Title: Overtake the Chariot, Part 2

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 8/29/21

This is an overview before we begin. We have been talking since August 15, about Elijah.

The story starts in l Kings 17, but we have been diving off from the finale of Part 1 of Elijah’s story in l Kings chapter 18.

l Kings 17:1

l Kings 18:41-46

Elijah said to King Ahab, “get up, eat and drink for there is the sound of the abundance of rain.” We have talked about how God gave Elijah the promise, and the word of promise, that by his word and authority, the rain would stop or the rain would come.

Now, Elijah is hearing by the Spirit, “there is the sound of abundance of rain.” Even though he has been given the authority to speak it forth, he still has to hear the word and the sound of rain by the Spirit. You have to know your authority.

The difference between how someone prays and how you pray is, someone knows their authority or someone does not know their authority. That is the truth. When a *child* tells a brother, “you cannot do that,” it *is different than when* a mama tells the son, “you cannot do that.” What happens, there is a difference there. The Lord is teaching us that you are my children, *and* you also are my sons. We can have the mindset of children, saying, “devil you cannot do that.” Which is true, and you are not saying anything wrong. But, when you take the authority of the Son, Christ Jesus, and say, “devil, you cannot do that.” It is just as true, but you have the authority, which is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Acts, when Paul and Barnabas come across some brothers in Christ, they asked them, “Have you been baptized?” It seems like a simple question. They say, “We have been baptized with the baptism of John,” which was water baptism. They tell them there is another baptism.

Acts 19:4-6

They laid hands on them and empowered them. They were still children of God, but now they received the authority of the Son, because it was by the baptism of Jesus, that you get empowered with fire and power. That is the difference between how Elijah prayed, and how his servant looked at the situation.

l Kings 18:42-46

As an overview, we had talked about this. We do not want to be the servant waiting for something to happen while standing by the prophet who is *the one* praying with all the authority. We are waiting for the prophet to figure this out, and we keep saying, “There is nothing. There is nothing.” Why isn’t the servant praying with Elijah? This kind of hits *home* a little bit, because you have the same Spirit of God on you now that Elijah had. There is a responsibility on the Church of God to individually be knit together by the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 4:11-13

*We* have been given apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and evangelists for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry until we all come into the fullness of the head, which is Christ, and being knitted together and formed by the Spirit of God. If one person is grieving, another person is grieving, because the Spirit of God is in both and they are aligned in that Spirit to know joy, and to know how to grieve together. That is how it works. But, all of the body can say, “the nose does pretty good at sniffing. Let's just wait until it smells the abundance of rain.” Idleness can creep into the joints and atrophy happens. When you are not working and are not moving and not going, atrophy happens. You *become* stagnant and you look like the church in the United States of America today, where you are reliant on the top five people of your congregation to get the work done. You are just sitting there saying, “There's nothing.” Where is the faith, authority, and power? You hear God saying to Moses, “What is in your hands, Moses?” Moses did the same thing saying, “God, when you are going to do something?” God says, “when are you going to do something?” The heart of God, at some points in our lives, is asking, “what is in your hands?” That is an overview of the last two weeks.

This is from the word of the Lord Brandy gave on August 15, “you are personally responsible for revival. If you want revival, you are personally responsible for it. If you want to see your family saved, you are personally responsible to be praying that in.” You can talk to the pastor about it all you want, but if it is on your heart, pray it in. If you want revival, you are personally responsible to pray for it. I am personally responsible for revival. You are personally responsible for answered prayer. I am personally responsible for answered prayer. It is no one else's job, but yours and mine. If you have the Spirit of God in you, and are in the body of Christ, we are each and every one personally responsible for revival, life in the kingdom, bringing heaven to earth, and maintaining and stewarding what God Almighty has given us.”

You cannot look down at the small stuff that you have been given, because God is looking at you to answer for what He gave you. He is not going to judge us for how well we watched other people manage their gifts. He will reward you for how you managed the ones He gave you. If you hide it, He has told you what happens.

Luke 14:25-30

That still happens to this day. There are news articles about, “this tower they started *building* in this country, and they could not finish it, haha.” It is from the prophecy of Jesus.

Luke 14:31-33

We talked about counting the cost of following Jesus. The thing that gets in the way the most is yourself. The hardest one out of all of that, the nitty gritty, is hating your own life. That is the hardest one. How do you hate your own life so much that you only live for Jesus?

Revelation 12:11

“They loved not their lives.” That is the hard one. It is because you have sold out so much of your agenda, your will, your desires, and your indulgences to the cross. You have gone there continuously, over and over again in your life, to pay that cost of time, of heart, and of what you love, to get what He has for you. You find out that you were really created to do that. You were not created to indulge your life. You were created to know and find your life in Christ. That is what He had started at the very beginning. That is why you were predestined to know this God, because at the beginning, He was like I need to know you and you need to know me. But because of “granddaddy Adam,” the flesh says, “No, you need to know yourself, love yourself, and take care of yourself. Make sure that your self is… that is selfish. Me, myself, and I goes against the trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They go against one another. When the Christian figures out, that I do not pay for my life once at the cross, I continuously take up my cross and follow Him. All of a sudden, your destiny comes into vision. That was what I was created for, to be with Him all the days of my life. That was my purpose from the beginning. That is where my life most flourishes. That is where my heart most feels loved. That is where my family comes alive. That is where my circumstances that look impossible, all of a sudden, become possible. The spirit filled life is amazing. It is.

What are we paying for? Some journeys you go on, the cost is not totally necessary to know before you go. Well, Grant, you just read you have to count the cost, because the reward of that journey will always outweigh the cost in your heart. That is probably how you started this journey with Jesus. I do not think that Jesus told you how many times you were going to have to pay this price and how much it was going to go up every year, every day. You probably did not ask Him, “Am I going to die for your namesake at the end of this?” Right? You gave your heart to Him. You said, “no matter what, no matter what the cost is, and no matter what the total payment is, it is going to be worth it to know you.” That is how you started this with Jesus. Sometimes you do not need to know the full payment, to give the downpayment. That is the life of the Christian. But, you cannot just think that the downpayment was all. That is the life of a Christian that goes to the cross and knows the value of what Jesus did. Those that are mature and have authority, go to the cross daily. That is where we all are learning how to do that.

I have some slides here. Some of you have probably never counted the cost of having children before you had them. You just wanted a family. So you had or adopted a child. But, you could have gone to the US Department of Agriculture, and they would give you a breakdown of how much it would be per year like I did.

So, this is counting the cost, and I'm not trying to scare you. I am telling you the truth. This shows that on average it costs more to raise girls than boys in the United States today. These numbers are from 2013. In 2013, the average annual cost of raising a child in the United States was about $12,800 - $14,970 per year. That is almost eight years ago, so those numbers have gone up.

In the next slide it shows the total child rearing expenses. Now, note this is not how much it costs to get a child. This does not calculate how much it is after they have left your home at age 18. So, you are not calculating in this cost, how much it was to “purchase” the child at the hospital, or how much it was going to cost to pay for their education, etc. or if they get married afterwards. That is why girls and boys have different costs. But, on average 30% of your income just to raise the child goes to housing, education is 18%, and food, depending on if you have a boy or girl, 16% on average, transportation is 14%, healthcare is 8%, clothing is 6%, and then the miscellaneous stuff is about 8% of your yearly total of $15,000 for one child.

In the next slide, from zero to two years old, it is about $13,000 all the way till they are about nine years old. Then they decide to eat and go do sports and then do a whole bunch of other things, and the costs go up. Do you see that at nine years old to 11. it is $13,600, then at 12 years to 14, it goes to $14,400, and then at 15 - 17 years, they are seniors in high school, and it is just under $15,000. Again, this is eight years ago, so it has gone up per child. So, now do the math.

I will do it for you in the next slide. One child, has an annual rearing expense by number of children is about $17,000. How many of you sat down and asked, do I have $17,000 a year to do this? You did not. I know you did not.

For two children, it is a little less than double. You get a discount because they can share their macaroni, and it is $28,600. If you have three children, it is about $33,000 a year, just to raise three children for a year. You might be thinking, “man, if I did not have kids, I could put all of that into something.” But, parents would never think of doing that.

This next slide was supposed to be a map of the United States, but it washes out. On the far left is the urban west. It is about $16,000 a year by region, and urban west is California, Seattle, and Portland. In the rural southwest, it is about $11,500 a year. In the midwest and the Bible belt, it is about $14,000 a year. In the urban northeast the USDA said that is basically New York, it is $18,000, a year for a child. That is where they get those averages.

In the last slide, on average in 2013 you can see that in the bigger tree on the right, it is $245,000 total from the time that they are zero to18 years old. That is how much you spend on a child. Then they want to go to this school, or they want to get married, and then… This is just for the first 18 years, unless you just write them off. Annual childrearing expenses by year projections, we are at 2021-2022 and they were about $16,000 a year. By the year, 2030 I think they are expecting it to be over $20,000 a year. That is what it is.

But, why did you have kids? For those that are parents in here, if you saw this chart, what would you do? You probably would get another job, right? You might, but you could start looking at the joy set before you. I would not doubt that any parent in here would say, “I had no idea I was paying that much money, but I would pay it again.”

You did not know the total cost of how much it would be to have a child when you started that journey, but you would pay that cost, day to day, year to year, still today. In the same way, when you gave your life to Jesus, you did not see how many times He would ask you to give up your life. Where there are testimonies, even in this room, of Him asking you to baptize yourself again. You go in the tub, and you say, “I give it all, I give it all again, and I give it all again.” That is the walk. That is how you gain authority. That is how you see what you are personally responsible for come through. That is the walk of surrender. It wasn’t, “I just surrendered once.” It is, I continue to surrender, because there have been many times, as a parent, when you look at this, and you would rather pay for what your kid does, than pay for something for you. All of a sudden, it is not about “me” as much as it is about “them.” It is the heart. It is the way of the Lord. It is the way to show you, it is not about me, myself and I, it is about Him. He is the Son. He shows us that with our children. In many *more* ways than one.

What are we paying for here in the Garden? What are we paying for in this church? Some journeys that you go on, the cost of going is not totally necessary to know before you go. But, you still pay a down payment and you do the walk.

Acts 4

This is a very glorious chapter. It is when the Jews realize that the disciples have still been with Jesus even after they killed Him. He rose from the dead, and they have been meeting with Him. The Jews recognized that.

Acts 4:24-31

This is the entire church in Jerusalem. In a condensed version, this is what the Garden wants to do. But, when that does not happen, it can get boring. I know it. I know that when the Spirit of God is not falling like you had expected or thought that it is supposed to be falling here, or shaking you like it shook you at the beginning, or how the whole Body touched you like He touched you at the beginning. It is boring. *You think,* I have read this passage, Grant. This is not fun. This is not something spicing up my life anymore. Because, when you are a church that is only after the glory of God and revival, and that is all that you will say “yes” to, and when the glory of God and revival is not showing up, what do you do? It gets wearisome. I have to pray again? How many times do I have to pray? How many times did Elijah pray? How many times do I, really? You really ask Him. That is where the church as a whole, not just here, but as a whole, when they have sought after the Holy Spirit this way, it just got wearisome. Then, you go look for fun, because you have to keep them here until God shows up. I do not want them to just leave without, because God is going to show up. We have to keep them here, but you kind of compromise a little bit on the spirit to do that. That is the church in the United States today.

That is why you keep hearing *from* the prophets and those that are hearing, that you are going to be facing the holiness and the fear of the Lord first. Because, you gave up that for fun. So you have to hear that first. You have to see the fire in *His* eyes first if you want the fullness. Notice how many times they said, me, myself, and I, in this *chapter.* None. They even said, “Let your hand, do the signs and the wonders, and the miracles.” Did you see that?

Acts 4:29-30

“Now, Lord look upon their threats. The attitude is right there, because they have been going to the cross. They see that, even when you went before Herod and Pontius Pilate, that was the will of God. We do not understand. We did not understand then, how you could set your servant Jesus before them, to be tried like that and be murdered like that, but you used it for your glory. In the same way, we do not understand how you are going to do this, but make sure it is by your hand, and by your name, for your namesake. Not our will, but your boldness be done. You hear it? That is what we at the Garden want to do. That is what we at the Garden, want to pray. I do not want to pray it by myself, but I will. I will. We want Moses on Mount Sinai. How many went up with him? One, Joshua, and the rest said, “You go do it.” Joshua did go. We know that because halfway down, Moses runs into Joshua. We know that we want *it to be like it was with* Solomon's priests when they fell down in the glory cloud, because the presence was so thick. There were many years where there wasn't a glory cloud. Yet, David stewarded and maintained a presence that allowed his sons to walk in it. They said it was a 24/7 House of Worship with David, because of what he wanted to see happen. His son saw it.

We have had many of the faith in this house, go on praying for that exact thing. Believing that it was here. I know. I *have* talked to *them*. This is what this church, the Garden Gathering is really looking for. There is a price that is individually paid to see it. *Even i*f it comes down to one person, we are actually a church that is willing to do it. I do not have to meet with twenty people if you do not care about this. If you do not care about it, I am not upset. I am not. But to know those that care, I want to know those that do not want to just stand here and look at you praying saying, “you have nothing, Grant. You have nothing, Brandy.” That is the heart of it.

Mark 10:17-22

Luke 18:18-28

Now, I want you to hear this. Eternal life is not just when you die, in Jesus's thoughts. When Jesus presented the gospel, He was not just thinking about when you pass away, I want to give you eternal life. He says no, “if you come to me today, you can start living eternally.” You have to start thinking that way. He says, “I have rivers of living water. If you are thirsty today, come and drink of me.” I will give you rivers of living water. Abundant life and rivers of living water is referencing eternal life.

John 10:10

“For the devil has come to steal, kill and destroy. But, I have come that you may have life, and life abundantly, eternally forevermore.” So, when this person is coming and asking, “how can I have eternal life today. I have been doing all of the good things that you told me to do up to this point. I have been following the way of the Lord up to today. What else must I do for eternal life?” Jesus looked at him and loved him and said, “Today, you have to sell all of your possessions.” You hear it? Now who is this? This is a ruler, this is a leader, and those in the House of God, that are leading, have to run into this passage and encounter that. You are doing the work. You are doing the labor, but there is a day when you come to the cross. Jesus comes to you and loves you. He says, “you know what son, you are doing good. I want to give you more life. I want to give you more talents. I want to give you more to do. But to do it, you have to give up this. Until you do that, you are not going to live life abundantly.” All of a sudden, because you did not do it, your life is unfulfilled. Obedience brings that river of life to you. Until you lay it down at the cross and say, “no more God. I do not want to do this anymore.” It can be as simple as, “I am not eating spaghetti for a month,” to “I am going to sell my house and go to Egypt.” Whatever it is, it is your personal walk. It is your individual responsibility with Jesus. But, obedience, however big or small, brings you abundant eternal life.

Luke 18:20-23

We talked a little about that last week. I want you to hear that he became sorrowful, because he could not pay that today. Sometimes you feel that way with Christ. Sometimes it hurts when He shines a light on your heart and says, “This is there.” You are like, “No, that is not me, that is not a big issue, it is not….” Jesus says, “Well, it is an issue to me, my name is Jealous, and I burn if I do not have all your heart. But, I will take whatever payment you give me today until I get all of it.” That is how you walk out your salvation as it says in Philippians. There are some that give more than enough all at the beginning. You *think,* wow, how is that person on fire so much? Because, they paid the price. Like the widow who gave all. It is my son's favorite story right now. The widow gave all that she had at the temple versus the rich that gave a tenth of their millions. Jesus said, “That woman has paid a greater price in that she is trusting wholly on Me with her whole heart.” That is why in America, it can be so hard because you always have a backup. You always have that net. Then after that net, there is a pillow. After that pillow, there is the grandfather's pillow. Is that a bad thing? No, I am saying that there is an attitude of the heart, where if Jesus asked you to give that up, you would say yes. Even if you have it, there is an attitude of the heart where you say, “that is yours, God.” You just tell me the day to give it to you and I will. There can be an attitude of the heart, where Jesus doesn't ever ask you to give it up. If you have that heart where if He tells me to give up my safety net, the pillow, and the pillow after that, then I will give it all.” That is an attitude of the heart that this rich young ruler did not have yet when he came to Jesus.

Matthew 10:7-8

I want to ask you this question, which one of those things burns in your heart so much that you have to do it before you go see Jesus? What do you have to do? Do you have to heal the sick? Do you have to cleanse the lepers? Is it you have to see a dead person raised? I have to cast out demons. What is it, because this is what Jesus tells us, His disciples, to go do. What burns in your heart when you read this? I have to do this.

Now, do not give me the “Jesus answer” right away, “I have to do them all.” Just focus on one. What are you doing to accomplish that one? Because, I have run into where it is not just lip service, but God, how do I actually heal the sick? Only God can tell you how to do that. How you do that. You have saints in the faith that have an authority to heal the sick, and to cast out the demons. Even in our own house, “she casts out the demons better than I do because I try to do it as she does it, versus I went to God and He showed me how to do it with authority.” The authority that she has, I have, because it is from the same God in me. The Spirit of God knits us, “as one,” into the fullness of the Godhead, in Christ Jesus.

In the same way, David Hogan raises the dead. “In the same way, you have read in the Bible, “in the God that Paul says,” or “in the name of Jesus, that Paul says, I heal you.” But when they run into somebody with more authority in the spirit realm than them, they *get into trouble,* because they did not know what it meant, or they were not believers in the first place? *They were unfruitful.*

In the Christian realm, if you rely upon the prophets and the apostles and the teachers and the evangelists and pastors to do it constantly, then you are going to miss out. You are going to miss out on what burns in you to see the Kingdom happen on the earth. You are going to miss it. You cannot say, “well it was their fault. They did not show me how to do it.” God *says,* “Why can I not show you? What happened to our relationship that I cannot show you how you do this, because you do it differently than anybody else?

I have read testimony after testimony of those that walk in healing the sick, and God tells them each what is wrong with a person *in a different manner*. Some feel tingling in different parts of their body. Some hear a voice of the Spirit, saying, “This is what is wrong.” Some feel a burning sensation. Some know because they “smell something” in the spirit about what is wrong and how to pray. Well, which one am I? I do not know, I want you to find out with God. That is you and Him. You hear what I'm saying?

Which one of these can you not live without before seeing Jesus? Healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, or casting out the demon? What are you doing to see it happen? What are you doing to see it as a reality in your life? Well that is what we have today. Amen.

Let's stand up and let's pray. If you have need of prayer, we are here to pray. If you want to just be with God, you can be with God. That is the truth. We are up here if you need us.

Father, your Word says, “as you go, preach the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out the demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

We ask that you would reveal to us personally and individually what it means to do that through the name and the power of God. Not for our namesake, but by your hand, and by your name, and by your word, and according to Your will. In Jesus mighty name we pray, Amen.