

**Power in the Bunny Hop  
(Our Vision and Strategy)**

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[Mark Dorn has just played his trumpet with the worship band as they lead us in singing a beautiful hymn. Peter runs up on stage and grabs the trumpet as the kids come forward.]

Hey, guys, did you hear that trumpet? Wasn't it great? I think it hit the perfect note. You know these band players play so many notes. I think they're searching for the perfect note. Well, I think Mark found it. Let me show you.

[Peter plays one note (or tries, at least) loud and long.]

Wasn't that great?

[Peter plays it again and again and again.]

Wasn't that great?

[The kids don't think so.]

What's wrong?

[Different theories are advanced, including Peter's ineptitude at trumpet playing.]

Well, you know, even if I could play well, I think you're supposed to play the right note at the right time in the right way for it to sound good. You have to play it as a part of a bunch of other notes and at just the right time.

I suppose that's like life. There are certain things that you can do at certain times, and they're okay, but at other times they're bad. Like, you can pick your nose while camping but not at grandma's house. You kind of have to watch your parents and listen to know when it's good to do something and when it's time to stop.

I think we all have to do that with Jesus. So we do the right thing at the right time in the right way. Otherwise, we're like one loud, obnoxious note played over and over and over and over again.

Let's pray: Jesus, help us to play the right note at the right time in the right way. Help us to keep our eyes on You.

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This is a picture of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. At the time of its construction in 1940, it was considered an engineering marvel. Its center span of 2,800 feet was the third longest in the world after the Golden Gate Bridge and one other (the George Washington Bridge).

Like the Golden Gate, Tacoma Narrows was also a gate, the only gate from mainland Washington to the Olympic Peninsula. It was also a gateway for shipping into the interior of our country.

During times of war, protecting our nation's gates is absolutely critical. In World War II, our military hung steel cables beneath the Golden Gate Bridge so no enemy subs

could enter the San Francisco Bay. My father used to tell me how they'd dangle cables in the air above the city to discourage bombing raids. Because we did such a good job of guarding the Golden Gate, the axis powers in World War II were unable to bring it down.

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge was also strategic, and so was built to withstand earthquakes and winds up to 120 mph.



This is a little film clip of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge around 11 a.m. November 7, 1940, four months after its completion.



[Peter shows a film of the bridge oscillating. When the twisting motion was at the maximum, elevation of the

sidewalk at the right was 28 feet (8.5m) higher than the sidewalk at the left.]

Is that incredible? What on earth caused such a collapse? What force could that amazing gate not withstand? Answer... a constant 42 mph wind. (The wind was blowing way harder at my house the night before last.)

Well, I just thought that was amazing, and now we ought to get on with the sermon.

Matthew 16:15 and following. We'll get back to preaching our series through Matthew in a few weeks in order to spend a few weeks talking about vision and strategy.

In Matthew 16, Jesus gets some alone time with His disciples. Verse 15,

*He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Jesus said, "I will build."

I think Peter heard, "You will build."

See, I think I understand Peter. In a lot of ways, I feel like Peter. It's almost as if I hear the name, Peter, and I think people are talking about me.

"On this petros (rock) I will build my church, and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it." That's

quite a vision, A) Building the Lord's great church, B) Such that it will storm the gates of hell.

"Without a vision, the people perish," says Proverbs.

We have a Church Health Team that interviewed a hundred and fifty or so people in our church. In their report, they lamented the fact that very few people could state the vision of our church.

"Without a vision, people perish..."

We need a vision and a strategy.

In the fall of 1990, I traveled to Romania with Leighton Ford Ministries to help indigenous pastors develop vision and strategy for youth ministry. I was the expert. And so I taught them about incarnation and authenticity... extremely valuable ideas for any ministry. Strategies we've included in the vision statement on the back of our bulletin.

These Romanian guys needed a lot of help in that regard. They'd been isolated for 45 years in the underground church. My partner was the expert in vision and strategy for adult ministry in the modern church.

He really knew his stuff. I remember him leaning over at one point and saying, "Peter, these guys, they don't know what they're doing!"

And he was right. They really didn't.

"Build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Quite a vision. And from what I know of Peter, I'm sure that he immediately began formulating a strategy to execute that vision. He felt responsible.

A) Build the church... I bet Peter pictured building the temple—the tabernacle and throngs of people.

B) That will storm the gates of hell... I bet Peter pictured troops with swords ready to fight and above all defend Jesus from death and the strategies of Satan.

Peter probably vowed to himself, "I'll never give in to that snake!" Peter had a vision and immediately, he was formulating a strategy.

Then verse 21,

*From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed.*

I bet that's the exact opposite of Peter's strategy.

*Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

Imagine how Peter felt... “not on the side of God... Satan.” Peter had come up with strategy, but in a million years he’d never come up with this strategy:

- Step 1: Have Jesus die on a cross, naked, as He descends into hell.
- Step 2: Have Romans destroy Jerusalem and the temple: the sacred stone tabernacle.
- Step 3: Have Jesus’ followers persecuted and killed at the hands of militant Jewish Pharisees.
- Step 4: Convert the most wretched and degraded of these Pharisees, designate him apostle to the nations, and have him write the Bible.

I don’t think that’s what Peter was thinking. And yet that’s how the church was built, and how she prevailed. That was and is, God’s strategy.

Chapter 17, verse 1,

*And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.*

It’s the seventh day—day of rest, Sabbath—on a mountain... kind of like us right now, on this mountain.

*And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”*

What is Peter doing? He's trying to build the church. Remember in the Old Testament, the church was a tent, a tabernacle (which is the word used here). The temple became the permanent tabernacle in Jerusalem.

Peter sees Moses and Elijah, that is, the law and the prophets. Jesus is, like, glowing. He's just given him this vision of a church.

Peter thinks, "Oh, man, this is big. I better do something religious. I better implement my strategy. I better build the church."

I understand Peter.

When we get nervous, we get busy, and we often get religious. I mean, we reproduce acts of devotion that worked in the past. "There were holy tabernacles in the past," thinks Peter, "I'll build one now."

He was like me in the children's sermon when I grabbed Mark's trumpet and played one note over and over and over. Well, a note must be played at the right time in the right place to be beautiful and to have power.

Trying to be religious and work his strategy out of his anxiety, Peter is a discordant note... out of harmony, out of resonance... out of time.

*He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*

Listen! It's a powerful word in scripture. It implies a deep resonance within you. Not only do your eardrums vibrate in harmony, but your whole being resonates with the Word.



Listen [akoúete]! It's second person plural, like, "Y'all listen." Kind of like, "Guys, stop babbling. Shut up and y'all listen to Him. This is my beloved Son—the Word, the Logos, the Reason—Listen!"

*When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.*

The Word of God, wiped 'em out. And that would be the end of all of us except for this next verse. Listen.

*But Jesus [Word of God in flesh] came and touched them saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only [alone].*

No one but Jesus.

[Peter sings... ]

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light.

Jesus has a vision of us, His Church, that He is building.

But our vision—the church's vision—is Jesus. Jesus has a vision of His bride.

But the bride's vision is of her groom.

A bride doesn't get pregnant with fruit and life and growth by staring at herself. A bride gets pregnant by focusing on her groom and receiving his presence.

Our groom is the Word.

Our vision is always Jesus.

Yet Jesus is always moving. He's not a dead vision, but a resurrected and living Word. "The Word of God is living and active" and so can't be reduced to a program or textbook.

But He is our vision, not ourselves. We must keep our eyes on Him.

I worry that the 21st century American church is a bride enamored with herself, just strategizing to get bigger. She may get bigger, but not with the life of her Groom, not with His beauty, not with His power.

It's not a new lesson. God taught it to Israel over and over. If she looked to herself—numbering her troops, calculating her strengths, and strategizing her wars—whether she felt proud or insecure, if she looked to herself, an enemy would prevail against her.

However, if she humbled herself and looked to God, such that *He* was her vision and not herself, it didn't matter what resources she had or didn't have...

- With just 300 men, Gideon could route the Midianites.
- With just a rock, sling, and shepherd boy named David, Israel could defeat the Philistines.

Indeed, no one could prevail against them.

When Peter looked at Jesus and heard The Word, he walked on water. As soon as Peter changed his vision, looking to the wind and waves and thinking of himself, he sank.

Well, Peter came down the Mount of Transfiguration and began to sink once again. Soon he'd take a sword and cut off the ear of a servant in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then he'd deny Jesus three times. Indeed, he was sifted like wheat by Satan himself.

Swords and tabernacles worked in the past but not now, not here. Peter was out of harmony. He was not resonant with the Word, and so he even found himself working against God as he tried to implement his own strategy.

“Build the church. Prevail against the gates of hell.” Thinking that was his vision and his responsibility, he’d taken his eyes off his true vision and planted them on himself.

Well, you know the story. It turns out Jesus *did* build his church, and it *did* prevail against the gates of death and hell. And He built it on Peter.

Remember how it started? On Pentecost, seven weeks of seven days after the crucifixion, the disciples are gathered together in corporate prayer and worship in the Upper Room, and a wind comes (probably 42 mph, I don’t know). But it was just the right wind at just the right time. It was the Holy Spirit, the Holy wind. It filled the disciples, and they spoke in tongues. It filled Peter, and he stood up and preached a sermon about Jesus, not the church, Jesus.

At the end, people begged him saying, “What shall we do?” He said, “Repent and be baptized.” Then thousands sold their possessions, lived as one, and worshipped everyday. The church was born, and the gates of hell could not prevail against her.

Our vision is Jesus. Our strategy is listening prayer, ingesting the vision, the Word. You could call it worship.

Our vision is Jesus, and our strategy is worship.

It doesn’t mean we won’t do all sorts of other things—implementing programs, policies, and ministries. It

just means that if those things are not also worship, then we're no longer resonating with the kingdom.

We're out of harmony.

Working against God.

On the side of men.

We're building tabernacles on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Our vision is Jesus, and our strategy is worship.

As an institution our vision is Jesus, and our strategy is corporate worship. On the back of the bulletin, we used to state it explicitly, and now we state it a little more artistically, but our very first strategy to equip you for the work of the ministry is corporate worship on this mountain, every seventh day with Jesus, "wherever two or three are gathered..."

The announcements should be worship.

The prayers are worship.

The songs sung are worship.

The sermon preached is worship.

My goal in the sermon is always the same, that you'd see Jesus, believe Jesus, and receive Jesus—our vision.

When we worship Jesus, our collective vision coordinates and empowers us, coordinates and empowers us in a way that no program or policy or anything we control ever could. That's because our vision—the Word, our Lord Jesus—is living, active, and present. We are His body.

He coordinates us like a song coordinates a body. When you try to dance concentrating on your strategy, the

steps, yourself, you're uncoordinated and stiff. It's work and bondage. But when you listen to the music, it bypasses your conscious brain, resonates within you animating your members, and you dance.

It's no longer work, but rest;  
     it's no longer labor, but play;  
         it's no longer bondage, but freedom;  
             while all your body parts are  
             coordinated beyond your own  
             ability to do so.

In fact, "your right hand doesn't even know what your left hand is doing." You're unconscious of yourself, just conscious of the beautiful music—the reason, the rhyme, the logos of the song.

When we all come and worship the same vision of Jesus, we're coordinated like dancers coordinated by a song. We're coordinated like body parts animated by music. And actually, we are body parts.

We're Christ's body parts, and He doesn't let "His right hand know what His left hand is doing." In other words, I can't script your whole life and tell you every move. And if I did, you'd no longer be dancing, but practicing dance steps, living by the Law.

At best, I can just remind you to listen to the music, for then He'll coordinate us. He will co-ordain us. So surrender to the Head, our vision, which is Christ.

He is the Song that God is singing.  
 He is the Word that creates and upholds all reality.  
 He is the Song sung over the face of the deep in  
 Genesis 1.

It appears that's more than just metaphor. The latest scientific theory about creation and all things, string theory, is the idea that all things are like vibrations of meaning or superstrings that exist in at least twelve dimensions of reality.

So reality is like the manifestation of a song. All that's truly real is the expression of the Logos, the Word of God. So whatever is not of the Logos, must not be truly real, must then be shadows and lies, discordant notes at the gates of hell.

Well, whatever the case,  
 Jesus is the Logos.  
 Jesus is the Word.  
 Jesus is the Meaning, the Reason.  
 Jesus is the Rhythm and Logic of the dance.  
 Jesus is the Logos by whom and through whom all things are created.

The Logos became flesh and made Himself our vision—  
 Jesus.

When we worship Jesus, we're coordinated and empowered beyond anything I could ever comprehend or control.

When I was a youth pastor in California. I used to lead a group of 200 kids that would pack themselves into an upper room every seventh day. It was absolute chaos until we'd begin to worship. The worship had a spiritual purpose, but to be honest, we often did it for a very practical purpose. As soon as we began to sing, chaos turned to order as 200 kids became coordinated. Sometimes they'd dance.

There was a ladies Bible study that met directly below us (a monumental error in church scheduling). Routinely, they'd run up the stairs yelling, "Stop, stop, the floor is caving in!" We'd stop, and I'd think, "Those women really are aglow... they're nuts."

I remember one night we were, like, doing the Bunny Hop to some worship song. [Peter sings and demonstrates.] Two hundred kids... hop, hop, hop.

For some reason, I got out of the line and looked at the middle of the room. The floor was flexing up and down like 6-10 inches in harmony with the rhythm of the dance. I freaked and told 'em to stop.

The next day, I met with Rick, our business administrator. I told him the story, and he said, "Get real, you're nuts." I begged him, and he called our structural engineer (it was a new building). "Could 200 kids, averaging 140 pounds, break the floor in room 200?" he asked. The engineer did his figures, laughed, and said, "No way."

Rick hung up and shared the news. I said, "Rick, what if they were doing the Bunny Hop? You know, bouncing up and down rhythmically to music."

Rick sighed, complained at my persistence, called the engineer back, and asked him. The engineer re-did his figures. Rick listened for awhile, put down the phone, turned and said, "Peter, don't ever do that again!"

That's how we came to outlaw dancing in church. It was a threat to the structure.

Of course, we weren't the first to do so. Dancing to a vision of Jesus is a threat to every human structure, including the institutional church.

But just think: A bunch of high school kids, animated by a song could become so coordinated and

empowered that a brand new \$4 million building could not withstand them.

From physics I learned that inherent in that floor, as in all structures, including bridges and gates, is a particular wave length at which that floor naturally oscillates harmonically at a certain frequency. If the frequency of bounces in the Bunny Hop matches the frequency of the natural harmonic oscillation of that floor, resonance will occur wherein each wave builds on the last wave, energized by 200 perfectly coordinated rhythmic pulses... energizing bunnies.

See what I'm saying?! There's incredible power in the Bunny Hop!

Resonance. It's the same principle behind pushing your kids in a swing. At just right the moment, you apply energy to the wave. It's the same principle behind rocking your car to get it out of a ditch or snow drift. It's the same set of principles behind all music—the science of harmonies and resonance in sound waves. It's how a singer can break a glass with just her voice.

And it's how a 42 mph wind brought down the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The wind was blowing at just the right speed to create resonance. If it would've been a little faster or a little slower or varied in a slightly different way, it would've been out of phase, out of step, out of harmony, and resonance wouldn't have occurred.

Resonance.

I think it's how Peter and eleven stupid disciples changed the world. They met in an upper room where they worshipped Jesus. The wind began to blow, and the gates of hell could not withstand Peter and his friends when they sang, when they prayed for they were resonant with heaven—the tongues of men and of angels.



When Peter preached, he resonated with heaven, and the walls came tumbling down.

Jesus said, “Pray thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” He also said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Among you, within you... it must be like all around us, like wind, like atmosphere. Perhaps we’re just out of phase.

The Book of Revelation tells us what they’re doing in heaven. Chapters four and five, “They never stop worshipping the One on the throne.” And John sees, “Every creature in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and in all the sea, and all therein saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.”

In that realm, the kingdom of heaven, they’re always worshipping—the realm of the seventh day, seven seals, trumpets, bowls and thunders.

What if we could worship with them?

What if we could come into phase with them?

What if we could resonate with the energy of that realm?

Joshua 6:15

*Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD passed on, blowing the trumpets continually; and the armed men went before them, and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually. And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So*

*they did for six days.<sup>1</sup> On the seventh day they rose early at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times: it was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.<sup>1</sup> And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout; for the LORD has given you the city. . . .” So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.*

And Israel occupied the land. In Chronicles 20 Jehoshaphat puts the choir in front of the army and as soon as they started to worship, the enemy was routed, and Israel occupied the land.

The book of Hebrews says that “once more God will shake the earth with His voice in order to remove what can be shaken that we might receive a kingdom that can’t be shaken.” So let us worship.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are chained and imprisoned in an evil kingdom, Philippi. It’s midnight, and their plans have failed. So they begin to worship, and as they do, everything begins to shake. Their chains snap, the gates swing open. The jailor rushes in, repents and believes with all his family. That’s how the kingdom invaded Europe.

And that’s how it advances today.

Our vision is Jesus, and our strategy is worship.

I'm really pleased with our staff and session, and especially our Church Health Team. We're working on some great programs to enfold you and equip you for ministry. Parish communities, small groups, classes, mission projects... they're all good, but unless they flow in worship like movements in a dance, they're worthless or less than worthless. We may find ourselves opposing God and used by Satan, building stone tabernacles on the Mount of Transfiguration. Moving out of step, out of rhythm with heaven.

As a church, Jesus is our vision, and corporate worship is our strategy. It's how we are coordinated and empowered, empowered with the resonant harmonies of heaven.

That's why we ask you to commit to corporate worship, and when you miss, we ask you to get copies of the service on tape.

When you're here, engage, listen, surrender, and resonate. Don't stare at the wall. Don't mess around in the back. You know, sometimes I look around and people are staring at the wall, goofing around in back, and all of a sudden I realize I'm looking at them, watching them goof around in back, and I'm not worshiping.

Wherever two or three are gathered Jesus is there, and the Father still says, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

It's time we realized corporate worship isn't entertainment.

It isn't just education.

It isn't just psychology to make you feel good.

It isn't even *just* communion with God.

It's warfare.

It's how we come into resonance with Jesus and storm the gates of hell.

I can't crash the gates of hell. I can't build the Lord's great church. But Jesus can, and Jesus does when I surrender to Him and resonate with Him.

See, I really don't know what I'm doing, just like those pastors in Romania didn't know what they were doing.

So my partner leaned over and whispered, "These guys don't know what they're doing." I remember thinking, "So what?" A trumpet doesn't know what it's doing. It's an instrument, and through them, like wind through a trumpet, the Spirit had broken down the gates of hell.

I've told you the story many times how those pastors and Christians prevailed against the iron curtain and toppled the government of Romania.

It started outside a little parsonage in Timisoara where frightened and bewildered Christians came together from all denominations and joined hands around the pastor's home as the police prepared to take the pastor to prison. Not knowing what to do, they began to sing, to worship Jesus.

The crowd grew and moved to the central square where thousands were gunned down, and yet they kept singing, praying, and worshiping Jesus.

On the seventh day, my friend, Peter, lead 200,000 in the central square as they dropped to their knees in unison, reciting in perfect coordination what had been illegal for forty-five years... the Lord's Prayer. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Within a few days, on Christmas Day, all Romania would be free.

I remember standing in the dark with Pastor Peter Dogulescu outside the little parsonage in Timisoara. He had just told me the story, shown me the central square where they sang and prayed, where the bodies were piled in giant heaps. I'd placed my fingers in the bullet holes in the marble walls and wondered at the courage that shattered an iron curtain. Well, standing there in the dark, Peter leaned over and whispered, "Brother Peter, just think. This is where it all started, and it started when we all joined hands and sang."

They resonated with the kingdom, and the walls came tumbling down. Walls far greater than any worldly government. Tanks can bring down an earthly government, but tanks can't storm the gates of hell.

Jesus is our vision and worship is our strategy.

Amazingly, it even seems to be Jesus' strategy. As Jesus hung on the cross, He descended into a prison far greater than any in Romania or Philippi or Jericho. He descended into hell, and as He did He cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!"

Few people realize it, but that's the first line of a song. The song is Psalm 22. It's worship. That first line is despair surrendered. But the song progresses, ending like this,

All the families of the earth shall worship. . .  
 . Posterity shall serve him. Men shall tell of  
 the Lord to the coming generation, and  
 proclaim His deliverance to a people yet  
 unborn. That He has wrought it.

It appears that Jesus descended into hell singing, and so He shattered its gates from the inside out. Like a

great singer in a glass house... every wall shattered by the resonant frequencies of heaven. Jesus is the Word, the Logos, the Rhythm of the Creator. He is the love of God poured out.

On the night He was betrayed He took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body, given for you. Take and eat." In the same manner after supper He took the cup saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it all of you in remembrance of me."

[Peter holds up the bread and wine.]

This is our vision... Jesus, Love incarnate.

This is our strategy... [Peter ingests it].

Come to the table and worship. Let Jesus descend into your hell and blow the gates wide open. When we do that together, worshipping together, we begin to resonate with the kingdom of heaven, and Jesus builds His church, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against her.

It only makes sense. We become His body, His dancing body, and there's power in the Bunny Hop.

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#### Relevant Texts and Quotations (from bulletin)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock/I will build my church, and the gates of hell/shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be

loosed/in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord!/This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. . . .” And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son,/with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

*Matthew 16:13-24, 17:1-8 (ESV)*

Harmonic: One whose vibration frequency is an integral multiple of that of the fundamental.

*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*

Resonance: The phenomenon exhibited by any vibratory system responding with large amplitude to a series of imposed vibrations of equal, or nearly equal, frequency.

*Britannica World Language Dictionary*

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

*Matthew 6:10 (RSV)*

<sup>†</sup> After this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door! . . . Day and night they never cease to sing, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,

who was and is and is to come!” . . . Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, “To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!”<sup>1</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

*Revelation 4:1a, 8b, 5:11-14 (RSV)*

Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD passed on, blowing the trumpets continually; and the armed men went before them, and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually.<sup>1</sup> And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.<sup>1</sup> On the seventh day they rose early at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times: it was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.<sup>1</sup> And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout; for the LORD has given you the city. . . .” So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell downflat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

*Joshua 6:12-16, 20 (RSV)*

He said, “Attention everyone—all of you from out of town, all you from Jerusalem, and you King Jehoshaphat—GOD's word: Don't be afraid; don't pay any mind to this vandal horde. This is God's war, not yours. . . . They were up early in the morning, ready to march into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were leaving, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, “Listen Judah and Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! Believe firmly in GOD, your God, and your lives will be firm! Believe in your prophets and you'll come out on top!” After talking it over with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed a choir for GOD; dressed in holy robes, they were to march ahead of the troops, singing, “Give thanks to



GOD, His love never quits.” As soon as they started shouting and praising, GOD set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir as they were attacking Judah, and they all ended up dead.

*2 Chronicles 20:15, 20-22 (The Message)*

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. . . . When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. . . . And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

*Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-4, 2:42-47 (RSV)*

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

*Acts 4:31 (RSV)*

And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly

there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>1</sup>And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>2</sup>and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

*Acts 16:23-31 (RSV)*

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>1</sup>His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>2</sup>Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.

*Hebrews 12:25-29 (RSV)*

A king's existence is demonstrated by way of subjection and submissiveness. Do you want to try and demonstrate that the king exists? Will you do so by offering a string of proofs, a series of arguments? No. If you are serious, you will demonstrate the king's existence by your submission, by the way you live. And so it is with demonstrating God's existence. It is accomplished not by proofs but by worship. Any other way is but a thinker's pious bungling.

*Soren Kierkegaard*

While we were singing and praising the Lord, I saw a picture of Jesus sitting on His throne. We are in front of Him, smiling in great expectation. To the right and to the left of Christ were flowering fruit trees with beautiful buds, as they were in the petal stages. A wind came and blew. The petals flew off the trees showering us. We were so enthralled that we all, as one, started praising and worshipping the Lord. As we were praising, a golden powder came out of our mouths. The

powder fell upon these trees. What we were doing—we were pollinating. Fruit started to grow; the fruit became so heavy that the boughs came down and hit the floor. As it hit the floor, sisters and brothers would be raised up. We grew and grew as a body larger and larger. This process kept occurring. I felt the Lord was saying that before we bear fruit we pollinate with praise.

*Marguerite Ragain at the Living Stones Service*

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

*John 4:21-24 (RSV)*

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