

Lord of Life Ministries

P.O. Box 2007, Fairfax, VA 22031 * www.lordoflifeministries.com

"To Forsake All"

By: Joyce Morris

07/13/1997

God wants to reveal His Son. He wants people to see Him for Who He is. The church has not revealed the Lord Jesus Christ, nor have they expressed the nature of God. They have expressed everything else but the nature of God. They have expressed the world and the traditions and doctrines of men that have no effect

God is looking for a people who will worship Him in spirit and truth and who want to become all that He wants them to be. He wants them to cry out and say, "God, change me. I want to become your love. I want to become your peace, your life."

God is life. You have to become that life in order to give life. You have to become that peace in order to give peace to someone else. You can only give what you have.

God showed me a principle. The only way you are going to become these things is that as you receive them from God, you must give them out. That is a principle of the kingdom. I said, "God, you are strange!" The more I get to know Him, the stranger He seems to be. He says, "I'm peculiar?" The Bible says God chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. We are a peculiar

people. The reason we get more peculiar is because sometimes I think God is peculiar. He is strange and works in strange ways. He does things totally contrary to the way the world does, the way we have been taught. In order to gain something, you must lose it. In order to get something, you get it, and then you have to give it back. God showed me that anything He gives you, you cannot keep it. You must give it back. Everyone wants authority, resurrection and life. Everyone wants to know how to obtain the fruits of the spirit and all that God has. Everyone is wanting more anointing. They are looking for the third anointing that David received. They want the anointing that will break the yoke of people. God wants to give you more authority. He has already given each one of you a certain amount of authority. Jesus had the spirit without limitation. God showed us that He wants us to have this life. He wants us to have life that we might minister life to others. God said the only way I can have life is to lose my life... That is the way God works. You must lose what you have. The flesh or the carnal mind will not like this. The spirit in you will, because in your heart you

know it is true because it is in the Word. I started thinking about this: In order to become all God wants us to become, we are going to have to lay it all down. We are going to the scriptures to see what it will take.

God began to show me that when the end comes, you are going to have to forsake all in order to get it. I am going to prove it to you in the scriptures. I remember about Aaron. In Hebrews it says that Aaron's rod budded. Where was Aaron's rod? It was in the holy of holies, and it budded. What does that mean? The rod is a symbol of power and authority. It had life in it because it budded. When Aaron ministered, he had life to minister to the people. Only his rod budded. I used to wonder why only his rod budded. Why did his rod bud and nobody else's rod did? It means that he had the very fruits of God and of the Spirit. The rod that he had, blossomed. It had life in it. Some people have authority, but there is no life in it, and it can bring you into bondage.

The Lord took me into *Numbers chapter 17*. Then he told Moses, "*Moses. I want you to give a rod to every person in the house of Israel. There is only one rod I will choose. I am going to*

choose a man's rod. The one that I choose will blossom. It will be a sign and a testimony to a rebellious people." He said only one will I choose out of that house. You know, you are the house.

When you received the power of the Holy Spirit, you received the rod. You have received a certain amount of authority. All the disciples received the authority, the anointing. Rod means power and anointing. The blossoms mean the fruits of the spirit. God wants them to go together. Jesus ministered with resurrection life and authority but with love in the fruits of the Spirit. There are Christians who receive the fruits of the Spirit, but you never see them grow in the fruits of God or in resurrection and life to minister to people. They do not have the authority Jesus had. Jesus gave the authority and power to the disciples in *Matt. 10:8*. He said, "Go and cast out devils in My name, raise the dead and cleanse the lepers." God has been telling me we need a balance. I have been seeing kingdom people come into a true message. God has really given us a deeper word and understanding in what He desires. He wants more for us than to have only the gifts. He wants us to come into His nature because it is the nature of that name that causes demons to tremble. He said, "In My name you shall cast out devils." It is the nature of God that causes those things to happen. God wants you to see that He wants us to have a balance. We may get off on one side or the other, but the Lord wants us to get in the middle and

stay there. You can go into the deeper things but will never be used of the Lord to minister to people. I have been asking God why kingdom people don't have the gifts functioning like those who are in Pentacost

I have been asking God this question for two years because I know that God is interested in more than just a temporary healing. God is more interested in changing people on the inside to bring them forth into the nature of His Son. That is my Father's desire because He created man in His image and likeness. He desires for us to be a total expression of Himself in this hour. God showed me that we go too far to one side. He wants the anointing to break the yoke off of His people. I believe that those who are coming into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ are going to have a ministry which is within the veil. They will have an anointing and authority to raise the dead, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, minister in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, and deliver His people. There are many people who are in many different bondages. God wants to deliver them out of those things. There needs to be a balance. We cannot go too far on one side and say we can get rid of the gifts. God wants us to prophesy only as we hear the Spirit and minister in the Spirit. We need to hear what God is saying. We need to hear from our Father and say what He wants to say. We do not do away with the gifts, only until that which is perfect is come. That which is perfect is perfect love. God is trying to get us to come into perfect love. None of us has

come into that yet. As long as we don't have perfect love, then we still have those things which are in part.

I don't believe in getting rid of anything until it is the Father's time. The Lord wants us to have the anointing and the authority to minister to people. He only chose Aaron's rod. I asked the Lord why He chose Aaron's rod and why Aaron became the high priest. He was the only one who could go behind the veil. He had the ministry within the veil. He also had the rod that budded.

Numbers 17:1-5 says, And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2, Speak unto the children of Israel and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers' twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. 3, And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. 4, And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. 5, And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

Notice he said, the man. The word *man* is a term for an individual who is maturing and is no longer a child in the kingdom of God. A child does not know what the Father wants or understand His ways. God does not want you to stay as a baby Christian. He doesn't want

you to stay on the milk of the word. He wants you to be weaned from your mother, the church, so you can have knowledge and understanding of His Word. Notice he gave the rod to a man "whom I choose." I like that. God is going to choose the ones to whom He will give authority.

The rod that God was going to cause to come forth was going to stop the murmuring of the people. That is what God is doing in our lives. He is bringing forth such an anointing in our lives, that it is ministering life to the people. It is not a rod that rules over you and keeps you in bondage. It is going to deliver God's people and set them free. It is going to stop their murmuring and complaining and cause them to be happy and begin to know who their God is. It is going to be a rod that will be a testimony and a sign to the rebels.

Numbers 17:6-8, And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and everyone of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. 7, And Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness. 8, And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. The word *almond* means fruit. It is shaped like a fruit. Not only did Aaron's rod bud, but it also bore fruit. Jesus said you will not know them by signs and wonders. You will know them by their fruits,

fruits of the spirit, including love. God wants us to become His love, joy, and nature. He chose Aaron's rod, and it blossomed.

God gave Moses and Aaron a rod each. They used the rod. God used Moses to part the Red Sea. He has given you the authority and responsibility to carry out what He started. Too long we have waited for God to do everything. We have been crying out for God to do it, but God is waiting for a people to do it. God has given us the power, authority and responsibility. When Moses was standing at the Red Sea, he was telling the people, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord," because God is going to do it. God spoke to Moses and said, "I'm not going to do it. Use the rod I have put in your hand."

When Moses raised the rod and used it, the sea parted and enabled the people to cross over. I thought, "God, you used Moses in such a tremendous way. Why didn't you choose *his* rod?" He didn't choose the rod of Moses because Moses represents the law. The law is the law of sin and death. That rod will never bud. There is a new law, the law of life. It is the law of life that God is bringing you into. He wouldn't use the rod of Moses. After He used Aaron, He said, "Moses, I am going to bring you before Pharaoh, and Pharaoh is going to ask you to show him a miracle. I am going to tell you to tell Aaron to cast his rod down." In order to become something, you are going to have to give it up. In order to become what God wants you to be, you have to totally lay it down. When you lay something down, you become it.

Exodus 7:9 says, When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. I started thinking about that. That took me to Jesus. Before Jesus went to the cross, He had a tremendous ministry. He had a ministry where multitudes of people were following Him. He had performed many signs and wonders with the rod and authority. He had all authority in heaven and earth. When He was hanging on the cross, they were saying to the Lord Jesus, "If you are God, why don't you come down and show us a miracle? You said you could destroy the temple and raise it again in three days. Do it, if you are God."

Here are Pharaoh and Aaron. What are they doing? Proving who they are in God. Here is Jesus, God in the flesh. He could have called all the angels and delivered Himself from the situation He was in. You need to understand that in order for you to come into what God wants; you are going to have to lose everything in order to gain it. Jesus was willing to go to the cross. He was willing to lay down His ministry. He was willing to give up His name and reputation. He was willing to give up all His friends. His mother was there. The disciples were there. Those who forsook him had left. John was there. Yet Jesus was willing to lay it down. He said in *John*

12:24, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He laid down His authority, anointing, ministry, and life. A serpent represents death. Because He laid these things down, He became death in order to conquer death.

There were many religious people and Romans who had gone into the synagogue. He taught them the truth of His Father's kingdom. They said they understood it then. At the crucifixion they said, "Why don't you come down off that cross? Why don't you save yourself?" That is what the carnal man is doing. Save yourself. Save yourself from situations and persecutions. Jesus would not come down because He said; you have to lose your life in order to gain it. You have to give your life totally to God. You have to lay your life down. Then God takes it up in order for you to be able to give life to others.

Aaron could have done two things. He had the power of God just like the disciples. Jesus gave the power and authority to the disciples, and over all enemies. Aaron could have demonstrated the anointing and authority he had and proved who he was. That is not what God wanted. I hear about ministries who are competing with each other and churches that are competing with each other, and it breaks my heart. Churches are competing, building their kingdoms, trying to outdo others and using the gifts with competition. God does not want that. That is not what it is all about. The flesh man is always

trying to save self. Here is an example-David and Saul. Here comes the competition. David came out of nowhere. Saul was looking good with his kingdom. He had his kingdom, people and reputation. When Saul came into town, everyone danced around and was talking about how many Philistines he had killed. He was looking good because the people honored him through fear. He kept the people in bondage and put different labors on them. Saul kept them under the law. Then God said, "Enough of that. I am going to bring in a new order. I am going to raise up an individual who will rule over My people in love," He began to raise up David. When David came along, he killed Goliath. Then he killed all those Philistines. When David came into town, the singers began to sing that Saul had killed thousands but David had killed ten thousands. At that time, envy set in. That is when Saul went after David because Saul wanted to save His kingdom. He did not want to lose his kingdom or his authority. He did not want to lose his ministry, recognition or reputation. If you go on with Jesus, you will lose your reputation. You will lose your ministry. You will lose your kingdom. You will lose it all as you go after God, but you will gain everything back.

Saul was not willing to go into the wilderness. David had to lose his reputation. He was looking good after he killed Goliath. He was there with the king. He gained recognition in the eyes of the people. Then suddenly all hell broke loose. When you make the decision to make Jesus Lord of your life, then

things start happening. God begins to drive you into the wilderness. What is He doing? In order for you to come to where God wants you, you must go to the bottom in order to come up. We are talking about climbing the ladder, but you have to go to the bottom of the ladder in order to start up. David was driven into the wilderness, and he lost his reputation quickly. Saul was ready to kill him, to destroy him. Then there was Jonathan. I will touch on Jonathan later.

We will read again from *Exodus 7:9-12*, When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. I want you to see what it did. This is good. I want to show you that even though you lose your life, ministry and reputation, it is important for you to see what you receive in return. *Exodus 7:11* reads, Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Turn with me to *Hebrews 2:14*, Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. That

was the point that Aaron understood. He knew he had to lay down everything instead of trying to compete and prove what he was. He had to lay himself down, his ministry, his authority and everything he had at the feet of Pharaoh. That is what Jesus did. He laid everything down unto death before Pilate and all the people. By doing so, He broke the power of death. God is telling us that He wants us to make a covenant with life. He wants us to break the power of death.

The only way to do that is to present your body a living sacrifice, for this is a reasonable service unto the Lord. He said if you hold onto your life, you will lose it. He said if you will not deny yourself and follow Me, you are not My disciple. To follow the Lord Jesus Christ, you have to give up your life in order to gain life His life. This is what happened to Jesus. He entered into a greater glory than He had while He was walking on the earth. The glory He had while He was ministering was not the glory He had before the foundation of the world. He knew that if He came this way that He would enter into a greater glory and a greater life. Not only that, He would not just be one, but He would cause a many-membered body to expand in the earth, and He would not abide alone. In addition, it took death to destroy death.

You do not have to go to the cross. All you have to do is die to self daily. If you want to come into a great ministry with power, anointing and authority, you have to come the way God tells you. It doesn't work any

other way. It is a narrow way, and it is getting narrower. It took death to destroy death. God showed us that we have already broken death through the cross. He bore death for us. He bore the old man for us. He bore the self nature for us. The Bible says in Hebrews 2:14, *That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.*

We understand the only way the enemy can work through you is in your mind. Every time you do not yield to the carnal mind, you are breaking the power of death. As long as you do not yield to those thoughts that are contrary to the Word of God, you are literally making a covenant with life. When we yield to sin, we are yielding to death, because sin is death. When we do not yield to sin, we are constantly bringing life. Aaron learned the principle of giving up what he had. That is why God chose him and told him that his rod was going to blossom and be a sign to those who rebelled. A rebellious individual is one who does not obey God or follow the Lord Jesus Christ. If you lay your life down for the Lord Jesus Christ, your life becomes a testimony. People start watching your life. It causes rebellion in the lives of others to stand out. You become a living testimony before people, because you have counted the cost and are willing to lose your life in order to gain His life.

I was thinking about Peter in Luke chapter 5. Before Jesus got there, Peter had been working all night. He had been working all night long trying to catch fish. We have been in the night, and

have labored trying to catch fish. We know fish are people. We know the kingdom is a message. Peter had a message, but it was the wrong message. He was out working all night long trying to catch fish, and he could not catch anything.

God has been telling us to sit down and let Him arise in us and do the work in this hour. The only work that He wants us to do is to work out our salvation. That salvation is nothing but the soulish realm of the mind. You must work on the thoughts. Some thoughts you have are not saved yet. Some thoughts you have do not exhibit faith and are not always the truth. Others do not line up with the mind of Christ.

Peter was working all night. He and his crew were still awake when Jesus came. Peter was probably very tired. Jesus told them to take their boat further out because there was a multitude of people who were pressing against Him. They got further out so Jesus could teach the people. He told Peter in Luke 5:4, *Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep.* That is what God is saying today. Many people are afraid to launch out into the deep. They are afraid of the unknown, afraid of something they are not accustomed to. We are like sheep and are accustomed to the same thing day after day. When God wants us to do something different, we are scared because it is foreign to us and is something we have never experienced. God is telling us to launch out into the deep. What does He mean, launching out into the deep, the deep calling unto the deep? We

have the spirit in us, and God wants us to come deeper into him. He is wanting us to come into deeper knowledge and understanding of what He is saying. He wants us to launch out to Him and what He is saying. I want to know what the heart of My Father is saying in this hour. What is the thing that is nearest to Him? Some will say they want to stay where they are. They do not want to change. When you follow Jesus, you will experience a succession of changes. He keeps you moving. The only way He can keep you moving is to let a problem happen. If He does not give you a problem, you get content where you are, and you erect a tent to camp out in that place. We do not want to move on in God. God never wants you to sit down. Israel was always sitting down and looking back. God wants you to go further in Him. He continually allows something to come along to get you to move. People are afraid of change.

I remember one time we went in a nursing home. We did not say we were Baptist, Methodist or Presbyterian. God laid it on our hearts to only minister the Word. One woman said, "Well, I'm Episcopalian." Another woman said, "Well, I am a Methodist." Another one said, "We don't know what you are. We do not know if we want to hear what you have to say." I knew that we had a problem on our hands. We started singing new songs. Then someone said, "We don't know those songs. Why are you singing songs we never heard of?" I said, "Well, they are in the Bible." They complained because they did not

want to change. God is telling us to launch out into the deep. That spirit in me is calling me into the deep and telling me to reach down within myself and bring out what God wants to say in this hour. What did He tell Peter when he launched out into the deep? Let down your nets. The net means the message. The kingdom is like a net. In Matthew it talks about the kingdom of God being like a net. A net is something you use to catch something with. Peter had the wrong message.

That is why he worked all night. He did not catch anything because he had the wrong message. Jesus had the right message, and that message was the kingdom of God. He said, "Peter, if you launch out into the deep, I will teach you the mysteries of the kingdom. After you get the message, you are going to have to lay it down." God is telling us that the message and the mysteries He has given us, will have to be laid down so we can become the message. The "Go, tell" is over with. It is showing time. You will not have to run and tell people-just "be" what God wants you to be. The message is the kingdom, and the message is the life of giving. The message is love, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. You cannot give anyone joy unless you become joy. You cannot give anyone love unless you become love. He said, "Lay the net down. Become it." Do you know what he did? Peter said, "Master, we have toiled all night and have taken nothing. Nevertheless, at Thy word I will let the net down." God is showing us the time is going to come that we are going to have to lay our

ministries down. We are going to have to lay our gifts down. We are going to have to lay down everything that God gives us because He doesn't give us anything to keep. It is to give out. He was saying let our message down, lay it down and become it. Then we are going to catch some fish. When Peter did that, he did according to His word. That is true worship. Worship is becoming that worship. Praise is becoming a lifestyle of praise. It is a life of praise. It is not, "Praise, hallelujah, thank you, Jesus." It is going around with praise inside your being and with thanksgiving. People can look at you and see the joy in your face, the twinkle in your eye and the love of God flowing through you. It is becoming a lifestyle every day. It isn't what you do here. You are coming here to be prepared, trained and taught how God wants you to become. He is telling you how you can become it and that is to give it back to Him and become what He wants you to be. It is not what you do here. It is what you do in your job and in your home. It is how you behave around your family, your friends and your enemies. God is preparing a table in the midst of your enemies, and they are going to see you feasting on this, and that is what is going to make them come. The time is coming where you won't have to say, "Come to Zion," but they are going to say, "Let us go up to Zion." The Bible says multitudes will come to your rising. (Is. 60:3) What does God say to arise to? Arise to all things He has told you to become. They are going to come to that light which is the expression of the Father. When

Peter let his message down, something happened. They caught so many fish they broke the net. There were so many fish the net could not hold all of them. We are not lifting up this ministry. It is an expansion of the kingdom, and it is to draw people to the Lord Jesus Christ and to what He wants them to have.

After Peter caught all those fish, James and all of them looked at the multitude of fish, and the net broke and they had to call other brethren to help them. I believe if we were to arrive and become everything that God has taught us and begin to live it and express the Father, we will have to call someone to help us because we will be so busy. We had a vision and prophecies where God showed us people are crying out. They are wanting to be delivered from their bandages. They are crying out to God, and God says, "I have heard their cry, and I am sending a man to deliver them and to bring them out of their bondage." Do you know what interested me more than anything else? After Peter had caught so many fish, what did he do? He forsook it all and followed Jesus. God is interested in people because He loves people.

Luke 5: 11 says, *And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed him.* I don't care how far you get in God or how God uses you, He will still say, "Follow Me." Think about Abraham and his life. I like Abraham because I studied his life. When God spoke to him, he separated himself. He forsook his father, his mother and his family, and he followed God. God is looking for a people who

will follow His Son and obey Him and do whatever He tells them to do. Abraham did that. As you read about the life of Abraham, he made some mistakes. He disobeyed God a couple of times and got in trouble. Then he would go back and build an altar and begin to worship God and get his relationship back with God. Then God promised him a son. That son was Isaac. God wants to birth a son in us. It is the Christ.

Abraham waited and waited. Sometimes you have waited, and you feel like nothing is happening in your life. You haven't changed, and you try to do something. Then all you do is produce flesh. Abraham listened to Sarah, and Sarah said, "You know, we are not going to have any children. We are getting too old." Some of you are getting ready to birth something, and it is the Christ. Abraham produced the flesh (Ishmael) which caused a lot of problems. God didn't speak to Abraham for a while. Abraham learned through the things he suffered. You are learning through the things which you suffer. In *Genesis chapter 22* God called, "Abraham!" And it didn't take Abraham five days to answer him. God just said, "Abraham!", and Abraham didn't put God on hold and say, "Hold on just a minute. I've got to go feed my calves," or "Hold on; I have to go tend to my wife." No, he said, "Here I am, Lord," very quickly because he had learned. He had birthed a son before that happened, which was Isaac. He had waited all those years to birth a son. Isaac represents the Christ, the anointing.

God wants to birth His Son in you and me, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1: 14* tell us, *The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.* The word is changing you into His nature and His image. He wants to birth the Christ in a many-membered body so that all of the glory will cover the earth. He birthed that son who was so dear to his heart. When you begin to be changed more into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ and you begin to receive more anointing and more authority, you are going to like it. Abraham loved his son. God spoke to him and said, "Abraham, I want you to go to Mount Moriah early in the morning. Early in the morning Abraham rose up. On the third day (and we are coming into that third day), God told me something. He said, "When it comes down to the whole thing, you are going to have to forsake it all." In other words, even the ministry, the anointing and the Christ. You are going to have to lay down the thing you love most. Abraham loved his son more than anything else. Can you imagine waiting for a son all those years until he was 100 years old before he had a child even in the natural? Some of you are waiting to come more into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. You have waited for so long for God to deal with every area of your life. We are still waiting. It is a time of waiting and preparation. God wants to bring us to the fullness of Himself so we will bear His glory. Sometimes we fall in love with the glory more than we do God. Jesus is the pattern Son, and He had to lay down His ministry and

go to the cross. It will come to a point in each of our lives, that we will be willing to give up everything we love--family, children, job, ministry and spouse. The very thing Abraham loved was the thing that God said he had to give up. He even tested Abraham and said, "Not only do you have to give your son to me, you have to kill him." Abraham knew God. He knew God was testing him because he told those men, "We will be back." He told the men waiting for him that he and Isaac would be back because he knew God already had a sacrifice. What God wants you to know is that Jesus Christ is the sacrifice. Whatever you give up, you just give it to Him in order to gain. Abraham went to the point of raising the knife. Then an angel spoke in *Genesis 22: 12, And he said Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son.* God does that to see if you are going to give it to Him or are going to hold on to it.

Anything you hold onto, you will lose. Anything you give to God, you will gain it back. In other words, in order to obtain all that He wants you to obtain, you are going to have to end up giving it up. Everything that He gives you, it isn't given to you to keep. He doesn't give you your children for you to keep them but to give back to Him. He doesn't give you a job to keep your job but to give it to Him. He wants to be Lord of everything. Abraham didn't withhold anything, and neither did Jesus. When He went to the cross, He didn't withhold anything from God. He gave it all

back to God so He could enter into a greater glory.

God reminded me of the men in Revelation. They had made it to the throne. They had made it to that place of authority and anointing. They were in the throne and they were saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb that was slain," and they were giving Him all the praise and all the glory. They had crowns on their heads, but they did not keep their crowns. The Bible says they threw them at the feet of the Lord. Do you know what those crowns were? In Revelation 3, it says they were crowns of life, because they were willing to be tested and tempted of Satan and put in prison for 10 days (which is testimony and responsibility). They were a people who were willing to go that direction, and they were willing to pay the price even to the point of losing their lives. I'm not talking about physical death, but they were losing their reputation, recognition, their ministry, and everything they had unto God. They were the ones who ended up with a crown of life. Even after they got the crown of life, they laid it down at the feet of Jesus and they said, in *Revelation 4:10, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* The ministry, the anointing and everything He gives you is for His pleasure. You will have to return to Him everything that He

gives you.

Everything that was gain to Paul, he counted as loss. Anything that is gain in your lives, if you do not count it as loss, you will not win the Christ, which is the anointing. I will give you an example. Jonathan was in a valley of decision. Christians today are in a valley of decision. They are always making decisions whether or not to make Jesus Lord every day. Jonathan had seen two orders. He saw Saul's order which was always saving the flesh, saving his reputation and kingdom. Saul went out to kill David, thinking David was like him. He thought if he had hate, then David must have hate. He thought if he had envy, a reputation, a kingdom, then David must also have or desire those things. That is the way the flesh man is, competing all the time, trying to outdo others and be bigger than others, always wanting to put others down in order to exalt oneself. These are what Christians do today. They go around talking about other ministries because they want to exalt their ministry.

We need to be careful what we say about people because we do it with the wrong motive at times, so we will look better to others. David was a different order. He was willing to be driven into the wilderness. He thought Saul was driving him into the wilderness, but it was not Saul at all. It was God. David could not stay up there with Saul and his reputation. He could not stay up there with all the glory and with all the people saying "David the king." He had to decrease and lose his reputation. He had to lose all his glory,

power, authority and everything. Because he was willing to lose, God began to send people to join up with him. God called them mighty men. They were with Saul, but they realized that David had something better. Jonathan was in position to become king. When he saw David, he had a revelation. Before he met David, he had some honey. Saul had told him, "You cannot eat that honey. Nobody can eat the honey." It was going to destroy the Philistines, but he said, "Nobody can eat." That is what the flesh man is saying today. You cannot eat the deeper things of God, always putting fear in people's hearts to keep them from having the understanding, wisdom and knowledge that God is saying in this hour. If they can keep you that way, they can hold on to you. I am not trying to hold on to any of you here. You can leave tomorrow if you want to. I don't want you to because I love you. We want the Father to bring you by the spirit. Jonathan had a revelation that Saul was the problem in Israel because he ate the honey. Jonathan was in a place of decision. He would visit and spend time with David. He said, "David, you and I will reign together when you get on the throne." Then he would go back to Saul. There was a decision he had to make. He started thinking. He didn't want to lose his reputation. Saul is pleasing to the flesh. Saul will please your flesh. Saul will not deal with the intents of your heart, your motives or things that are within you. Saul will build you up. Jonathan would go with David, and then he would come back. The Bible says David was invited to Saul's

table, but David would not go back to Saul's table. Jonathan ate at Saul's table. Notice that at that table was a wall, of bondage. Jonathan had to make a decision. Am I going to go with David, which is God's move, God's anointing, or am I going to stay with the old order? You and I must lay our lives down.

Quit worrying about your reputation. Quit worrying about what people think. I lost my reputation. I saw that when I lay it all down, I am going to turn right around and swallow up every rod that Pharaoh has. The rod that Pharaoh had was Saul's order. It was the law, the taskmasters that he put on the people. He kept them in bondage for 400 years under law, under legalism and religion, and he kept them in bondage. Because Aaron laid his life down and counted the cost, he ended up swallowing the rod of all of Pharaoh's magicians. The point I want to get across is, "give and 'it shall be given unto you.'" Freely give because it has been given unto you. Don't hold onto anything. Your nature is to hold onto things. God doesn't want you to hold onto anything, including your ministry. It is going to come to the point where we are to lay it all down in order to come into His image and likeness.