

Title: Leaders of Family

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 11/27/22

Revelation 1:4-11

This is Jesus. He is not the baby in the manger during Christmas. He is not the man on a cross as you see at Easter. This is who He is today. He is the One who is, the One who was, and the One who is to come. He is the Seven Spirits of God and His name is Jesus Christ. When He was found on the Earth, that was the name that they gave Him in Bethlehem. But, that has not always been His name. The name, Jesus, was the name He was given by His earthly parents, because the angel told them to name Him, Jesus. He is the Christ. It is not His name. That is a specific title that He was given because He is the one anointed of God, the special One, the pure One, the Christ. Then by His very own blood, He has loved us and washed us from our sins, to bring us to His own God.

At the very beginning of the entire Bible, it says, "In the beginning," right? Then there is a part that is not translated in English, because it is just the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. So, we do not just put, "In the beginning, A to Z, because it does not make sense. If you read it in Hebrew, you would see Alpha and Omega. So, Jesus here is proclaiming, "I am the Alpha and the Omega." Those are the Greek letters for A to Z. But, in Hebrew, it shows up right at the beginning. Before there was creation, there was the God man, Jesus. He was the Word at the beginning. He was the very words that God spoke.

He was the Master Planner. He was the Master Craftsman with His Father. He was a part of the plan at the beginning. He said, "I will be the One of our three unique traits, the Father, the Spirit and the Son. I will be the One that goes down and buys back the Bride. Because the whole point of creation was to create a family that loved the Father. The whole point of creation was that family would become a Bride for the Son. It was to multiply and have dominion and spread the family of God across the Earth. That family was to be the Bride of Christ.

But, that family decided we would rather do our own thing and not love the Son. We would rather do our own thing and not love the Father. That is the sin and what makes us feel unclean. That is what makes us feel guilty. Because we were created to love the Father and love the Son and love the Holy Spirit with all of our hearts, all of our soul, all of our strength, and all of our mind. When we do not do that, we feel that war inside of us and we are at enmity with God. Then we become afraid, and we hide like Adam and Eve did. That guilt eats away, and we know that there is wrath and discipline for sin. How can God love us when we feel this way? But, He did not come with such a hard hand. He came with such a graciousness, that He said, "You do not have to pay this debt," that you owed, you wanted, and you took on for yourself. We chose it, and we continue to choose it. We would rather love ourselves. We would rather love what we want to do, more than we want to love God and what He wants to do.

But, He said, "I will forgive you of that, and the price that you had to pay to redeem yourself back." My Son, Jesus Christ, He will pay it. You owe a life. He will give a life. You owe blood. He will give blood, but not just to save your blood. My blood which is so much more righteous and so much more clean. My blood is pure, because I lived on the Earth holy and pure, and I lived righteously. I did not sin. I did not disobey God. "I went down on the Earth, as a man," Jesus said. "I only did what the Father said. I chose to love Him. I chose to submit to Him. I chose to do what you, mankind, decided you did not want to do. I chose to follow Him all the way to the grave.

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Because I said, "yes." The Father was able to take the blood of Jesus, and offer it to whoever had a desire to be righteous. Whoever had a want and a desire to be made clean. Whoever wants and desires to know God. There is now a blood that can wash you, cleanse you, love you, bring you to the Father's house, and say, "You are accepted here. You are part of a family that is going to be made into a Bride." That Bride is going to say, "yes," to her Lover who is King Jesus. The First and the Last, and the Firstborn from the dead."

What does that mean? It means you have a hope. That means that death is not the end. If somebody rose from the dead, that means I can rise from the dead. It is not just about the blood of Jesus. It is about the power of the Holy Spirit in Him that says, "I am not going to die. I am not going to fade away." Three days after Jesus's blood was in the grave and His body was supposed to be rotting, the power of the Holy Spirit said, "We are going to breathe right now," and He raised Himself from the grave. There have been many men that were prayed for by someone else, to be raised from the dead. But, no one raised himself from the grave. No one sticks themselves back up out of that coffin, but Jesus did three days later from His own tomb. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. That is the Holy Spirit, you are called to know.

In the Old Testament, the Father came. In the New Testament, the first five books, the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus. Jesus came to twelve, then those twelve received Holy Spirit. We are in the age of the Holy Spirit. We are in the age where if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, if you believe that Jesus is the Master, if you believe that He is the King, then He wants to put Holy Spirit in you, for you to know Him, to walk with Him, and to be with Him. That is why He says, "I have a better way. I have a way that I will never be able to leave you. I have a way that I can give you comfort every day and every moment when you are afraid. I have a way that I can be with you. I have a way that I can empower you. I have a way that I can comfort your soul. It is not me being physically here by your side 24/7. It is that My Spirit is within you 24/7.

But, a lot of the Church does not want that. A lot of the Church wants a man. A lot of the Church wants the flesh. A lot of the Church wants the fire, the ten commandments, and religion, but they do not want the leading. They do not want the quickening. They do not want the authority. They do not want the power of the Holy Spirit, because He is unpredictable. You do not know what Holy Ghost is going to do. He is like the wind. You do not know where He came from. You do not know where He is going. That is what the Church is supposed to look like. It is scary. We have been scared of Him for a long time. That is the God man. That is the God that we serve, the Holy Ghost.

If you do not know this gospel, it is good news. It is your life. It is your destiny. It is who you were supposed to know. It was what you were created for. But, the enemy has come to steal, kill, and destroy your life. There are two kingdoms here, light and darkness. The Kingdom of Heaven is advancing. The Kingdom of Hell is going after it, because it is going down with a fight. Jesus has won the war, but Satan says, "I am still going to battle you," until it is. I am going to take as many of you as I can with me, and he does not play fair. If you feel like, "Why is God treating me this way?" It is because the devil has been telling you, "I am going to make you believe that God hates you, because I am here to steal, kill and destroy your life, and make sure you never know how good the Father has always been."

Jesus says in the second half of that verse, "I have come that you may have life, and live abundantly." Not just in Heaven, but on the Earth, as it is in Heaven." Who prayed that, Jesus? He did not say "Father, I pray that you would take us to Heaven." He said, "Father, I ask that you would bring Heaven to Earth." Where you live and breathe and where you walk. With the atrocities that have been committed here, can a nation be saved in a day? Can the old ruins be made new? Can a desert be a fruitful land? Can the thorns go away? Can the curse be removed? "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on the Earth, as it is in Heaven."

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There is a faith there. This is the Jesus that we serve in Revelation chapter one. This is who He is. Yes, I am believing God for this.

II Corinthians 12:11-13

This is from the Apostle Paul. If you have been a believer in Christ for awhile, you know who Paul is I hope. This is a very interesting part of the second letter to the Corinthian church and it is near the end. The church has complained that their apostle is Paul. How many of you would love for your apostle to be Paul? I would. But, this church has complained that Paul is their apostle. How, because he did not ask much from them. He did not ask in a way that they thought he should. He did not show up like Peter, or like the Apostle John with his letters of love. They got a rebuke letter if you read First Corinthians. But, first, second, and third John were a great letters of love. If you know the Bible, you know what I am talking about. How does the church in the Corinthian city of believers grumble against having the Apostle Paul as their head?

II Corinthians 12:14-16

He is saying that “tongue in cheek,” because that is what they accused him of being. That he was just crafty and cunning with his words and his eloquence and his deceitful persuasion because he could *speak well*.

II Corinthians 12:17-21

The heart of a true leader in the house is seen in verse fourteen. *“For now the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you.”* Paul was the one that God gave delegated authority over many churches in an entire region of Asia. We just read about Jesus sending a message to the Apostle John saying send these letters to the churches that are in Asia. Who was head of those churches? This man, he set them up. He evangelized and he called them in. He did not just leave them. He disciplined them. He taught them. He fed them. He nurtured them. He grew them. He got them established. He had to be sent out.

Now, at this time he is in prison. He cannot just go, but he wants to go. He will come again. He says, “I will be there a third time face to face.” So, I have to teach you. I have to lead you from far away. I am trying to encourage you, because in this house, we are called *with an* Ephesians 4:11 mandate, right? Because for some, *“He gave apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists and pastors to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, until we all come into the fullness and the Godhead in Christ Jesus,”* Ephesians 4:11. We believe here at the Garden, that the saints are the leaders of the House. We believe that there are a lot of leaders sitting in the chairs right now.

I believe that there are a lot of leaders to lead this house sitting in front of me, because, “it is for the saints to do the work of the ministry.” So, you are called to lead. You are called to bring them in. It is common that when you start leading, that there are miscommunications. Right? “That is not what I meant to say. That is not how you meant to receive it. That is not what I really meant.” You have these contentions, and then you have jealousies. Because, “I asked so and so to do something,” and “I really wanted to do that, and I had my hopes set on it. Hope deferred makes the heart sick, and now I am sick of heart.” It is hard because the Kingdom of Heaven is about people.

The business of the Father is about family. The business of the Kingdom of God is about people. It is not about community. It is not a business plan. It is not about politics. It is not about religion. It is about a family that has learned how to be brothers and sisters only through Christ and by the unity of His Holy Spirit. It is hard, it is messy, and it is ugly. As you become a

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church, and you start thinking and seeing the pews are becoming fewer here. My hair was black and now it is becoming white. Many churches have *experienced* that. That is how we *came to be* in this building. The first church had fire, and then fire went down. Do you know what I am talking about? How do we get people in? How do we get the families in? How do we get the young ones in?

We are going to have a family and children's ministry. We are going to draw in the families. We are going to get them, but then all of a sudden the heart has changed. All of a sudden, you are after what they have and not after them. They would be after the children, then they would be after what they have, and not after their heart and soul. Churches fall into that trap of, "I have to get those in and I have to have theirs. I have to have what they have. Some fall in the trap of if I want to hold the ministries, we have to keep our budget. So, I have to go after what they make, and they fall into that trap.

But, if we are a house of leaders, and we have the same heart. Then it is not about what you have. It is about you, and that is what this apostle is trying to say. "I have not been about anything, but you. I have not been about anything, but your soul. The more I love you, the less I receive your love, because you cannot receive that love." That is the fact of what it means to be a leader in the House of God.

I circled back to, and I said that this house is full of leaders. It is hard, and it is ugly, and it is messy. It is easier to complain. In the house of God, it is easier to complain, than to be the helps. That is what you heard from K3 one night. It is true. We would love to have Moses as our leader. I would. I would love to have Samuel as my leader. But, the Israelites complained for a king. I would love to have Moses and Aaron as leaders. But, how many of them died from complaining? I would love to have Jesus, but He said, "You have to eat my flesh and drink my blood." Yikes. All but twelve left. Do you know what I am saying? They were complaining about having the Apostle Paul as their leader. Because in this time, they did not get to choose which apostle they would sit under. You just saved us. You just came to us. We wanted Apollos or or Peter to show up like he did for Cornelius.

We have that attitude in our house in America, instead of believing that Jesus knits the body together and puts you in a family. If I could just sometimes teach Americans that yes, we get to choose everything, but not your brothers and sisters in Christ. It is hard to make us think that way, because we have freedom. We are full of freedoms and liberties here in the United States of America. We are a government by the people and for the people. We choose, but it is an upside down Kingdom. God is saying, "I put you where I want you with brothers and sisters in Christ. But, when you get offended, you leave. Then you wonder why you are not filled. You wonder why you are dying on the vine, because you are not in the family that I put you in and you are disjointed."

If I could just make the church believe that God would put them in families. It is not about community. It is about brothers and sisters. You know how often I did not like my brother growing up, decades? Who has a sibling? How many times a week did you not enjoy your brother? I could not leave. I could not pick another brother. That is how they are feeling. Because that is the only church in Corinth. I cannot pick another brother. I cannot pick another pastor to go sit under that might let me get away with my sensuality. What I really want to do, the lewdness, the lust of the flesh, the pride of the eyes, the pride of life.

Paul keeps calling it out, and I really do not want Paul to keep calling it out. I want to go try another apostle that maybe would not see it until five years down the road. That is what goes on in our hearts. But, if I could get the house of God to say, "Jesus is going to put you in a family." The apostle isn't the Head of the church. It is Jesus, the Apostle, the Head of His

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Church, who sends the letters in Revelation chapter one to all of the churches. Saying, "I am the Head, and I am watching over you. I am the Head of your lamp stand, and I have got your fire. You are in my sights, and I am not afraid to remove it." That is the fear of the Lord. That He is the Shepherd of His sheep. He is the Pastor of the flock. He is the Apostle of the faith. He is the Prophet with the vision. He is the Teacher that cares about sound doctrine. It is not going after what you have, but after you. He is the evangelist that just wants all of the family home. He is not afraid.

II Corinthians 12:20

I have walked this out. You have a *church* family. They come together in the house and there is this a "honeymoon" *period* where they say, "This is the best house or church I have ever been to, and I know God has called me here. I know that He has plugged me in *here*. I know that this is my family, the Garden family." Two years down the road they say, "You are not *who* I thought you were," and I *think*, "Well, you are not quite *who* I thought you were." But, I have not had the guts to say that. Paul does it so easily, "for I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish."

Why is that? Because, when you grow with people, you start to know them. I know my brother very well, because I have had decades with him. You have to really learn how to forgive. You have to really learn how to love. Loyalty is a great reward in Heaven. When we talk about elders of the houses, that means that those elders have found the home, that they are not going to leave. That is why it is such an honor. God has given them a place that they do not have to leave. It is always a choice. It is always free will. But, they have said, "yes," this is my family, and they know it. What an honor to grow up to be an elder in the house of God, and that you found your family. God has seen your faithfulness to love that family. God has seen your faithfulness to serve your family. God has seen your faithfulness, to rebuke that family. God has seen your faithfulness in His house to be the elder of a family of God. That is what it means.

II Corinthians, 12:20-21

We have walked all of this out in this house, and we are still here.

II Corinthians 13:1-4

He is saying, if I show up you will feel the power that you want. You will feel the authority that I carry. I might be mourning, but the power of God in me that I know, that Spirit will come. I might show up as weak, and I might be feeble to you in your sight. But, the power of the Holy Spirit shall overcome.

II Corinthians 13:5-10

The Lord has given apostles authority for edification. Therefore, "I should use sharpness according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction." Our leaders in the house are called to be delegated this authority, but they are our heads as apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors, right? They carry even more of that delegated authority and that power for edification. It is not for your destruction, although it feels like it. Probably because the flesh is dying. The flesh is being cut and pruned. The flesh is being addressed, facing the answer and not avoiding it, and you do not like it. That is what causes those contentions and those jealousies.

You realize the selfish ambition. Wait a minute, then guilt and condemnation comes. *You think*, "Have I always been this way? Well, I am just the worst." My kids say, "I am just terrible." Ahhh, that is us walking off the deep end. He is having to deal with all of that, because we all start "going off the deep end." Well then, "I am just the worst. I just need to go find another church." Why? When you understand authority, you understand that it is for good. When you really

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understand “the rod and the staff comfort me.” You understand that His authority is for your good. The rod is to be the quick strike, but the staff is the comfort that pulls you back as it states in Psalms 23. It is His authority, but it is for your good. It is your comfort, that you are not going to go astray. You are not going to be left out.

I Samuel 15

Samuel was the best *leader* since Moses. God talked to Samuel. None of His words ever fell to the ground. But, the people did not like Samuel, because his sons did not follow in his ways. So the people decide they want a king like all the other nations. This is a summary, okay? We know according to this chapter, that Saul spared or cut corners on his mission. Saul was supposed to go and destroy a king and all of his people because of a sin that actually happened to Moses. Moses said to God, “You have seen what the Amalekites did to us. Make sure that you remember them and blot them *out*.”

It had not been done, and Samuel hears from God, “now is the time for this to happen. Saul, your king, is going to do it.” You have a king, Saul, and this is what he needs to do. Saul goes and he cuts corners. He does not do all to get it done. Actually, King David finished it all, according to what Moses had asked of God. Now, Saul has been rejected as king by God.

I Samuel 15:22

What does that sound like? It sounds like a dad, because He is a Father, and He wants children that obey His voice.

I Samuel 15:23-30

What is he concerned about? He is concerned about sensuality, and how he looks. He is concerned about the pride of life. “That I do not look bad before the people.” He has no people anymore to look bad in front of. If you really think about it. He is not the king, and *the kingdom* is going to be taken away from him. The anointing has left him, and he is concerned more about how he looks in front of *people*. That is the heart of the matter.

I Samuel 15:31-33

This is the authority of your leader, and sometimes it is like that, a little intense. You could not just strike him once? I think he is dead. What is going on? There is a zeal all of a sudden that comes upon this prophet, and he hacks Satan's curse in front of him destroying it to pieces. This evil king. You think, “I do not know if I want that kind of leader.” It offends your mind that Samuel would do such a thing. But, who did he do it in front of? Was it you? He did it in front of the Lord. Because, “I am not after yours and what you think, I am after you.” I am after the Lord. I am after what He thinks. I did not stop until He said, “relent,” because He is not a man that He should relent.” What? Then you get offended at God? You *think*, “How could God say that?” Because, He is not a man like you, that thinks like you. He is a Man that will not relent. He is a man that flips over tables, makes a whip, and whips people out of the temple. You ask, “What is that about? His “zeal for your house has eaten me up.”

It is revival fire. When repentance truly comes, it changes the way that you think about your leaders, about your heads, about how the church is supposed to look, how it looks for you, because you are a leader in the House of God.

I Samuel 15:34-35

The issue is that we have felt like that sometimes. We say, “I have a word for this person. I know I have a word for this person. I have a word. I have seen this over you. I see this is what you are doing. You know it is from God.” They can choose not to do it. Then it comes on you as, “Did I not hear the word right? The Lord must not have spoken to me. I must have not done

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that right. I have set this person apart. This is definitely a destiny I see in their call and life. You set that person up in that office, and they do not really want it after while. Then it comes on you. *You think*, "Lord, this is pretty bad."

If you look at it from Samuel's *viewpoint*, he just told everybody, "This is our king. He is a head taller than everybody. This is who God said is our leader. This is who God says is going to be our king. This is going to be a great thing. He is going to go and kill the Amalekites."

Right after that, he is not king any more. So, what does that look like for Samuel? Is he a false prophet? But, we can take that on as leaders in the House of God. You are going to have these moments where you feel like Samuel. You are going to have these moments where you say, "I do not know if I heard God."

1 Samuel 16:1

That is the difference. Are you worried about what people think of you or what God thinks about you? That is the fear of the Lord. You care more about what God thinks about you, than what people think about you. When you care more about what somebody else thinks, that is fear of man. But, when you care more about what God thinks of you, you fear Him more. Samuel had to come up out of that. Samuel had to wake up from that. He had to come out of regret. He felt the grieving of God. Saul had so much potential. That was the call on his life. God was not wrong. Samuel was not wrong. That was Saul's destiny, but he chose to disobey, and there was a great price to pay. Samuel felt that regret of having done that. The Lord felt the regret of having done that, but God showed Himself off. He said, "I am going to keep going because I do not relent. I am going to have a Kingdom. I am going to have a king after my own heart, that is going to be in the lineage of my Son. I am not going to stop. So prophet, get up and let's go."

That is what your reaction needs to be as a leader in this house. You cannot be stuck on the regrets of what might not have been right, or maybe where you have not done it completely fully right back then. Or, maybe where I gave a word, and it was accurate, but that person chose something else. Maybe I said this over them and I prophesied to them. I know it was 100% right, and they just looked at me like I said nothing. Then I took that on, and I am walking in that shame and guilt thinking I am not who I thought I was in the house of God. But, you are. If you know that it was from the Lord, go to Him, and ask Him. Was that me? Was that you? If it was Him, He will say, "get up and keep going. Do not stop doing that."

You see, this is the king that we read about at the beginning in Samuel. This is the king that we read about in the beginning. This is the headship that it looks like, and I am trying to encourage us. We have a lot of leaders in our house. We are supposed to be a family. We are supposed to be brothers and sisters that are teaching one another in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost. You have to know Him, and be afraid of Him more than anybody else.

What is the opposite of doing those ministries where *people say*, "I am going to do a youth ministry. I am going to be doing just the seniors." I am not against those things. We know that the tribes of Israel were in their own tribes. They were in their own families, and in their own groups. There is nothing wrong with desiring to be with people that are common to me. But, the evangelists came to save the house. Right? With Cornelius, Peter shows up and he is saved. He was the head of the house. But, all got saved from the oldest to the youngest, and the whole house comes into *the kingdom*. That is the difference when you are after the person and not what they have. That is the difference when the church actually goes and saves the person and cares about the person. Rather than, "Oh, you have a family of six *children* so you are our target. I want all of your kids in my youth group, so that I can *reach* all of the mothers."

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I want the one, and if I get the one, then the whole household will come in. Right? They were after the Macedonian man, and they kept running into women. They ran into a woman named Lydia, who was a maker of purple *cloth*. *When they ministered to her and* she was saved, the whole house of Lydia came in from her grandmother, to aunt, to aunt and on. I am believing that is the difference in an apostle, a teacher, an evangelist, a prophet, and a pastor, that cares more about you and your soul, not about what you have and how you can help my church. That is the heart that this house is called to carry. Because, we are full of leaders that get that and understand that. They are more afraid of Holy Spirit.

That is how they come in, the whole house. Well, what cells do you put them in? You put them in your house, and their household comes into your household? Why? Because, that is where all my family was this last week. That is where all your family was on Thursday. I am assuming you did not say no. You let them all in. Even the ones you did not want to sit at the table. They probably sat there.

So, in the house of God, it is the same way. If your brothers and sisters are coming in a household, you are not going to say, "Oh, go to Brother Joe down the street. Go to Brother Grant. Here is his address." I will take them. I will fill up quick. That is the mindset. Sometimes it looks like you are hacking an enemy to pieces before the Lord. It can offend you, and it is that revival fire. So, that was for the leaders.

Let's stand up and if you need prayer or want to know the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Master, we will be up here to pray with you.

Holy Ghost, here we are. I say, "yes." I thank you, Father for it. I honor your work here, and I honor what you are doing here. I thank you that you are the Head of this house. You are the King and you reign. You are the Apostle, and you are doing a work of building the Church. You are building the Bride through the Holy Spirit. I thank you that you are the Prophet that knows where we are going. You have such a vision. I honor that vision. I thank you that you are the Teacher that is keeping us on the solid rock of your sound doctrine and building up our faith. I thank you that you are the Evangelist that burns for all the souls here. I thank you that you are the Pastor of our hearts and our souls. You are the Pastor in that there is always something going on and you attend to it. I thank you for that pastoring that fathering that you bring us. We honor you King Jesus. In your name we pray, amen.