

THE MAP OF SONSHIP



A five part series for Boondock Squat'n,
A men's gathering started by The Redeemed Adventure Project
and written by John R Fairrington

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For more information on The Map of Sonship, simplifying your faith, understanding your story, or restoring hope. Contact us on our website below for more writings, books, and encouragement. John is available for gatherings such as camps, retreats, speaking engagements for faith based organizations.

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“Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about his love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there. As I look at my spiritual journey, my long and fatiguing trip home, I see how full it is of guilt about the past and worries about the future. I realize my failures and know that I have lost the dignity of my sonship, but I am not yet able to fully believe that where my failings are great, 'grace is always greater.' Still clinging to my sense of worthlessness, I project for myself a place far below that which belongs to the son.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

PREFACE

This book isn't written as sanctimonious advice from someone who has never suffered from the blows from their own depravity, gotten their hands dirty, or had their heart broken. It is presented to you as an encouragement to go where most men and women do not go. It is an invitation to embark on a new journey and a call to courageously pursue the things that are real, honest, and true.

It is for the hungry soul who is daring enough to go against the cultural facades of Christianity and religiosity to actually pursue the heart of God with voracity and the intent of finding our true calling.

If you choose to embark on this journey, it will require a trip into the cellar of your own dark soul and then turning on the light switch. You will have to turn over the skeletal lies, scars, and fears that you have buried deep within, and begin to discipline yourself to ignore the accusations of others who would leave you bound in darkness while embarking on a journey in the light, as you see yourself through the lens of Jesus. This is where Sonship redeems an ugly narrative and brings beauty into it. Ask yourself if you can allow the scars of your story to become the proof that you have embarked on a rescue mission to steal back from the enemy, your own heart then replacing it with a heart after God.

Will you allow the paradigm of yourself to be shattered in trade for the restoration of the one your Heavenly Father has written on your heart and redeemed for you?

I want to challenge everyone who reads this to awaken their hunger for moving forward in life with hope, to live

true, and to become the person that God can entrust with so much more and the things that pertain to life and Godliness.

Our prayer is that you will enter the quiet, unvisited places of your soul and then exit having redeemed the most radical reorientations of you lifetime. This is the life of Sonship! Here's the good news... It's not just for men but for everyone!

Get ready to explore the way that God has hardwired us as well as understanding the desires that He places on our hearts. You are about to see the simplistic plan of God through the Word of God; What we call the Map of Sonship. Here you will see how God made us along with the desires He has placed on our hearts. Sonship is the path to fullness, and the fulfillment of all those desires that He places on our heart. The cartography of Sonship lays out the contour lines of a healthy, vibrant soul that has a heart after God. It is not the pursuit of power but a path of freedom that is only fully provided or realized through the Grace of the only begotten Son of God, the wonder working power of His shed blood, and the hardwiring that came through the finished work on the Cross of Calvary.

Welcome home Son's and Daughter's!

PROLOGUE

Have you ever followed a special treasure map as a child?

A treasure map is a map that marks the location of a buried treasure, a lost place, or something of value that is made secret or hidden, perhaps by an enemy, or by personal choice to not believe that there is actually any treasure on the map. This is the common narrative of fictional stories but, what if I were to tell you that there was a real map breathed and designed by the very Spirit of God Himself and that it lead to a place called Sonship? What if I told you that this map provided everything you needed for your journey and that as you embarked on the path of discovery you would find more treasure than you could ever imagine? The map we are about to discuss will provide you with everything you need to start the journey to the place called Sonship.

Now... Spoiler alert! Your treasure is recieved before you start your journey!



CHAPTER 1

“As a giant oak is hidden in the seed of an acorn, the intention of God is seeded in the heart of man to rule with power and authority from Him and not of ourselves”.

The First Waypoint

In Genesis, God takes the lid off of his intentions for us and let's us in on one of the most outrageous plans. In this plan, and after the creation of all things, He hands it all over to Adam and Eve as a gift that would give them full authority and power to be the rulers of the earth. It is this portion of the map that the true heart of God for mankind is found.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it;

In the “Map to Sonship” (*The Scriptures*). We learn that God has intended for us to experience the treasures of His heart towards us and that it has been seeded in our hearts to pursue the heart of God.

Jeremiah 29:13

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

It should come as no surprise then that we were made in His image and intended to exercise skill over everything that God has given us to do. Also, that we were meant to rule over what God has given to us. As a giant oak is hidden in the seed of an acorn, the intention of God is seeded in the heart of men and women to rule with His power, blessing, and authority.

Now this is not about going on a personal power trip rather it is about accessing the intentions of God for you.

Think through this with me! Desires that are governed by a heart after God will naturally reveal our design. Live in the framework of His design and it will also naturally reveal your destiny. However, you don't have to look very far into your own story and the story of any man or woman to ask the question; What's gone wrong in the heart of man. I believe the answer lies with two pertinent questions giving connected answers as to why we don't live on course with His image.

1. Do we pursue the heart of God?
2. Do we understand what Sonship is?

Ultimately if we can't answer these two questions it destroys our desire for discovery on the paths that are designed by God for us to walk in and enjoy.

I want to take the a moment to correct the buisness model for success that we have mistakenly embedded into Christianity. I believe that we have decieved people when we tell them that God's purpose for us is that we become powerful ruler's, Kingly in our approach to everything, and striving to becoming the "be-all" to everyone, that we so redily embrace in the cooperate models of the American Church.

The Christ model for greatness can be found in an idiom that Christianity does not like to talk about. For instance, let's take a brief look at how Jesus establishes His kingdom. It does not look like you would think and it doesn't follow the paradigms of a grab for power that we see so commonly emphasied in a corporate culture. In fact, we see many different persuasions coming out of the christian culture today. I firmly believe that the enemy of our soul uses them to keep our focus high centered on building our own kingdom rather than allowing the natural manifestations of His glory, power, and provisions in our lives. It is certainly a contrast to the idiom of "Set your mind on things above." I have been challenged lately to sort through my Kingdom mindset and ask the question. "Are my priority's all about building a kingdom here on earth or are they lining up with the examples that Christ set when He unconventionally introduced us to His Kingdom and how to see it realized in our personal lives?"

I have always loved exploring the tensions created by Jesus as He set the examples of how we could do life as a part of His Kingdom. The man who brought freedom to all mankind is seen in Luke 19. His story plays out in the midst of a facade of pomp and glory during His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. But Jesus didn't position Himself as the one to rule a nation that was oppressed. He wasn't about prosperity or making things better in the Jews' society. He didn't even put on a display that would affirm Himself as the ruler of the region. So, in that story we see that once again, that the Jews find themselves oppressed, not by the Syrians, but by the Romans. Consequently, what the people were essentially saying when they cried Hosanna and waved palm branches as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, was, 'Deliver us from the Romans.' But when they realized Jesus had a different agenda than a political one, a different agenda than a national one, a different agenda than a material one — their cry changed from 'Hosanna' to 'Crucify him.' The same is still true and has played out over and over again throughout history. In fact, it seems to play out over and over again in well-meaning Christians who don't follow the path Jesus laid out for setting up His Kingdom.

I have watched Christians individually, and churches corporately, mobilize around causes, personalities, and methodologies to unlock the way to victorious Christian living. They are all about change or gaining power under the banner of pseudo spirituality and even prophecy but, very few are interested in the path that leads to the foot of a bloody cross, or a navigational path that will require dying to self and living for eternity. You see, it's one thing to shout 'I'm a son,' or to boast of a special inside edge for everyday living,

realizing success, power, and the mastery of your domain, and it is altogether something else to take the path of Jesus and follow His navigational path to the Cross in the way that He did.

Back to our story. While the people were in the midst of a hopeful government take over, Jesus rides in on a donkey and begins to weep. He weeps because the city-and, by extension, all Israel were looking for the next great man of power who would bring peace and prosperity, and they failed to recognize Jesus and his lordship. They fail to follow His Map of Sonship! He knew of the impending destruction of Jerusalem. The scene echoed with a previous lament over Jerusalem from (Luke 13:31-35), where Jesus said, "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" They were so hung up on their freedom from Roman oppression, the need for a great ruler, someone to fight for them militarily, that they missed the one who could free them in every way and from the burden of sin. His example of a lamb being led to slaughter for the purpose of bringing freedom to all is nowhere taught or found in our "Save Now!" culture and "The Map of Sonship" is being treated as a childhood fantasy that is fun to dream about.

I don't share this thought to discourage being everything we should be as men and women. I share it for the purpose of posing the most important question you may ever ask yourself in these last moments before Jesus returns in all of His glory. All the mastery of power, success, and authority in the world won't get you into into Gods Kingdom. Has your search for a little more peace and freedom left you

discouraged, dismayed, and hopeless?' If it has then ask yourself, 'Has my personal expectations caused me to mis God's Map from the beginning in the Garden! Has it caused me to avoid what the map says about the path of greatness that The Son of God laid out for me so that all of the power, authority, and success of God could be made manifest through my life. or, have I missed Him all together?

The more I look at things on a world scale, the more I know that things are not getting better. The more I fix my eyes on Jesus the more the pursuit of happiness and power in the kingdom of this world becomes less important and all together insignificant and I am less inclined to let life rattle me at my core. Always remember that we are not hardwired to pursue power; We were however harwired to manifest His power for His glory and that it has been intent of our Father all along to experience it everyday through His Son! He should be at the core of everything we do and everywhere we go. He is the Treasure!

Stay the course!



CHAPTER 2

“Sonship is God’s Heart for every Man and Women!”

When it comes right down to it, The very heart of God is that we all would enjoy the power and authority that comes through Sonship. We will talk at great length about what it means to enjoy Sonship as we move down the path and importance of pursuing God’s heart along with His heart for us. First lets take a look at how Paul the Apostle shows us the heart of a father when He writes to the Ephesians and describes the heart of God for us along with the framework that our hearts were made to enjoy!

Ephesians 1:3-19.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Paul doesn't mess around when it comes to revealing the treasure. It is as if he wanted us to know that the heart of our Father was to give us the treasure first so that we could enjoy the journey while in Sonship. So He proclaims that all of this treasure is found in one place, rather one person, Christ.

Paul goes on to say that it is a sure thing because it was pre-planned that we enjoy this treasure before the foundations of the world. Now, in case you believe that you are not fit for this journey, His treasure provides for us in such a way that the Father's perception of us is holy and without blame before him in love. Not only was it preplanned for us to find the treasure but, we are loved so much by our Father that He provided away to be holy and blameless through Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

In this "Map of Sonship" it is important to understand that the excellency of power is of God and not of ourselves. Yes, we are designed to have full access to His power but we must understand that as soon as we follow after a heart that is not governed by God, then we become what the Father never intended us to be and never experience Sonship. I would compare this kind of lifestyle to what is stated on the map in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous,

boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

I illuded to the stupor of a heart that is not in pursuit of God along the worthlessness that comes when we move outside of Sonship. This quote from J.M.Nouwen shows a direct corellation between the wandering believer who has wandered off path and decieved by the facade of a more cultural Christianity. Read this quote again. Let it sink in and then ask yourself if you have wandered away from the heart and intent of God to walk in Sonship.

“Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about his love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there. As I look at my spiritual journey, my long and fatiguing trip home, I see how full it is of guilt about the past and worries about the future. I realize my failures and know that I have lost the dignity of my sonship, but I am not yet able to fully believe that where my failings are great, 'grace is always greater.' Still clinging to my sense of worthlessness, I project for myself a place far below that which belongs to the son, (p. 52).”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

It is important to understand that the treasure we seek is found in Jesus. He is the light in us, for us, and through us so I we'll hover a while on this passage mentioned previously.

2 Corinthians 4:6-10 KJV

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Having initially been brought to an awareness of Jesus by a light that shone so bright it stopped him in his tracks, Paul shines a light on three important understandings for anyone who desires to navigate on a well lit path and shine brightly in the dark days that seem to have engulfed our culture....

Light Reflected from Us

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14

Ye are the light of the world.

“I am the light of the world,” Jesus said. Then He said to you and me, “You are the light of the world.” Was He confused? Are there two lights? No. Think of it this way: Jesus is the Sun, the source of light. We are like the moon. We live in dark times. Yet, as we walk with Jesus, we reflect His light.

The moon is not visible during a lunar eclipse because the earth comes between the sun and the moon. In other words, when the world gets in the way, the “ministry” of the moon can no longer be seen.

How about you and me? We are to be the light of the world. Yet the degree to which we allow the pleasures, pursuits, and passions of the world to creep into our lives will be the degree to which the Light is eclipsed. On the other hand, if we look at Jesus without allowing the world to creep in, His reflection will be clear in our lives. That is why Paul tells us to behold the Lord with an open face—to remove anything in our life that comes between the Son and us. If we do, we’ll shine not with the fading light of legalism, but with the glow of the liberty in the Spirit—which never fades.

Light Imparted to Us

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

By His Spirit, God places the treasure of His Son into the clay pots of our lives. This is like placing the Hope diamond in a Glad trash bag. After all, it's only logical that if one has a thing of beauty and value, he would have a gold-covered box or something exquisite to contain it. Therefore, it's a mystery, indeed, as to why God would place the treasure of His Son in clay pots like us—until we realize that God does this so that the excellency of the treasure would be that much more brilliant.

Light Shining Through Us

2 Corinthians 4:8–10

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Finally, Paul says that whenever we go through hard times, there is opportunity for the light to shine forth through the breaking of the vessel....

As they charged oppressive taxes and plundered their cities, the Midianites provoked the children of Israel mercilessly—until God called a reluctant Gideon to deliver His people. When Gideon blew the trumpet and called men to march with him into battle against the Midianites, thirty-two thousand men responded.

“There are 145,000 Midianites, and only 32,000 of us. I don't like the odds,” said Gideon.

“Neither do I,” said God. “There’s too many of you.” So He instructed Gideon to tell anyone afraid of the battle to go home.

Twenty-two thousand walked away.

“Ten thousand is still too many,” God said, and weeded out an additional ninety-seven hundred men who drank face-first from the river rather than keeping an eye out for the enemy. The three hundred remaining men—those who didn’t spend unnecessary time doing necessary tasks, those who realized the seriousness of their call and the reality of the enemy—were the men who accompanied Gideon into battle.

Following the strategy given him by God, Gideon gave each man a trumpet and a torch within an earthen vessel. Then he positioned them on the hills surrounding the valley of Jezreel, where the Midianites lay sleeping. On a given signal, they blew their trumpets, broke the clay pots, and shouted, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.” Hearing the sound, the men of Midian stumbled out of their tents, saw the lights surrounding them, and no doubt assumed that each torch represented not a single soldier, but an entire division.

“We’re surrounded by thousands!” they cried. In their confusion, the Midianites began attacking one another (see Judges 7).

Thus, there was victory in the dark night because the light caused the enemy to be confused and beaten back. But the light could only be seen when the earthen vessels were broken.

This is why Paul could say, “Yes, we are persecuted; yes, we are crushed—but it doesn’t bother us because through this, the light of the Lord comes flooding out of us in ways that beat back the darkness and deception of Satan.”

As I think about Paul's words, two things happen.

First, the light goes on within me. I understand that the Lord allows me to go through times of breaking so that those around me might see His reality shining forth from me.

Second, I lighten up as I realize that, because I'm just a clay pot, I don't have to put on an act or come across as a "religious" person. As a result, all glory goes to the power, mercy, greatness, and kindness of God, who placed in me the unspeakable gift, the incredible treasure of His Son. Now, for those who have believed, it is easy to understand that this is what God hardwired us for from the very beginning in the Garden and we can now enjoy our sonship on a well lit path every day because the treasure of His son has been placed in inside cracked pots like you and me!



CHAPTER 3

Provisions for Sonship

Ephesians 1:7-14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The word "adoption" occurs five times in the New Testament (Greek *huiothesia*). Paul is the only New

Testament writer to use the term, and with him it is a metaphor derived from Hellenistic usage and Roman law.

In Galatians 4:1-3 Paul accurately interprets the Roman law of sonship. In verse 4 he says that God sent His Son to be born into the human condition under law, and in verse 5 the purpose of God's action was "to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

We were not merely children who needed to mature; we had become enslaved to sin and needed to be redeemed--bought out of bondage--that we might enter the new family which Christ created by His death and resurrection. Adoption means both the redemption and the new relation of trust and love, for "because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (vs 6). The adoption freed us from slavery to sonship and inheritance (vs 7).

Ephesians 4:6 states there is one "God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The third phrase, "in you all," speaks of God's indwelling and suggests a personal and intimate relationship. To be a child of God means that our Heavenly Father dwells "in" His people by His Spirit.

Having accepted that we have received full on adoption in Christ it goes without saying that we have been given carte blanche as His heirs. This is where we access all of the provisions and supplies needed for navigating this life this side of His soon return were we will join Him in Heaven.

What provisions don't look like!

I have a real tendency to revert back to the old perspectives that would imply that my profound faith has had something to do with the reality of the provisions that come with Sonship. I have an old cowboy poem called "Jake the Rancher". It is a perfect example of the misunderstandings and line of thinking that we cultivate because it requires a performance based faith for the work of Jesus to be complete in our lives. Let me just say that In Christ, means In Christ! You do not gather your own provisions; They come from Him!

Jake, The Rancher

Jake, the rancher, went one day to fix a distant fence. The wind was cold and gusty and the clouds rolled gray and dense. As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go, The temperature had fallen and the snow began to blow.

When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart, from the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start. So Jake did what most of us do, if we'd have been there He humbly bowed his balding head and sent aloft a prayer.

As he turned the key for the last time, he knew he'd lost his luck, They found him three days later, frozen stiff in that old truck. Now Jake had been around in life and done his share of roamin' But when he saw Heaven, he was shocked -- it look just like Wyomin'.

Oh, there were some differences of course, but just some minor things, One place had simply disappeared -- the town they called Rock Springs. The BLM had been shut down, and there

*was no grazin' fees, and the wind in Rawlins and Cheyenne was
now a gentle breeze. (cont...)*

*The Park and Forest Service folks -- they didn't fare so well,
They'd all been sent to fight some fire in a wilderness called
Hell. Though Heaven was a real nice place, Jake had a
wondering mind, So he saddled up and lit a shuck, not know'n
what he'd find.*

*Then one day up in Cody, on a cold fall afternoon, He saw St.
Peter coming, and he knew he'd be there soon. Of all the saints
in Heaven, his favorite was St. Peter, Now, this line, it ain't
needed but it helps with rhyme and meter.*

*So they set and talked a minute or two, or maybe it was three,
Nobody was keepin' score -- in Heaven time is free. "I've always
heard," Jake said to Pete, "that God will answer prayers, But
one time I asked for help, well he just plain wasn't there.*

*Does God answer prayers of some, and ignores the prayers of
others? That don't seem exactly square -- I know all men are
brothers. Or does he randomly reply, without good rhyme or
reason? Maybe, it's the time of day, the weather or the season.*

*Now I ain't trying to act smart, it's just the way I feel, And I was
wonderin', could you tell -- what the heck's the deal? Peter
listened very patiently and when Jake was done, There were
smiles of recognition, and he said, "So, you're the one!*

*That day your truck, it wouldn't start, and you sent your prayer
a-flying, You gave us all a real bad time, with hundreds of us a
trying. A thousand angels rushed to check the status of your*

file, But you know, Jake, we hadn't heard from you in quite a while

And though all prayers are answered, and God ain't got no quota, He didn't recognize your voice, and started a truck in North Dakota.

Author Unknown

As humorous as it may seem, we go through life absent of the peace and rest that comes from the faithful one. It has nothing to do with my merit, the predicament I am in, the quality of my prayers, or whether I am deserving.

I have had this scenario play out more times than I can count where like Jake, I don't live in His provisions because I don't believe I am deserving enough for them. The fact of the matter is this... They were provided for me when I was at my worst! Jesus saw the worst version of me and said, "I'm going to give him everything" even though it cost Him his life. It is not because of my spiritual prowess or posture, rather, it is because of his faithfulness that this treasure resides in you.

So what are the provisions for cracked pots like us?

2 Peter 1:1-10

*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God and
Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:
Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

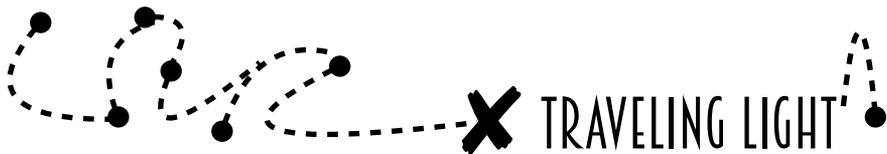
Confirming One's Calling and Election

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



CHAPTER 4

In some of his final words to his Kingdom apprentices, Jesus said, “Travel light. You are the equipment.” What if a man and a knife could save the world?

So much emasculation has taken place in the corporate world culture along with the influence to be the specialized leader in our little worlds that you can have many degrees but still can't back up a trailer or fix your car. We've forgotten the value of figuring out how something works by tearing it apart and putting it back together. I am amazed at how many folks out there are really afraid to explore their world. Our culture has become so driven to be the greatest that we have no understanding of what a simplistic walk of faith looks like. We live in fear of communication, our relationships, and what others think about us rather than developing an understanding of how we have been hardwired by our Heavenly Father and then seeing ourselves through the lens of Jesus and living in the way that shows we have been given everything that pertains to life and Godliness in Jesus.

Jesus traveled with nothing but his cloak and told his disciples...

“Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.”
Luke 9:3.

This seems to add tension and confusion to our discipleship idiom when we tell our kids, “Find what you’re good at, and stick to it.” What if the choice they make in a specific field does not fulfill them or the industry goes away? What if the kid figures out 10 years after graduation that they hate what they do or have interest in another field?

Without exploration and the development of other skills or experiences and when our compass does not reflect what can be clearly read on the map that we have been provided, we will trap ourselves in fear and become of no useful impact on a lost and dying world

To become a man or woman of God is to grasp firmly the actions, intent, and interventions of God in order to mature and strengthen the entire depth and breadth of the soul in a man or women. No more playing it safe! We must instead choose to live on the frontier of our engagement with the living God and who He alone has created us to be. To do this a Christian chooses to come out of hiding and move toward—rather than away from—the things he or she fears, becoming useful in every aspect of life and specializing in the work that He has called us to enjoy. The Word of God is the Map that leads us to be able to experience and become the kind of men and women who can handle themselves in every situation, whether fixing a broken toilet or partnering with God to mend a broken heart. In all things, those who except this simplistic way of life are able to bring life rather than harm,

becoming confident in exploration rather than incompetent, confident rather than intimidated. It is on the shared foundation of Christ that everyone can develop into the unique person they are intended to be and walk in a life of Sonship. You never know... You might be a carpenter that God is calling to do something different!

The key to to light travel is that Jesus is all you need!

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Matthew 11:28-30. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We get the picture that Jesus modeled and the travel light modicum. It speaks to our walk both spiritually and externally. Let's look at some more practical application from our map.

Luke 10:1-11 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into

every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke's preaching-mission account is a travel-light account. We see there were 72 that were sent and they went ahead of Jesus two by two to the places where Jesus would go. There are many descriptions of them: they go ahead of the Lord; the harvest is plentiful; the sent ones are lambs among wolves; the greeting of peace will either be reciprocated or denied the who are journeying; they travel with the power of God; their names are written in heaven. Then there are the instructions: they are to travel with no sandals, bag or purse; greet no one on the road; enter homes with a greeting of peace and announce the nearness of the kingdom of God no matter what. They must remove the dust of nonwelcoming

towns from their sandals but not forget to announce the kingdom anyway, and not to rejoice in power over demons.

That's a lot to remember. But even with all the descriptions and instructions, there is a central standout insistence on traveling light: "Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road." This is traveling light, even ultralight. This is an anti-accoutrements account. There will be no gear shopping. The early church knew what this meant and we are being given a glimpse of how little we need for the journey He has us on. We see what will work in our mission field: a community sharing a greeting of peace that is returned, gathering around a meal, healing, listening to the gospel announcement and departing to continue the work. It wasn't confined to a box to meet in, and is the most simplistic model for missional living you will find. The list of items is not too different from the early eclesia seen in the New Testament Church. Where they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. The gatherings were a place of greetings and peace sharing and healing on many levels, with repeated announcement of the gospel and with meal-making. All of these things that bring relevance to the kingdom-of-God that Christ was about to introduce in His unconventional way.

John the Baptist would identify Him as a voice crying from the wilderness in the midst of all the things that the world already identified with, giving the work of the Cross the most relevance in every culture to come. They were sent out with words of peace and a declaration of the kingdom and told this will be sufficient. They were sent out with instructions to greet and eat and heal and leave and told that this is sufficient for the work of the harvest of the Lord. Those who

heard the sent ones would hear Jesus, while those who rebuked the sent ones would rebuke Jesus and the One who sent him.

According to the text, traveling light means at least one other thing.

Luke 10:16-20 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

It is recorded that “the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’” Yet Jesus’ response counters this enthusiasm: “Do not rejoice at this.” This caution seems to add a twist to the details of the sending and the instructions for the journeying ones. Having been given such missional details defining their work, weren’t they entitled to enthusiasm when harvests happen? But here their enthusiasm over outcomes is tamped down. Jesus cautions us against excitement over tangibles, over success rates, authority over demons, and over personal power. He pushes back against self congratulatory eagerness, however innocent, and makes it clear that the power bestowed on us is not our power: “See, I have given you authority . . . Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this.” We are not to rejoice in

our accomplishments on behalf of the Lord or because our names are written in heaven.

The argument is that although power is put in our hands, that power is put in our hands through Jesus and not us. We are to travel light. We travel with peace, with healing, with meal sharing, with kingdom declaration, with community—and it is enough. We are members of the perpetual journeying household and traveling with the Map of Sonship.

It goes without saying that not everyone will navigate in this fashion. Many in our culture will prioritize the building of a temporal kingdom that can be enjoyed presently. In the same way that Jesus was despised and rejected of men and he didn't fear it; You can expect that the possibility of distancing from friends and family is possible. You will often feel misunderstood, and even cast aside from this culture however, the contrast of walking in His Sonship is glorious! If you stay the course you will have everything you need to make it into eternity with ease, joy, and peace!

I have seen this Travel light theory play out so often now that my mantra for spending life in the backcountry has become “less is more!”

As I have developed my own overlanding adventures for men and at the same time observed the industry trends while they depict what everything should look like; I have watched folks spend thousands of dollars on rooftop tents, and survival gear. They can drop a 100k on everything they are told they will need just to spend 3 days in the woods and spend thousands more every year just to maintain the stuff

they used 3 times last season. Meanwhile, the guys that camped out of their car with just a few essentials had more fun and still have money in the bank.

I'm just saying! The only thing one needs to go on life's journey is Jesus and we will come full circle again in the finale chapter of The Map of Sonship.



CHAPTER 5

Jesus is the Geocache-Begining and End.

To walk in Christ and the Sonship that He has provided is to know the Way, to navigate in the Way, and with the Way, because Jesus is the Way. But Jesus also blew big holes in the religious perspectives that hindered a proper view of His restorative work so that we could enjoy the life of His Sonship. If you are unwilling to look through those holes you'll never see the beauty of His work.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What is Christianity supposed to do to a person? How should it effect me?"

In the story of John 7, Jesus has just healed a man on the Sabbath; those who were in religious leadership wanted to kill him for it and Jesus then publicly rebukes them for it: Now, any time Jesus publicly goes to the point of public rebuke it is important to take note so that christianity does not suffer the abuse of religion and mis out on the opportunity of restoration.

(John 7:15-24 KJV 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? 20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? 21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. 23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? 24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.)

In a nutshell Jesus says “You circumcise a child on the Sabbath.” “So, Why is it that if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won’t be broken, why are you angry with me for restoring this person and making him whole on the Sabbath? Stop making assessments that are not in tune with what God is doing. Stop making false judgments to change the narrative, based on mere appearances, rather make right judgments that will provide restoration instead of religion.

I think Jesus was intentional and did this all on purpose; He purposefully waited until the Sabbath to restore this man,

because he was trying to pierce the heart of the issue: what does God want from us? What does God want for us? His answer is clear: the healing and restoration of the whole man so that we could walk in His Sonship.

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored.

(Romans 8:29 King James Version 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.)

Notice that it requires restoration. “The Son of God, Jesus stood first in the line of humanity taking on Himself the sin of all mankind and then was received again to the right hand of the Father being fully restored. Here God provides Himself for the healing of the whole man so that we who love Him can be made wholly restored. That’s the purpose of Christianity. “Salvation” means much more than “heaven when you die.” It also includes your restoration as a human being and as a man or woman because we are in Christ.

What you believe about the restorative work of Christ will shape your approach to everything else in your story. It will drastically effect how you interpret His work in the narrative He has written for you, and it will determine how you navigate the Word of God what we are calling the Map of Sonship. It will determine if you partner with him in your story, It will change you from victim to victor, and will free

you from all of the religious hacking in your story. How do we cooperate with God in our restoration? What are the things we need to do in order to seek it, to receive it more deeply? It is as simple as accepting the treasure at the beginning of your journey, receiving His adoption of you as a son, letting Him make you whole and receiving total restoration. I can assure you that the results are beautiful.

Look for His restoration and receive it for yourself today. Because if you have been trying to add anything else to it then Christianity just becomes... religion.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

The Map to Sonship

It started in the garden when the Father said Let us Make them in our image.

We receive our treasure at the beginning of the journey.

Jesus gives us the provisions for the journey

We get to travel light.

And the map always leads to Jesus. He is the beginning and the end.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

God Justifies the Ungodly!

Romans 3:20-4:5 God justifies the ungodly who trust in him. God acquits the guilty!

While I have frequently stumbled in life, God has been gracious! The 'Map of Sonship is crucial to the success of folks who desire to walk closely with the Lord and are wanting to enjoy the freedom to be who God created them to be. This is for those who struggle with the navigation of Christianity, defeat, depression, isolation, their own sins, hearing from the Lord, and moving past the mistakes of their past. It is a small part of my personal walk with the Lord in as Jesus has invited me to walk with Him in full on Sonship!