and that it was not going to rain until he said so. Afterward, the Bible

says that for three and a half years there was a terrible famine in the nation of Israel. Yet God spoke to Elijah, "I want to send you to the brook Cherith. I've commanded the ravens to feed you there, and I've commanded that brook to supply you water." Throughout the duration of the famine, all Elijah had to do was abide in the place that God had appointed him. It was there in his place that the ravens brought bread and flesh in the morning, bread and flesh in the evening. While Israel was famished, Elijah was feasting. The man of God was never without his daily provision for two reasons: first, because he was doing what God told him to do, and second, because he was in the place God told him to be. Make sure you understand this. All during the time of famine when he was completely surrounded by dryness, famine, and distress, Elijah enjoyed a place of provision. He was at peace sitting by the brook. His anointing was flowing there and he had provision because he was in his place. This is a tremendous principle. It's so important that you abide in your place.

A PLACE PREPARED BY JESUS

In John 14:2, the Lord Jesus said, *"I go to prepare a place for you."* There are two applications for that. The first is the place that Jesus has prepared for you in eternity. That place is through the veil, at the mercy seat, under the wings of the cherubim, in the very manifest presence of God! That's the place. It's the place no one could go. The veil was there.

When God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden, He put angels with flaming swords to keep them out of His presence; but Jesus abandoned (I say abandoned in the sense that He left voluntarily) His place that He might open a door for you. He came out that you might go in. He went to prepare a place for you in the very presence of God. Imagine, all eternity in God's very presence!

Jesus said, "I've gone to prepare a place for you." In eternity, that's the place in God's presence. In the here and now, it's the place of your natural position, your naturally appointed place of provision. It's a location here in the natural, right here in the real world. Please understand that these things are important. They're important to God. It's important to God where you live. It's important to God where you work. It's important to God where you go to church. He's appointed a place for you in every one of these realms, and it's important that you are in them. Now consider this: the natural place is where you find provision for the supernatural. Let me say that again: your place in the natural is where you'll find provision for the supernatural.

Look with me at I Corinthians 15:46. *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."* So the natural comes first. Many of us think that the spiritual must come first, but the spiritual is very closely associated with the natural. When you abandon your naturally appointed place, you abandon your provision for the supernatural. It's so important that you understand this.

The Scripture teaches that the Lord Himself plants you in a particular place such as a particular body of believers where you can grow and contribute. God has a place for you. You can see this in I Corinthians 12:18. *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."* So God has placed you in a body of believers. He's placed you in a position. He's assigned you to a city. He's assigned you to a local congregation. That's your place, and in that place is where you're going to experience peace. It's where you're going to have true spiritual power. It's where you're going to receive provision for your life. If you abandon your place, you risk losing those three things. You risk losing your peace, you risk losing your power and your anointing, and you certainly risk losing your provision.

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PLACE

WITHIN THE BODY

Exodus chapter 40 describes the time when Moses had completed the construction of the tabernacle. It had not yet been assembled, but all of the articles of furniture, all of the covering, and all of the intricate details were finished. Then it was time to assemble it and put everything in its place. The story is a bit lengthy, and I recommend you read the entire account. Briefly, it reads like this, *"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation."* So the Lord began by telling them, "Set up the tabernacle. Everything's ready. Everything's been prepared. Assemble it. Put it all together. Put the ark of the presence in there. Put the showbread, the lampstand, the golden altar, the door, the brass altar, the laver—put everything in its place."

Verse 9 says they were to take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle *when everything is in its place*. That's important for this reason: after everything was in its place, *then* it was anointed. It wasn't anointed until it was set in its place. I believe that's exactly what the Spirit of God is doing today. He's assembling the body of Christ. He's assembling the temple made without hands, and it is vitally important that every member, including you, be in his God-appointed place. First, Moses set the lampstand in its place,

then he anointed it. Nothing could be used in the temple until after it was anointed. Everything had to be anointed. It was not acceptable to God because it was beautiful, because it was gold, or because it was hand-made. It wasn't acceptable to God until after it was anointed.

That principle still applies today. God's not going to use anyone that's not anointed, and He's not going to anoint you until you're in your place. So the message is this: *Get in your place*. Discover the place where God has appointed you. He has placed you somewhere, and you'll have peace when you are in that place. That's where your anointing will flow through you. That's where your provision will be. The lampstand didn't have to do anything except stand there. It was the priest who came and filled it with oil. It was the priest who came to trim the wicks. All it had to do was stand in its place. The same principle applies to you!

The church needs to discover this principle of being in your place and just standing there, shining. It's tremendous! Look again at Exodus chapter 40. Moses finished his work, and in verse 34, *"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."* Hallelujah! That's going to happen in the body of Christ. That's going to happen in these last days. That's going to happen as God shakes the church, shakes congregations, shakes people out of the places they're *not* supposed to be, and shakes them into the places they *are* supposed to be. It's going to be like Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones—shaking, shaking, then adjoining and standing up—an exceedingly great army marching through the nations of this world—not in human hype, but in divine destiny, divine authority, and anointing. Praise God, I see it coming to pass.

Once again, the critical issue is being in your place. There's absolutely no point in seeking the anointing, crying to God for the anointing, or fasting for an anointing unless you're in your place. If you get in your place, God will anoint you there. That's where you'll find your provision. Get in your place. That's where you'll have peace, power, and provision.

Let me emphasize this point from I Corinthians 12:18: *"Now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."* Notice it doesn't say *as it has pleased them*. It might not please them. It might not please you, but it'll please God—and you'll be pleased with the benefits. The benefits come with the place. The power comes with the place. The authority comes with the place. The anointing comes with the place. Be in your place!

Let's look at another example in Judges 7:21. *"And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled."* This is the account of Gideon's three hundred at war with the Midianites. The Bible says they were outnumbered, they were out-armed, they were out-everything. They didn't have a chance in the natural. They were defeated. They were slaves and prisoners to the Midianites. Yet here comes Gideon with his army of three hundred men, and what a tremendous story unfolds. God had previously decreased Gideon's army from thirty-two thousand to only three hundred, and the Bible says that they had nothing in their hands but a trumpet and an empty pitcher. That's exactly what God is looking for today. He's looking for men, women, boys, and girls who are nothing but a trumpet and an empty pitcher. He wants to add wind and breath to your trumpet and put fire in your pitcher. Then, as you stand to lift up your voice like a trumpet, the Midianites in your life will hear the blast of the

trumpet of God, the proclamation of the Gospel, and flee from you. Let God break your vessel so the light He's put in you can shine out. The Bible says these three hundred hopelessly out-armed, outnumbered, and untrained men stood with their trumpets and their pitchers. As they stood in their place, the Midianites fled from before them, crying out as they fled.

Hallelujah! Does that show you the power of being in your place? The demons fear you when you're in your place. When you're merely standing in the place that God has appointed for you, they will flee before you. That' why they seek to entice you and draw you out of your place.

That's why there's so little power and so little glory in the church of Jesus Christ today, because the place of unity is the place of glory. You can only be in true unity when you are abiding in the place God has appointed you to stand. Outside your place there may be human or soulish unity based on common interests; however, that is not the unity of the Holy Spirit that allows the oil of anointing to flow down from the head to the hem of the garment (see Psalm 133). When you're in your place, there's glory. We're going to see that later in this booklet. All Gideon's men had to do was stand in their place and lift up their voices. God caused their enemies to flee before them. Don't let Satan entice you out of your place. Don't let this "grass is greener in the other field" pattern of thinking function in your life. God has a place for you, and you want to be in your place. Because your place is such a critical key in your life, Satan's strategy is to root you out. Don't fall for it. Don't let him pull you out of your place. Stay in your place!

LEARNING TO RECOGNIZE

YOUR PLACE

You may say, "Brother Dan, I'm not sure that I'm in my place." Let me ask you this: How's your peace? How's your anointing? How's your provision? All three of those are good indicators. I'm not saying that every circumstance in your life will be perfect if you're in your place, but I am saying that there are guidelines and indicators. The first is that you have peace. You can have peace when you don't particularly like the place because peace is not the same thing as happiness. Happiness is associated with circumstances, while peace is a fruit of the Spirit. Peace is a manifestation of the presence of Jesus. Even in a place that you might not select for yourself, there can be peace. Take an inventory. Take a peace inventory. Is there peace?

Secondly, is there power? Is there anointing in your life? If you're out of your place, you're not going to have a rich anointing. You're not going to have a fresh flow of oil being poured into you. There won't be fresh showbread placed upon you on a regular basis. The tabernacle is the illustration of this. You need to be in your place.

Provision is the third indicator that you are abiding in the place God has appointed you. I'll discuss this in greater detail in another section of this booklet.

Your God-appointed place is where God has ordained proper relationships. They'll be developed in that place. Jesus is building, by the Spirit, a temple made without hands. Jesus is building an eternal habitation for God: men, women, boys, and girls—a temple of living stones. The Bible says that we are those *living stones*. I Peter 2:5 says we are the spiritual house, built up to offer spiritual sacrifices, a holy priesthood. We are that living tabernacle, and as such, many living stones are being connected, stone to stone. Again I say, relationships are important. Using the example of Solomon's temple, the stones were prepared in the field, then fitted together into a temple of glory. It's the same in the Spirit. We are *living stones* brought together into God-given relationships. When this happens, the gift of God, the anointing of God, and the power of God can flow through right relationships. At that point, there will be churches where every joint supplies.

How can every joint supply if some are missing? What if they are joined some place else? Right now, we're seeing an adjustment in the body of Christ. We're seeing people being put back in the place God has appointed for them. There's been a shaking. It's occurring right now. People will become disgruntled, unhappy, and discontented. Really, that's the plan of God because they're not in their place. Out of the shaking, God will shake them out of where they're *not* supposed to be and shake them into where they *are* going to be. Then, the glory of God can fill His temple.

That's the plan of God: that His glory fill His temple. Praise God, I'm looking forward to that. The nations are crying for a church of power, a church of glory, a church

of unity. The only place of unity is in the glory. There's not going to be unity in the church except in the glory. There's not going to be a bonding together of individuals except in the glory. When you bond in anything else, it becomes divisive. If you bond around doctrine, around personalities, or around anything that you may believe God is doing today in the church today, if you find yourself bonded in anything except in the glory, that bonding is divisive. It separates.

On the other hand, when you've been touched by the glory and filled with the fire, when you're in your place . . . that's where the gifts flow. That's where the anointing flows—when you're in your place. I want to exhort you and encourage you today to be in your place. Get to the place where God has called you. What do you do there? You stand and shine, worship and give, participate and pray, and sacrifice when necessary. That's what you do. In other words, you do what you are probably doing now, only you do it in your God-appointed place.

God's doing this shaking, but He's in no hurry. Isaiah 28:16 says, *"Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."* In other words, God is not in a hurry, and a hasty spirit on your part isn't going to help matters. The purpose of this booklet is certainly not that people begin running around, frantically looking for their place. "Oh I've got to be in my place," they say. "I've got to be in my place!" Consequently, they leave the place where they are, in search of a different place. That is most assuredly not the purpose or the message in this booklet. The message in this booklet is that God has a place for you. Read on.

I was preaching recently in a series of meetings. As I was preparing my heart, the Lord said to me, "Go in and tell the people, 'There's a place in the plan for you.'" There's a place for you in the plan of God, Hallelujah! There's a place for you to fit. There's a place for you to function. There's a place for you to be anointed. There's a place for you to be provided for. There's a place for you of rest and peace. God's appointed it for you in His plan.

When you're in your place, you can be in the midst of famine or storm. You can be like the apostle Paul on his way to Rome to be tried and imprisoned. He was on a ship in a terrible tempest that lasted fourteen days. Yet in the midst of it, the apostle Paul still had the "three P's"—peace, power, and provision. Read the account in Acts chapter twenty-seven. The glory of God was upon Paul. Jesus came and spoke to him and he was able to tell the centurion soldier, "God has shown me that this is going to be a voyage of much hurt and damage, but that no lives will be lost." That may seem impossible in the natural, but it happened. The man of God stood in a terrific storm lasting for many days. For days and days they had not seen the sun, but Paul still had peace. Why did he have peace? —Because he was in his place. He was under divine orders. Though the circumstances were difficult, the apostle Paul had his provision.

You may say, "Brother Dan, can I be in my place in the midst of a storm?" Sure you can! Chances are you *will* be, but the storm wasn't for Paul's punishment. It was just the opposite. Paul was there for the people. He was there so that lives would be saved. He had the same circumstances sweeping over him as everyone else, but he had peace. He was the prisoner. He was in chains, yet he had power. He was the one going to

the Supreme Court of Rome. He was the one whose very life was in jeopardy, yet he had a provision. Why? —Because he was in his place.

HOW TO FIND YOUR PLACE—

BE STILL AND SEEK GOD

I want to take just a moment to caution you and remind you the purpose of this booklet. The purpose of this booklet is *not* to cause you to go about wondering and fretting over whether or not you're in your place. The purpose of this booklet is to exhort you to be in your place and to give you some guidelines and indicators to let you know whether or not you are in the place that God has appointed for you.

Every area of your life is important—the city in which you live, the job that you hold, the ministry that you're conducting, the congregation that you're a part of. All of

those are important to God. In every area of your life and your family, God has an appointment for you. The bottom line is that most people, in some areas of their life, are out of their appointed place.

Here's the key. Here's one of the most important things that I can say to you in this booklet. If you don't remember anything else, please remember this: **Don't go about seeking your place!** You may say, "Well Dan, what do you mean? You've been exhorting us about the place." Listen, I want you in your place, but you don't find your place by seeking it. You find your place by seeking the Lord and allowing Him to place you. I hope that's not too simple for you. Don't fret over your place. Don't lose one moment's sleep about whether or not you're in your place. Seek God. Seek Him, find Him, worship Him, and be in His presence. Live your life of devotion to Jesus, and He'll place you.

You can be in your place, yet not have the depth of relationship with God that He is calling you to. Relationship is everything. Relationship with God is everything. Your place is going to pass away with the fashion of this world, but your relationship with Jesus, your friendship with Him, your communion with Him is eternal. So you don't seek a place. Don't fret for one minute over your place—whether or not you are in your place. Seek God and let Him place you. I'll say it again, seek God! Be in His presence. He will get you to your place.

In Exodus 24:12, the Lord spoke to Moses and said, "Moses, I want you to go up into the mountain, into the cloud of My presence, and I want you to be there." That's what God is saying to you and me today. "I want you to go into My presence, and I want

you to *be there*." Moses was in the mount for six days. On the seventh day, the cloud covered the mountain, and God spoke to Moses out of the cloud. He wants to do that for you. He wants to speak to you out of the cloud. That's where God speaks. He speaks out of the cloud of His presence and glory.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus, Peter, James, and John were on the mount of transfiguration. Again, the cloud descended, and the voice of God came out of the cloud. If you get in the cloud of God's presence, God will talk to you; and when you get in the cloud of God's presence, stay there as long as possible. If you abide long enough, God will speak to you. He'll say to you, "You're supposed to be in Omaha. You're supposed to be in Hawaii. You're supposed to be in Guatemala, or you're supposed to be right here in this city. This is your city. This is your neighborhood. I've appointed it to you, and this is your place." I'm sure you get the message.

That alone will change your life. When you *know* that you're in your city because God has called you there, you'll be changed. That alone will change your attitude toward the city and toward its citizens. You will begin to feel a sense of connection, belonging, and destiny. Suddenly, you can say, "I'm here because God put me here; therefore, what goes on here is my business." It's a powerful principle.

If you're in a local church because God has sovereignly placed you there, you will find the provision for your ministry in that place. Many people have no concept of what their ministry is because they're out of their place. They're going to a place *they've* chosen, thinking they might find an open door for *their* ministry. You don't get it that way. You get it by seeking God and allowing Him to place you. You get it by seeking God and hearing His voice saying, "This is where I want you." When you walk through

the doors of the church where God has placed you and begin to worship, there's an indescribable peace that comes from knowing that God has appointed you a place right there. You're an appointed participator and an appointed worshiper; and as long as you're there, you're anointed to do what you do. That will change your life. When it is time to give, you'll give. When it is time to sacrifice, you'll sacrifice. When it is time to endure, you'll endure. When it is time to sail through some rough waters, you'll sail. You're not leaving. You're not bailing out because you're in the place God has appointed for you. It's wonderful!

God has a place for you. Do you remember my statement earlier? "There's a place in the plan for you." God is moving. God is moving across America. God is moving among the nations of the world. We're in the greatest time of revival right now that has ever occurred in your lifetime. God is doing more today than He's ever done in your lifetime. You could not be alive at a better time than right now. You're perfectly positioned, and that's even more of a reason to be in your God-appointed place. Has something happened to upset you, causing you to leave your place, thinking, "I'll teach them. I'll just leave." If so, do you know what you've left behind? You've left behind your peace, your power, and your provision. You'd better get right back there. If God moves you, that's one thing, but most people who move from church to church are not moving because God moved them. I can tell you that right now. They're moving because they're discontented.

Don't ever be routed out of your place. Stay in your place. If you're not in your place, seek God until He places you. If you don't know whether or not you're in your

place, seek God until He tells you. He'll tell you. This is important to God. He'll tell you. He'll tell you.

THE PLACE OF PEACE

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall

come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. *Haggai 2:7-9*

There are tremendous benefits that come to you when you're in your place. Look at the words of the prophet Haggai again, *"And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts."* There's a house being built today that's going to be filled with glory. Notice verse 8, *"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."* There's a house of glory, and there's a house of provision. Verse 9, *"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts."* Here we see a house being built that's a house of glory, a house of peace, and a house of provision. That's why you don't want to abandon your house. That's why you don't want to abandon your place, because it's a place appointed for glory. That's where the glory is going to be. That's where the silver and gold are going to be available.

I can tell you right now, wherever there's glory, there's provision. Wherever there is glory, there is revival. Wherever there's revival, there's provision. Provision comes to revival. Money is not the problem. It's not a lack of money that's the problem, it's a lack of glory. When revival comes to you and the glory of God falls upon you, provision will

come along with the package. When you're in the place of glory, you'll have peace. When you're in the place of glory, you'll have provision. Hallelujah, be in your place! That's the message. Just get in your place.

Proverbs 27:8 says, *"As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place."* There are a lot of wanderers today—people that have wandered from their place. A bird that has wandered from her nest has no place of rest. She has no abiding place, no rest in her life. That's an indication of someone who is out of his or her place. They simply have no rest.

Look at Ezekiel 37:26. *"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore."* There is a place to find peace. There is a place of multiplication. There is a place where God will set the sanctuary of His presence in your midst. What more could you ask for? What more could you want than peace and multiplication in your life and for your family? God wants to multiply you. He wants to multiply the seeds that you've sown. He wants to multiply the fruits and the effects of your labor. God says He'll multiply you and place His sanctuary in the midst of you. That's His presence! The place that He's appointed for you is where you find His presence. Just how valuable is His presence to you? I know you love Him today. I know you want to be in His presence. So He's leading you and guiding you, even to the point of putting this booklet into your hand to encourage you about being in your God-appointed place.

THE PLACE OF POWER

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. *I Corinthians 12: 18*

God has a place for you that pleases Him. It may not please you. You may want to be somewhere else; but it pleases Him, and that's whom we're aiming to please anyway. God has a place for you that pleases Him because that's the place He is going to fulfill His purposes for your life. That's what pleases God—the fulfilling of His purpose. He knows that as you're in your place, abiding in the relationships that He has appointed for you and receiving the ingredients He wants placed into your life, you will find your provision for the supernatural.

You're not going to have a supernatural ministry when you are out of your place in the natural. Every time you encounter a supernatural ministry, you know that that individual is in his or her place. That individual is functioning as he or she is divinely purposed by God to function.

In my own "Call to the Nations" team, we have traveled to literally hundreds of cities around the world. There are periods of time when we're traveling to different parts of the world or different cities in the United States every week. We've been doing this for years. I began my international ministry when my youngest son, Jon, who is now seventeen, was just an infant. People would ask me, "How do you do it? How can you possibly travel and go the way you are and still raise your family?" The answer is simple. In my place is peace. In my place is power. In my place is provision. In my

place is glory. In my place is multiplication. It includes everything—even my children. The greater includes the lesser.

THE PLACE OF PROVISION

I've never abandoned my children even though I've left them hundreds of times in the hands of God. Has it been easy? No. Have I wept over them? Yes. Has my heart been broken a thousand times for missing them? Yes. Have they suffered? No. Maybe you can relate to that, and maybe you can't; but the bottom line is either you're called to it or you're not. If you're called to it, it'll work. If you're not called to it and you try to do it, it won't work. The safest place for my children is for their dad to be in the will of God. Their safest place is not for me to be home watching their every move. The safest place for them is for me to be in the perfect will of God.

In the will of God is every provision. It's not been easy. It's not always been fun, but it's never been without provision. It's never been without peace. It's never been without glory, and it's never been without multiplication. For years now, we have seen multiplication in our lives every year.

I was in a campmeeting some time ago with my two youngest sons who were at that time fifteen and seventeen. In the campmeeting, the fire and glory of God were falling upon the people. When it came time for us to return home to meet some deadlines, my older son, my seventeen-year-old, said to me, "Dad, I believe God wants me to stay." I left him there. How could I say, "Son, God couldn't possibly want you to stay here in the fire and the glory." I left him there.

I rode several hours one day with my fifteen-year-old son, who had just gotten his driver's learning permit a couple of weeks prior. That meant that he could drive during daytime hours as long as a licensed adult was riding in the front seat of the car with him.

(Jon was fifteen then.) He and I were in the car together, and the Spirit of God was so precious. The unity between us was so precious. What God has done in him is so precious. There's not a rebellious bone in his body. There's nothing in him that is drawing him away and enticing him away into worldly things. Jesus did that because I'm in my place. It's wonderful to be in your place.

It's wonderful when God sets up His sanctuary in the midst of us. At times, people walk into our house and say, "It's wonderful here. The presence of God is here." He's set his sanctuary in the midst of us because we're in the place that pleases Him. It has not always been pleasing in the natural, but it has pleased Him. As a result of seeking Him, being before Him, being in the cloud of His presence, allowing Him to speak to us, and hearing His voice, He's stretched us over the years. He's challenged us with assignments that were beyond us. I'm challenged right now with assignments that are beyond me in the natural. Yet because I know that it's His appointment, I know that what God orders He pays for. I know that when my provision must increase, He multiplies my seed sown to make a provision.

I mentioned earlier in this booklet: *Don't fret about your place*. I don't think you need to even think another hour or pray another hour about your ministry. I believe you just need to seek God. Be in His presence. Worship Him. Love Him. Obey Him in the little things that He asks you to do. Be faithful where you are. A faithful man will abound with blessing. (Proverbs 28:30) He that's faithful over little will be faithful over much. (Luke 19:17) He that can handle two talents can handle five cities. You can be certain that God is watching the little things.

You don't need to become anxious or fretful about your place. "Oh, my God, Oh, my God! I've got to be in my place! I've got to be in my place!" No, your place is in the cloud. Your place is in God. Out of your relationship, your friendship, your communion, your heart-to-heart and face-to-face encounter with God, He will place you. Even though the disciples, Peter and John, were unlearned and ignorant men, it was obvious they "had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13) If you've been with Jesus, people will know it.

Look with me at a scripture in Jeremiah chapter 29 verses 11-14. *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* God has a predetermined and an expected end for your life. *"Then shall you call upon me, and you shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all of your heart."* Notice verse 14, *"And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."* It is as you seek the Lord with all of your heart that He will place you. God says that everyone who is out of his or her place is in captivity. They're in captivity because, out of their place, they have no peace, no power, no multiplication, no glory, no provision, and no sanctuary of His presence in the midst. That sure sounds like captivity to me.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

OF THE IMPORTANCE OF

RIGHT AND WRONG PLACES

As I said earlier, don't fret about your place. Seek God. That's the admonition. Seek God and He will place you. I want to conclude this booklet with two examples. One is an example of someone who was out of his place. The other is an example of the one who was in his place.

II Samuel 11:1 says, *"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem."* David was the king, and the scripture clearly says that it was the time when kings go forth to battle; however, David didn't go. He didn't go with his army. He stayed in Jerusalem. Because of that, he had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba and had her husband murdered in an attempt to conceal his sin. He married her, but the child, born of adultery, died. David brought reproach upon Israel and upon

himself. He violated his place in God and defiled his kingship. It was a terrible ordeal all because he was out of his place. He wasn't where he was supposed to be.

Look with me at another example in II Kings chapter 2. This is a story of Elijah and Elisha. Elisha was the young understudy and servant of the seasoned prophet, Elijah, who was due to be taken up into his reward in glory. Elisha, the young disciple, knew it. The other prophets told him, "Today thy master is going to be taken from thee," and he knew it. He began hanging close with Elijah. In II Kings 2:1-2, we read, *"And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee: for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel."* Listen to these words, *"and Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee."* Verse 4, *"Tarry here."* He said, "Stay here, I've got to go to Jericho." Elisha said, "No way! I'm not leaving you." Verse 6, Elijah said to him " Stay here, for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan." Elisha responded, "Oh no, I'll not leave you."

This went on and on. Finally Elijah said to him in verse 9, "What do you want? What can I do for you?" The reply was, "I want a double portion of your anointing." Elijah said in verse 10, "You've asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if you see me when I'm taken away from you, it shall be so unto you, but if not, <u>it shall not be so</u>." Underline that in your Bible. The prophet said, "If you are here, if you see it, if you're in the right place at the right time, so be it unto you, but if not, you're not going to receive it." Verse 11 says, *"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it."* Glory to God, talk about being in the right

place at the right time, he was there, and he got it! Verse 12, *"And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan."* He got his anointing because he was in the right place at the right time.

I trust this message has been a blessing to you. It is the heart of our "Call to the Nations" team to see a new generation come forth into their place in God. It has been repeatedly stated in the pages of this booklet to seek God that He might place you. I want to reinforce that one final time. Turn your eyes, your ears, and your heart toward Jesus. In actuality, He, Himself, is the place personified . . . find Jesus, find your place.

God, I pray today that you position everyone who is reading this booklet into his or her divinely appointed place and position. In Jesus' Name, Amen.