

# THE SONS OF GOD

Apostle Mark Kauffman

*“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”*

Luke 3:21-22

Jesus lived His life based upon what His Heavenly Father declared Him to be, not by what man or the enemy said. After Jesus received affirmation from His Father announcing, He was a Son of God, Jesus would be tested for it in the wilderness. Before Jesus entered into His earthly ministry, He would face the testing of His identity as the Son of God, and would have to pass the test to qualify for His purpose on earth.

*“And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”*

Luke 4:3-4

The enemy tried to trap Jesus into doing something to prove His sonship, but the Father's word over Jesus defined Him not what He did. In the Kingdom of God our talents and gifts are not what define us, God's Word does. There will be times that our gifts will be inoperative or not needed, and you'll only need God's definition of you as a son or daughter of God. Regardless of what we do or don't do, the Father still sees you and I as sons and daughters. We never get our identity by what we do, but by who we are in

God's eyes. Your identity must always be found in God not in man. People will always try to define you and in doing so they create a false identity. The world categorizes people based upon appearances, education, financial income and so on. They judge by externals not internals. The Lord always looks upon man's heart and not appearances. Many Christians attempt to mold their children into their image, but we should desire them to be in Christ's likeness and image not our own. Our past and our present does not define us, God does. In the Garden of Eden, Eve listened to the wrong voice she listened to the devil.

*“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*

Genesis 3: 4-5

The devil told Eve, if you eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you will be like God. That was a lie, she was already like God created in His likeness and image. Once again, we see the enemy tried to get Eve to “do” something to be like God when she already was in His likeness and image. When the Lord God came looking for Adam He asked him, “Where art thou?” Adam responded, “And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked;



*and I hid myself.*" Genesis 3:10 And the Lord responded by saying, "Who told you you were naked?" The enemy has lied to every man by telling them they are something they are not. But as we experience new birth in Christ, our true identity is revealed. In Christ we live and move and have our being, all we are is found in Christ. My youngest son, Christian Mark, is five years old and there is nothing he has to do to try to be like me or receive my acceptance, he has my DNA, he is my offspring, my blood flows in him. All he has to do as an heir is to grow up into a natural son to receive all his mother and I have for him. So is it with our Heavenly Father, as Sons of God all we have to do is mature to walk in all the Father has for us in Him.

Look at David's life, he had no identity crisis, he knew who he was in God. The Prophet Samuel came to Bethlehem to anoint a king from all of Jesse's sons, and Jesse didn't think highly enough of David to invite him. David was never impressed by man's definition of him, even his own families. He knew who he was out of his personal relationship with the Lord. The only thing that impressed Him was what the Lord thought of him.

*"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."* Psalm 139:14

By knowing who he was he overcame every trial. After David was anointed as king he went right back to the wilderness to tend to his father's sheep. David was more impressed with his sonship than his kingship. He didn't have to make things happen. He knew God would promote him at the appointed time.

David was promoted to the palace as King Saul's armor bearer and he appointed him to worship the Lord before him to drive away the evil spirit

that tormented him. One day a spirit of jealousy came on King Saul and he threw his javelin at David. What was David's response? He ran back to the wilderness and worshiped the Lord. Even though he lost his position as the worship leader in Saul's house it didn't stop David from worshiping. His worship did not define him, being a worshiper did. Because worship was not just what David did but who he was, he could worship the Lord regardless of the circumstances he faced. Once again his sonship had preeminence over his kingship. If your function in the Body of Christ defines you, you don't know who you really are. Your position as a Son of God is what brings true definition to your life. I have seen pastors, elders, deacons and many others in the Body of Christ taken out of their position and become bitter, angry and even leave the church because their position in the church gave them their identity instead of their position as a Son of God. Man's word does not define us, God's Word does.

*"And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women."* Luke 1:28

After Mary received Gabriel's prophetic word over her life, she responded by saying, "Be it unto me according to thy word." That's how we should live, putting our faith in God's Word over our lives before man's word. We can't be who we really are in Christ if we are being what everyone else wants us to be.

*"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*  
Ephesians 1:6

Many seek the acceptance and approval of man, when all we need is our Heavenly Father's acceptance. When Jesus accepts me I need nothing from anyone else. It's nice to be

accepted by others but not necessary if we have Christ's acceptance. When we are affirmed by our Father, men can throw their javelin at you on the outside but you'll be at peace on the inside.

If man is your source you will always have to please him, but if Christ is your source, He's all you need! David overcame the lion, bear, Goliath and all his enemies because he knew who His God was, and he knew who he was in God. The greater One lives on the inside of you. You are His offspring, you carry His DNA, you bear His nature, you're created in His image. Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world. Beloved, now are we the Sons of God. In this present hour God is maturing and grooming

His Sons to manifest His life in the planet. We are His Sons in whom He is well pleased.



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Apostle Mark Kauffman is the founder & overseeing apostle of Jubilee Ministries International, located in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He is the owner of two businesses, Butz Flowers Gifts and Home Decor which is the second oldest and one of the largest florists in the United States and Destiny Developers, a real estate development company.

Being passionately involved in both ministry and business has brought a unique ability to equip and train marketplace ministers to link the idea of prosperity to a God given plan that will advance the kingdom of God. He also oversees Impacting the Nations Network which oversees 100 pastors and churches based in the nation of India. Kauffman is the international editor of the VACHANACHOSHANAM Newspaper in India. This newspaper not only spreads the message of the kingdom in India but throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Through the power of God and word of knowledge he sees many miraculous healings and deliverances as he ministers the Gospel of the Kingdom. His heart is to see the body demonstrate the nature and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ thus fulfilling their destiny.

He is married to Jill Kauffman, who pastors along with him, and has 3 sons Anthony, Ryan & Christian Mark and a granddaughter, Alexandra Irene.