THE POWER SHIFT - SERMON ONE

Look with me at the most frightening words in your entire Scripture!

Matthew 6:22–23 – 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

INTRODUCTION:

- Jesus warned that the light a person thinks he possesses may be darkness. **What if the most dangerous deception is not what you cannot see, but what you are convinced you see correctly?**
- **And I believe one of the greatest crises facing the modern Church is not a crisis of power. It is a crisis of perception!**
- **We have confused activity with authority, emotion with revelation, and religious experience with spiritual understanding.**
- **We have inherited theological assumptions that we have never examined, repeated spiritual**

declarations that we have never investigated, and accepted limitations that God never placed upon us!

The most dangerous limitation in your life may not be something the enemy has imposed upon you. It may be something you have unknowingly agreed with!

- **A man can spend his entire life living beneath a ceiling that exists only in his mind**.

That is why the battle for your understanding is so consequential. Because you do not respond to life merely according to what is true. **You respond to life according to what you believe is true!**

I believe the Holy Spirit wants to confront some deeply rooted assumptions today.

- Not simply to give us more information, but to bring us into a greater understanding of the truth.

Ephesians 1:17–19 - 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,** 18 **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of

His calling, **what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,** [19] and **what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power**

- **You can be born again and still interpret your circumstances through the thinking of a captive.**
- You can possess a promise and live as though the enemy owns your future.

Paul did not first pray for the Ephesian Church to get a different enemy. He prayed for enlightened eyes.

- The problem was not the absence of Christ's victory. It was the need to comprehend its greatness.

Today we are going to change the size of what you see. Not by shrinking Satan in reality, but by bringing him into the light of who Jesus actually is.

- **Microscopes to not change the size of anything, it just changes the perspective of what is being looked at.**

- **When the Bible says: “Magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together…” We are not making God bigger; we are changing our perspective of what we see!**

1. God is BIG

Isaiah 40:12–26 - 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. 16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. 17 All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? 19 The

workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. 20 Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman to prepare a carved image that will not totter. 21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. 24 Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, and they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble. 25 “To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

- The oceans that can swallow continents fit within the imagery of His hollow hand. What man calls immeasurable, God calls measured.
- Isaiah does not compare God to the nations. He compares the nations to a drop in a bucket. The powers that intimidate the earth do not intimidate its Maker.
- God calls the stars by name, **yet we speak as though the crisis in front of us has escaped His attention. The Creator of galaxies has not misplaced your life.**
- Your battle may be larger than your strength, but it has never been larger than His throne. Stop making the size of the storm your measurement of the size of God.

2. THE ENEMY'S IS SMALL

Isaiah 14:16–17 - 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: **'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,** 17 Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

- **Satan is not the dark counterpart of God. God is uncreated and unlimited; Satan is created and limited. There is no equal contest for heaven's throne**.
- Isaiah pictures the fallen king of Babylon becoming an object of astonishment: "Is this the man?" In its traditional application to Satan's pride, the shock is not how mighty evil was, but how exposed it becomes.

Revelation 20:1–3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

- In Revelation, one angel acting under divine authority binds the dragon. The scene is future, but the revelation is present: Satan has never possessed authority equal to his Creator.

Colossians 2:15 - …And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- At the cross, **Jesus did not merely survive the powers of darkness. He disarmed and publicly triumphed over them.**
- **Never let the enemy's present noise erase Christ's accomplished victory.**

3. AN HEIR NOT A SLAVE

Galatians 4:1–7 Now I say *that* **the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,** 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons.** 6 **And because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 **Therefore you**

are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- Galatians describes an heir who is master of all yet lives under guardians like a servant. An inheritance can be legally real while its privileges are not yet fully enjoyed.

In Christ you are no longer a slave but a son. Spiritual maturity does not purchase sonship; it teaches you to live with the understanding of the sonship grace has already given.

1 Corinthians 13:11 - 11 When **I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child;** but when I became a man, **I put away childish things**.

- Paul said, "I thought as a child." Your new birth changes your standing in Christ, **but unrenewed thinking can keep interpreting freedom through the vocabulary of bondage.**
- The enemy does not need to revoke what Christ has given if he can persuade you to live as though you never received it.
- **The battle for authority often begins as a battle for understanding**.

4. SEATED IN CHRIST, STANDING IN FAITH

Paul prayed for opened eyes before he commanded armored feet. Revelation of Christ's supremacy is the foundation of resistance to the devil.

Ephesians 1 seats Jesus far above every principality and power.

Ephesians 1:17–23 - ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places,* 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.** 22 **And He put all *things* under His feet and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the**

church, [23] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2 says we have been raised and seated with Christ.

Ephesians 2:4–6 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

Only after revealing our position does Paul say, "Stand." You do not stand to make Christ victorious. You stand because the victorious Christ is your Lord.

TODAY IS THE DAY THE ENEMY GETS SMALLER

The God who measures the oceans is your Father. The Savior who disarmed the powers is your Lord. The Spirit who opens blind understanding dwells in you. You are not a spiritual orphan trying to get heaven’s attention. Christ is seated. In Him, you have been raised. Now stand.

The enemy did not become smaller today. Your revelation of Jesus became greater. And when Christ fills your vision, fear loses its throne.