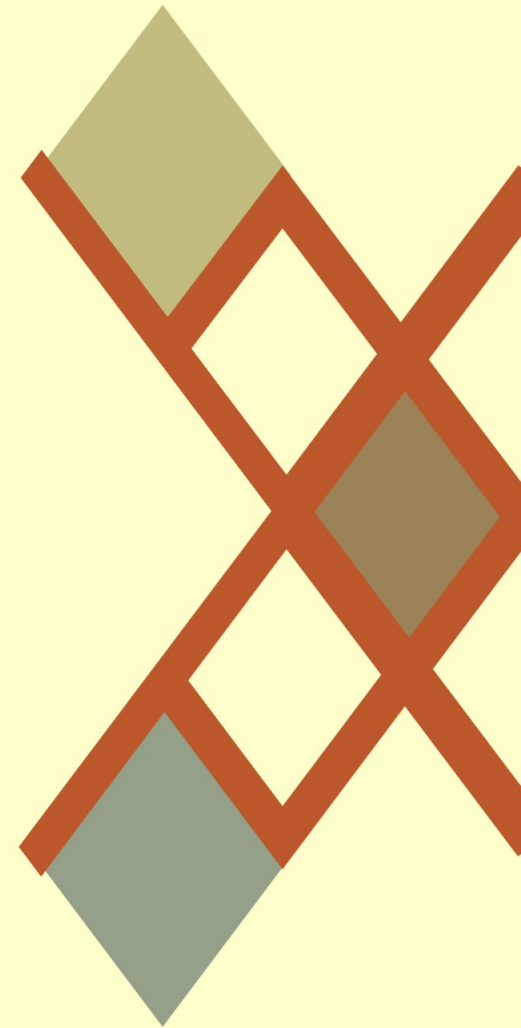


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AN  
ACCEPTABLE  
SACRIFICE  
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# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

□ **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

**THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN**

**TRUSTING GOD AND ACTING RESPONSIBLY**

□ **Romans 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

# DAILY RESPONSE

- **Luke 9:23** And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
- Deny: *arneomai*: just say no!
- Take up: *airo*: to lift up; to raise
- Jesus cross was His purpose
- **John 12:27-30** "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd *of people* who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.

# CALLED FOR A PURPOSE

## □ FROM THE BURNING BUSH:

- **Exodus 3:4-6** When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- Relocating his family; returning to a place where he committed murder; not wanting to do what he was called to do; definitely not wanting to be God's spokesperson

# RESISTANCE

- Moses' continued resistance made God angry!
- Aaron was appointed to be the spokesperson
- The later resistance of the people made God angry
- **Numbers 11:16-17** The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone.
- God raised up help for Moses and meat for the people

# THE TABERNACLE PREPARATION

- **Exodus 35:30-33** Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsman-ship; to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work.
- Throughout these OT examples, we see God placing His Spirit on people who are called for His purpose
- What a wonderful gift NT believers have: the Holy Spirit indwells us and empowers us as we move in the authority of Christ

# SEALING AND EMPOWERING

- **Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.
- The Holy Spirit empowers those who are acting in the authority of Jesus
- **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- Authority: *exousia*: the right to do something

# ABOUT AUTHORITY

- Authority: the right to do something
  1. given by a person/group to another person/group
  2. has a domain of operation
  3. operates according to rules established by the giver
- Jesus has all authority – He claimed it after His death and resurrection
- Individual Christians don't have all authority; we have the authority Jesus gives us for a specific time, place, and purpose
- When we are “called” to a specific purpose, we are given authority to act
- When we are given authority, the Holy Spirit moves in and empowers our work within the will of God
- This power (*dunamis*) is the ability to act



# EQUIPPING

- **Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- Measure: *metron*: a portion; a limited amount
- **Ephesians 4:12** ...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to build up of the body of Christ;
- **Ephesians 4:8** Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."
- **Psalms 68:18** You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your* captives; You have received gifts among men
- **2 Timothy 2:25-26** ...with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive

# THE SPRING EQUINOX

- ❑ **CALENDAR ISSUES:** 19 year cycle: 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19<sup>th</sup> years are “leap” years
- ❑ **Today is Nisan 15, 5781**
- ❑ March 27 – April 4 is Passover and Unleavened Bread
- ❑ Original Passover (leaving Egypt) full moon after spring equinox; Jesus rose on the Sunday after Passover
- ❑ **Matthew 16:13-16...** Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

# THE GATES OF HELL

- **Matthew 16:17-19** And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth **shall have been bound** in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth **shall have been loosed** in heaven."
- **Matthew 16:18-19 (HCSB)** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven."

# THE EMPOWERED GIFTS

- ❑ **There are listings of gifts in scripture:**
- ❑ **Ephesians 4:11** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers...
- ❑ 1 Corinthians 12
- ❑ Romans 12
- ❑ **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- ❑ When you answer the call to the purpose of your life, you receive authority and power to enable the call

# CONCLUSION

GOD WILL AFFIRM HIS WILL FOR  
US BY DOING WHAT HE HAS  
PROMISED TO DO.

HE SEALS, AUTHORIZES,  
AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS SO  
THAT THEY CAN CARRY OUT HIS  
WILL FOR THEIR LIVES