

DUAL AUTHORITY
Presented by Adrian Ebens
at Amicalola, Georgia.

April 9, 2011

...introduce this topic by giving you an example of what I often refer to if you go on my website www.maranathamedia.com, I talk about dual authority. Dual Authority. It's just a term that is really a natural consequence of understanding the father-son relationship because the Father-Son relationship is a dual authority system. There are two distinct authority figures. Both are authority figures to us, but they are different. They are different authorities.

Within the Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Spirit are actually identical authorities. They are not distinct authorities, they are identical, and they wear labels, which can, in fact, become interchangeable. So that when you are reading scripture, it talks about LORD (capital L-O-R-D), it could be the Father, it could be the Son, it could be the Spirit, and it doesn't matter. So that is a singular authority system. A singularity that comes through the meshing of the three personalities grinding them to powder until there is only one singularity left and that is God, which we call "He," but is "Them." Them is "He?" Does that make sense? No.

I agree with the first part of what I read recently in a prominent evangelist's book where he said—he was quoting I think Augustine, an Adventist scholar—he was quoting saying "To try to understand the Trinity will cause insanity." Amen! The last part I vigorously disagree with. "To deny the Trinity will cause the loss of your soul." No sir, it will not.

So this Dual Authority idea, I want to unpack that a bit. And what I want to say is what Gary presented to you this morning was a Miller's Rule application of going through a Bible subject containing all that the Bible has to say and laying it out in a sequence, and giving you a crystal line of truth. And that's what I saw this morning, didn't you? Gary seeded, and I'm going to nurture the concept that he has just expressed to you, and in that way we're going to reflect the headship and submission, I'm going to submit myself to the teaching that Gary has taught, and I'm going to amplify what he has spoken about. Do you understand what I am saying?

Because he has laid the seed for what I'm going to share with you, he is going to save me a lot of time, because I want to focus in on the Father-Son relationship then. He has laid out the whole Fountain Structure and the flow and the Inheritance—all those things I was going to have to speak to you about I don't have to do now. You've already got it in your mind.

The next point of my introduction is I would like to address truths of scripture and show where they help resolve conflicts in your journey as your time to understand God, so I start at a point where I have struggled with something, and then I will lead into how what I am

talking about resolves that problem. And I am going to read to you a statement—this is from the introduction of Return of Elijah. Just listen to this. I write here:

“In this manuscript I lay down a framework drawn from Biblical principles that drive human assumptions. All Protestants agree in “the Bible and the Bible only.” We believe in the principles of divine revelation and God’s preservation of His Word. Those things are given. My question is, what assumptions do you work from to interpret the facts of Scripture? Let me use a key issue of this manuscript as an example. When we say that Jesus is equal with the Father, how do we interpret the word *equal*?” (Pause)

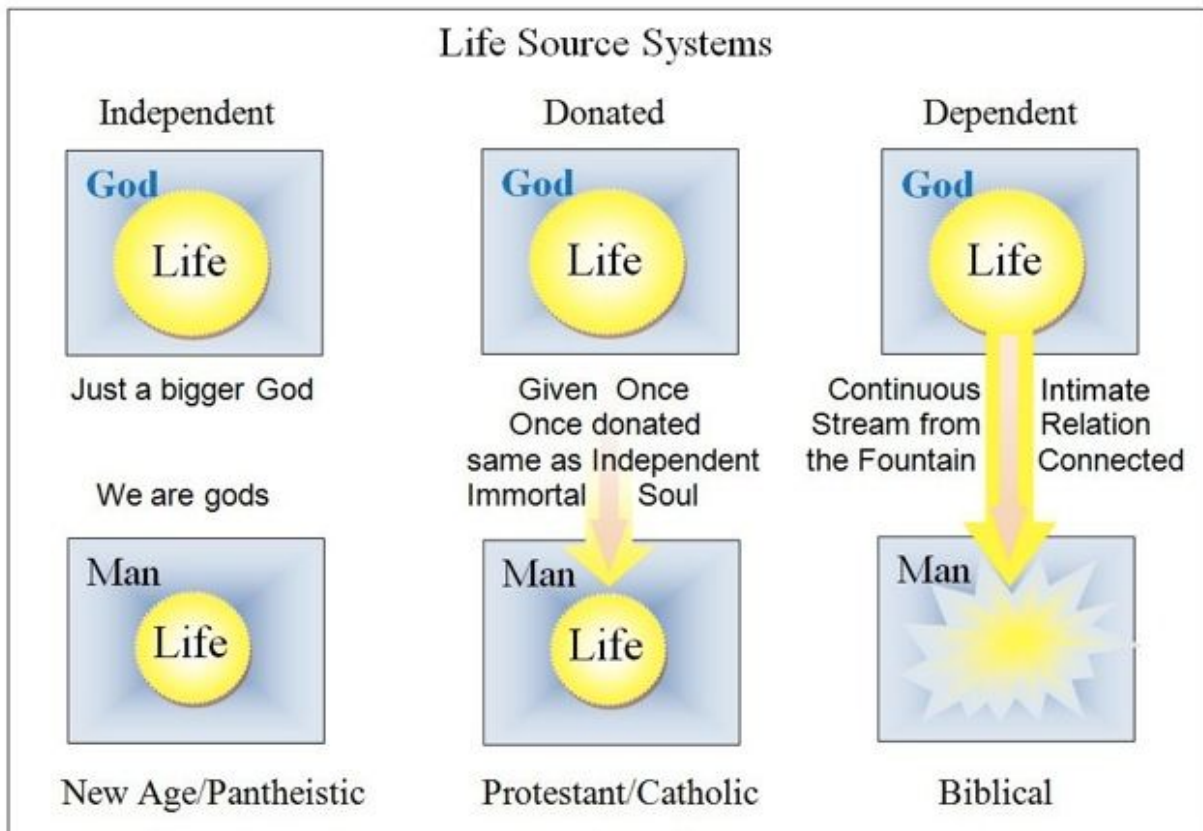
Okay? “The word *equal* invites one to draw on their personal value system. “You automatically will surface your perception of equality.” How many Bible studies did you see in the Adventist Church where the Bible says, “Today, we are studying on the subject of equality and lining up all the Bible texts on the subject of equality and what makes—Have you seen any Bible studies like that? (Pause) Why? Because we naturally assume that we understand what that word means. But I would like to suggest to you that what we naturally assume that word means is actually diametrically opposed to our understanding of the Father-Son relationship, and we’ve never questioned it. Equal—well, let me read a bit more. (Pause) I’m going to go off somewhere else. (Reading again from The Return of Elijah)

“It requires us to pull out our measuring rulers and make a determination. I contend that the human heart influenced by the lie of the serpent”—this is what I spoke about last night, the inherent life source concept that you shall not surely die—“has a faulty value system which directly affects our interpretation of the word *equal*. This faulty value system is so engrained, that we don’t even realize that we are using it.”

And as I just said to you, we don’t realize we’re using it, because I have never seen a Bible study—growing up in the Adventist Church—on the word equality showing the Biblical definition of equality and what that word means. I’ve never seen one, and that means we already know what that means, which means we’re in danger of making assumptions from carnal reasoning. Do you hear what I’m saying?

“If you draw nothing else from this study I would be content if you as a reader were able to sufficiently evaluate your own thinking for how you understand the word *equal*. Upon our understanding of this word hangs the very core of our belief in God.”

Is that true? And there is the point at which I will enter, because in the year 2001 I was exposed to some material in relation to the Father and Son relationship. I became excited about this material until I came up against the word *equal*. And in my mind there was a perplexity. (“Are we able to bring up that chart?”)



Unknowing to me—for those of you who weren't here last night, I explained how the lie of the serpent has allowed for these two views of God and man that you can have either a New Age/Pantheistic understanding that where, if there is a God, or He has life, or we're all a part of God—we're all part of the same thing. Our sense of differentiation from the God Life Source is, well, for each person, it depends. And again, in Zen Buddhism, the ultimate understanding of finding yourself—is that you the individual dropped into the vast ocean of God, and you become nothing, and yet, you become everything. Okay? That's this (first) column—the drop in the ocean.

You know, this is actually a loss of identity, and might I suggest to you, and I did write an article on this called “The Trinity and the Loss of Identity.” The same principle applies to the Trinity, that the Father and Son lose their identity as they submerge themselves into this Oneness called “He.” Because there is no distinction between Father and Son within the Trinity, inherently, their identities are merged into one, and so their actual personalities are destroyed. You understand what I am saying? (Column 2) So, Trinity (or) New Age/Pantheism—it's all the same. It's all coming from the same stream—the same source. Protestant/Catholic View. There is a distinct view of God as the Life Source giving to man his own life source, so there is, and if I can suggest this to you, and again, this is another line of reasoning. The worst forms of human passion and forcing control have been manifested by which organization? The Roman Catholic Church. Why? Because it has a conception of large life source dominating and controlling small life source. In this New Age Pantheistic you're all part of one. There's much more fluidity and flexibility within this system—much more, everyone doing what they, you know, just letting it—but, in this

Protestant/Catholic system there's also a set of commandments, there is orthodoxy, there is *This is the way, this is the way it must be done*, and so this system is actually more controlling and more dominant than New Age Pantheism. That's because of the big Life Source-Little Life Source situation. And because there is a Life Source in the Protestant /Catholic system this Life Source has to hold it and stop it from getting out. There is much more sense of control and domination going on in this system. In this system (New Age Pantheistic) there is no Life Source., so there is no need for control. There's only the need for relationships. That's all there is., because man has no life outside of his own outside the relationship. Again, from this chart you see the implications that are surfacing in this.

Back to the issue of equality. I was then faced with a dilemma, because I was being influenced. I was raised on Hollywood afternoon shows like "Gilligan's Island", and "Bewitched,". and all those lovely shows. (Feedback from audience). From America. (Laughter). From the City of the Lost Angels. So, I was being infiltrated with all this, particularly this kind of thinking (New Age/Pantheistic). It was infiltrating my thinking, and the power within, developing the powers within, going with your feeling, let your feelings dominate; go with what you feel inside of you. Do you see what I'm saying? So I unknowingly had embraced a doctrine of inherent power. But you must develop your power, but you must develop you skills, you must develop your abilities.

And I would like to suggest to you, and this is just another aside, that combining an inherent Life Source System with the Adventist faith, is the most—is one of the most destructive things you could ever do, because the calling of the Adventist believer is a very high calling, is it not? The standard is extremely high. Now, if you combine a high standard system with an inherent Life source system, that's suicide. Do you see what I'm saying? You're asking people to perform at a level (12:30) where within a few years they'll have no teeth left, because there's weeping and gnashing of teeth. "I can't do it." The demands, the health reform, the dress code, the dress standard, the music requirements.

I mean our church is already bowing on that. We had to go to Protestantism where we minimize the standards and the law to deal with our insanity. We couldn't deal with the standards any more, because we were embracing this (gestures toward chart). Do you see what I'm saying? So many implications involved in this. And so I am blissfully walking in towards the Father and Son relationship, but then suddenly—Hang on. If the Son came forth from the Father, then how can the Son be equal with the Father. And we talked about how that is possible, but something naturally, inherently inside of me was—there was an alarm going off saying, "There's a problem! There's a problem! There's a problem!" That means He's not God. "There's a problem!" "There's a problem!" Why were all these alarm bells goes off in my head? I'm influenced by this (gesturing toward the chart), and I don't even realize I'm influenced by this.

Let me read you another quote. It's in the front page (Return of Elijah).

"Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance give to Eve in Eden. "Ye shall not surely die." 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. Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs, but it will be reached in the last remnant of time. ...Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion.” GC 561

Do you see how this fits in all this? Our minds have been hypnotized. Many of us in seeking to share the truth of the Father and Son with our brethren find a brick wall that is thicker than Fort Knox. Why? Hypnotism. Life Source problems. Inherent problems. Lies about where power comes from and where life comes from, and what makes us equal. Because as soon as you start talking about a begotten son, alarm bells are going off saying, “That means he’s not equal.” Satan just pulls the strings, and there’s no way you’re going to get through. We know that the arch-deceiver is playing for keeps, and he set this thing up, and he’s been working on this for a long time.

So this issue of equality—Why did I have this problem? Because I had—let me jump to another issue to bring in another line of thought here. Are we familiar with the counsel to the prophet regarding sport? What were we told? Competition. (audience feedback) Invented by the devil? Man, you’re conservative! Now, I remember. This is interesting.

As a twenty year old, I was drawn to Christ, and I talk about my testimony in one of the presentations in the DVDs there. I fell in love with Christ, but then I had the misfortune of coming across Messages to Young People in one other statement where she mentioned my three favorite sports: football, cricket, and tennis are a species of idolatry. (Gasp) No! For the next ten years I pretended not to play those sports, but my heart was still for them. My heart still wanted them. You know. I would be in the TV store and the tennis was on, and you know, I’m just checking out the size and the dimensions of the...”Come on.” (gesture of cheering a play followed by laughter) I think you’re relating to what I am saying. Yet I got to the point of despair sometimes. I couldn’t shake it. I couldn’t throw it off. Why couldn’t I jettison the desire to watch sport? Because sport is a natural consequence of this life source system (gesturing toward chart). You must perform; you must show your skill and your ability, you must show the world you have what it takes. You must seek the adulation of those around you by your prowess, and your skill, and your ability.

That’s diametrically opposed to the spirit of Jesus. Diametrically opposed! You cannot love sport and love Jesus Christ. Do you want me to say that again? You cannot love sport and love Jesus Christ. They are diametrically opposed. The Spirit of Jesus and the spirit of sport are diametrically opposed. The spirit of Sport is the spirit of the devil. It is the spirit of “I shall ascend.” What is the point in keeping score? In order to trace your ascension—or dissension if you are losing. That’s what it’s all about.

And I for many years could not shake my love of sport, until the Father and His Son found me. And the desire for those things, by His grace, and by my continued determination not to place myself in situations where I could read, because my love could waken in a flash if I let it, but I have no desire for it at present, and by God’s grace I pray it will stay that way. But I only came to that through a recognition that the Jesus I worship does not have life

original, unborrowed, and underived from within himself. He has life original, unborrowed, and underived from the Great Source of all, His Father.

How does what I've just said there, how does that work? How did my understanding of that break my love of sports? Because you know what? It completely changed my perception of equality. And this is where we come into—let's hone in on the Father-Son relationship. If we think about it carefully, the Father-Son relationship is the prime relationship of the universe, isn't it? We're talking about relationship. Not individual, but relationship. It is the prime relationship of the universe, and let me suggest to you that our perception of that relationship will determine our measuring rod for all relationships we engage in. Do you understand what I'm saying?

It will determine, because like in a human setting, our perception as a child, our perception of how a relationship works is based on how we understood our relationship we had with our mother and father. Isn't that right? That's how we perceive relationships. As we grow up we may come to understand that maybe our parents may have had a dysfunctional relationship, but even understanding something logically doesn't mean that it is going to change you emotionally. You're still going to operate on those emotional principles for decades after you've understood that it was a faulty way of living, and you will still fall into those patterns of thinking, won't you? It takes a long time to come out of these dysfunctional practices—a long time of asking God to help you—You're doing it again, you're doing it again, you've got to, don't go down that path. "Help me to make the right choice. I've got to choose a different path." You need years and years of therapy. (21:42)

Sin is diabolical. Sin has so messed up our relationships that the more and more I study this message the more I think *Lord, when you come, will you find faith on the earth? Will there be any who really, really are ready?* What do the righteous say? Lord, who shall be saved? Who shall be able to stand? What does it say in Joel? Where it says, all faces gather blackness. Do you remember where Ellen White describes when God is about to come and there's the Time of Jacob's Trouble and everyone's going, "Am I ready? I'm a sinner. I am vile. How can God accept me?" That's where only those who stand on the naked promises of God's Word will be able to stand not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit. We rest in His mercy, not in our deeds or efforts—nothing. We can only cling to His mercy, and those only who will be able to cling to His mercy are those who have learnt to walk by His Word.

(And) God has placed us in a situation today where He is testing those who wish to walk by this Word (holds Bible up), because it's going to cost you everything to believe in His only begotten Son. I've thought that I would face persecution for my belief in the Son of God, but I never thought I would do it inside the Adventist Church. That's been a big shock to me. I'm still trying to deal with it. *Lord, why am I made to walk in scorn and reproach amongst the brethren for my belief in you?* (Pause) Well? (Pause) You get to find out whether you really want to believe in Him or not, don't you? Do you follow Him for who he is or do you follow him because you get a pastor's salary? You get your name; you get articles printed in the pa(per)—anyway—

Equality. It is a big deal for some (Pause). It is a big deal! Equality. So the point I'm making is that with the Father and His Son, our perception of that relationship defines equality. Within the Trinity System, what makes the Father and the Son equal? Power? Is that right? This thing they call divinity, which in essence is power, the ability to create—the power to hold the worlds, gravity, all these things by his physical, spiritual, and mental power. Christ has it, the Father has it, the Spirit has it. They all have it, so they're all equal. Okay? And if you put one of them in the situation where one of them gave it to another one they're no longer equal. So the law of inheritance within the Trinity does not hold true. You form a view of equality that is based on power. (25:13)

You also have a view of equality that, at least, within the Adventist system, and this is what I am perceiving. The Adventist system to the best of my knowledge, in most quarters of the Adventist Church, essentially hold what we would call as a Tritheist view of God. It's three (3) Gods. It's not—it's moved away from the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed where is "God of God and Light of Light." Most Protestants still would believe that Jesus is the Son *of* God in literal form mixed up with all the other things associated with a problem with that, but in the Adventist Church Jesus is in *no way* the Son of God. I was told by several Adventist pastors, "Adrian, Jesus is not the literal Son of Yahweh." I tremble when I hear that. That's where Adventism's common. That's why Judah is more treacherous than her sister Samaria. We have rejected completely the Sonship of Jesus Christ in the Adventist Church.

Now, is that a cause for us to puff out our chest and say, "Well, thank God, I haven't fallen for that deception." No! We should weep! This is our church. I'm still a Seventh-day Adventist; I'm not going anywhere. This is my church. I'm part of this church, and part of that church is walking with humility and shame of knowing that you're in a situation of apostasy. It's at the point of apostasy where everybody—many people bow, "Well, I'm not going to be part of that group." As soon as people find the light, and they leave the movement, who is going to be left to do the repenting? (Pause) Nobody left to do the repenting, because everyone else is going to repent. "Not me. "I'm moving on. I'm not going to be under this corrupt system, this corrupt hierarchy—the second most hierarchal system after the Catholic Church." I've heard all of this said. "I'm not going to be part of that system." Well, I am. I'm staying, because it's my church. I'm not going anywhere, because I still believe that the Adventist Church is God's covenant church. It's in apostasy? No doubt, but it's still His Church. And God doesn't tell us these truths so we can go running off somewhere else and hold them for ourselves. We are to be a witness and a truth to being God's remnant church.

It's hard work. It's not rewarding at all. Many of us are facing scorn. Many of us are facing pseudo-censure by being deprived of the ability to speak within congregations, to teach Sabbath School lessons, to voice their opinions or hold church office. There, you know what I'm talking about. It's a hard road. The Saviour is watching us closely to see how are we dealing with this. Are we dealing with it in the Spirit of Christ?

I read recently in an article about Jesus—in the book *Desire of Ages*, Jesus as a child (and) how he related to the authorities of His day. How he dealt with those who were overbearing and controlling and dominating. Did he rise up and give them a piece of His

mind? (28:51) Maybe he should have, because a piece of his mind is so submissive, and trusting, and obedient, and seeking always to do the best to respect authority. Is that right? I'd like a piece of that mind. The challenge.

Let me come back to this issue about equality. When we read in Scripture in Philippians, and this is the oft quoted passage, isn't it? Philippians. You know the one I'm talking about, chapter 2. "Who being in the form—"I'd like to say, "Why doesn't it just say, "Who being God"? It's "being in the form of." "He being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God." The equality of the Father and the Son. Let me—this is the way I like to express it Gary mentioned about Adam and Eve and the representation of Father and Son. I'm going to go a bit more about it later, but let's go to the representation to Adam and Eve. Adam was alone in the garden, and he looked around. I imagine him trying to tell Mrs. Zebra what was the deep longing of his heart. How far do you think he would have gotten? (Brief conversing with attendees—supposed conversation) There's no doubt he would have talked, but the point is, what does the Scripture say? He found none comparable. There was no one in the garden who understood him in terms of his emotional needs, in terms of his desires, his dreams, his desires to do things. He could share that with a zebra, and the zebra would go, "Ahh, yeah, okay." (shakes head no and laughter) But then, Eve came forth from Adam, made of his substance, second self, and Adam looks into her eyes, and he knows she understands. Is that equality?

Notice what Jesus says in John 10:15. "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father." That's equality, isn't it? How many beings in the universe can say that? (Pause) Only one. No other being in the universe. The one and only being in the universe, the only being in the universe. I remember a prophet using those words a few times. The only being in the universe who can enter into all the councils of God. Why? Because he's the only one who could understand God's desires, his purposes, his will, his wishes; he's the only one that has the nature to understand all those things. We're not capable of understanding those things at that level. It has not been given to us, nor was it given to Lucifer. That's why he was not in on the great council, because he wouldn't have understood all of the issue, all the discussion that would have gone back between Father and Son. He wouldn't have understood it. He might have understood parts of it, but I think there were things he would not have understood because he's not *begotten of the Father*. Does that make sense?

Is this a view of equality that is presented? The view of equality, the standard line when we get presented the Father, the Son, and the Spirit get the three (3) "Omnis," which happen to come out of Thomas Aquinas and Augustine. They're the ones who came up with the three (3) Omnis as a way of measuring who is divine and who is God. That's interesting, isn't it? Omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient. We always gather the three Omnis. That's how you define God, right? So, it has to be true. Yeah, the three Omnis. Yeah. But here is a different form of equality—knowing the Father.

Another little aside for you. Having this knowledge of the Father, this ability to understand the Father is an attribute of divinity, isn't it? So then, if this is part of divinity to have a knowledge of God, to know God as God knows you, and He is the only one who has it, is it then possible for Him to lay aside the power aspects of divinity, and yet maintain the

relational aspects of divinity? See what I'm saying? So He's the divine sacrifice, and we can short circuit all this quandary about deity not dying, and dying on the cross, and what actually died, who died and what part of him died. You don't have to deal with those issues any more, because you have a relational understanding of divinity. I know the Father even as the Father knows me. There's no one else. He is the only one, and when he died on the cross, that divine mind impregnated with our carnal human mind took that mind into himself, and he held it there, and he died—and killed that carnal mind, and came out with a glorified human divine mind—mysteriously blended. We don't understand how the two fit together, but can you see? It's quite simple, really. Quite simple.

So this view of equality I would like to suggest to you then becomes a platform upon which all human structures and relationships are based in Heaven's eyes, which then once you understand. Christ came forth from the Father, was made equal with the Father. Yes, it does say that. Doesn't it? "*Made equal.*" Exalted. Made equal with the Father, and then the Father through the Son creates everything.

Then we have an understanding of how husbands and wives are equal, don't we? What makes a wife equal to her husband? What does the world tell us? How are men and women equal? Mm? Same salaries. Both wear pants? Same university. Same education. Isn't that the way we compare now? The feminist movement to make men and women equal? Equal opportunity. Equal rights. And I'm not saying that women shouldn't be paid the same as men. That doesn't bother me at all. That's fine. Great. I don't have an issue with it. If there's a value system attached to that, then you've got a big problem. Then you've got men and women competing with each other. Back to sports. But the sport of husbands and wives competing is a pretty nasty blood sport. It's heavy—a lot of bruising. You need a lot of padding for that kind of sport. No one wins—no one wins. I'd like to suggest to you that this issue right here is the primary reason why I was willing to speak out. It's the Number 1 reason for me, because I saw that the Father-Son relationship directly affects the way husbands and wives perceive how they should live in harmony with one another, in order that they may bless their children rather than curse them. Do you see what I'm saying?

I would like to suggest to you that a husband and wife who are in the image of the Father and His Son are perfectly positioned to, as Gary pointed out, let that living water flow down, down, down. Because there is no contention between husband and wife, there is no striving for the supremacy, there is no yearning in the heart of the wife to say, "I will ascend into my husband's situation, I will be like him, I will dress like him. I will..." There will be no need for that anymore. Do you see the implications of this? This issue of equality is to me the central issue.

Let's go to Acts, chapter 2, because there's a word there that relates to the word equality doesn't it? When we as a society find equality as God defines it, we will find another word with each other. "Having things in common? Yeah, that's part of it? "One accord." To be in one accord means—well, what does it mean? Let's go back to our understanding. "to be of one accord." Suddenly, we all have this tremendous emotional feeling sweep over us, and we all love each other. It just changes like that, right? That's what—when the Holy Spirit comes, is that what's going to happen? Well, it possibly could. But, this

concept of equality, understanding each other's roles in society, the identities that we hold within our society, so that we don't feel the need to rise up against those in authority, and those in authority don't feel threatened by those who are their subordinates. That would be one accord, wouldn't it? Yeah. I'll speak to this more a bit later, but the legacy of this altered equality system is that most leaders today are incredibly insecure.

Do you know that democracy breeds insecurity? Democracy breeds chameleon-like activity. Do you understand what I'm saying? Democracy demands of you that you submerge your identity, because if they really knew what you were like they wouldn't like you, and they wouldn't vote for you. So, between you and the populus you need a media arm that can project all of the identities that you want them to see. I know someone like that. He's a serpent, he's an angel, he's a woman, he changes form all the time, and he becomes what you want. Interesting, isn't it? Super hero that can change form and become whatever. Transformers.

(Verbal exchange from member in audience) That would lose their powers. That's coming from a different model, same issue. Same issue.

I guess I'm speaking to a democratic system where we're in a democracy, but I've spent a lot of time praying and thinking about this issue. Why is it that we have been indoctrinated to believe that a democracy is a good thing? Is it? It might be better than tyranny, it may be better than monarchy. It may be better—it *may* be, but (voice from audience) Theocracy is obviously the best, but we are talking about men and systems. (Voice from audience) But, haven't we grown up with democracy is inherently good? And autocracy is inherently evil? Haven't we been brought up with that idea. And isn't it the Chinese and the Japanese, and they're the ones who have been propagandized that we were the clever ones? Who do you think propagandized? I'm not saying that democratic values aren't good. I'm saying when you lay a democracy over a family structure, I see value in that, because in the time of Israel, all the heads of families come together representing their families, and they would vote for things. That's a democratic principle, and I'm always in favor of that. But they didn't dismantle their family structure to the point of one person, one vote. Today it's one person, one vote. Husband—one vote, wife—one vote, children—I see, children—two votes. No. (laughter and verbal exchange from audience)

[I]n Australia, what we've grown up on, is hyper democracy, which is just egalitarian. It's just all across the board. There is no structure. There is no high-ranking, nobody's under nobody. Mob rule. I'm guessing, maybe in America it's a little bit more like that. But in Australia, we delight in mocking our politicians. It's our pastime. Are we one colony that's taught another colony how to do this? We delight in mocking our politicians. The media scrutinizes and tears strips off the politicians. I'm kind of figuring when things started out like that with George Washington, it wasn't like that. There was respect for authority, wasn't there? And in that system it would work. Republicanism could work in that format, but when authority is stripped away—(Pause) I'm branching out her a little bit. This is, this is—(female voice from audience) Did you see how our Prime Minister just got knocked off? Yeah! A coup within his own party, and boom, he's out. We voted him all in. Well, I didn't vote for him. I pray for him. He's unpopular, he's out, because he is no longer popular. The party panicked, and he's no longer popular, the opinion polls

are going down, he's no longer popular, they cut him out. The single most important individual in our country—he's out. How far is a country going to go like that? Well, we're surviving on our iron ore deposits, but when that runs out, Australia is gone. (Laughter)

Let me express it this way. If President Obama came here, and he spoke some words to you, and then spoke to you some words of blessing and encouragement to you, how much value would that hold for you? (45:51) (audience feedback) Why wouldn't it hold much value to you? (Audience Feedback) What if George Washington came? Let's not go into all the "raising from the dead" stuff. What if he came and spoke? Interesting isn't it? How we perceive blessing.

Lets take it to another level. If a wife says to her husband, "Husband, you're going to take me out to dinner tonight. You're going to feed me, you're going to treat me nice, you're going to buy me flowers, you're going to do all those things, and then tell me you love me. Now when that husband goes through all that ritual and does all those things, how blessed will the wife feel? (Audience Feedback) Why? Coercion. What happens—I'm getting ahead of myself a little, but, what happens when we have a situation (this is what our church would tell us) where the Spirit and the Son voted the Father in to the position of supreme authority. They voted Him in, so how does the Father then hold his authority? By virtue and debt to whom? To the Spirit and the Son. When the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," (Pause and Feedback) Can you see a problem? The thing that man most needs is to know that God accepts him and loves him, and that he receives his blessing. But as I will go into more detail, let me say it this way. Absolute blessing requires absolute authority. Do you see what I'm saying?

What our pioneers taught us is that the Father holds authority in the universe absolutely. It was not given to Him. He was not voted into that position. He is the great source of all. His authority is unquestioned in the universe, and because He holds absolute authority, when He speaks, His Word is absolute blessing. See the power in what I'm saying? Absolute blessing. But if he were voted into that position by Spirit and Son, then He has delegated authority. His blessing is delegated. So when the Father says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," the Son says, "Good job, Dad. That's the way we scripted it, right? You do it good Dad. That's good. I'm proud of you." There's something really hollow about that whole thing, isn't there? It's repugnant. It's a lie. (audience feedback)

Let me give you a suggestion. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, God the Father is the head of Christ, who is head of the man, who is the head of the woman. There is a channel of blessing. Blessing, not control. We're not in this system (referring back to the chart—New Age Pantheism or Protestant Catholic Systems), Remember, we're in this system (Biblical System). There's a Channel of blessing where the one in authority over you is not getting it, not understanding the principle, is not nurturing his wife as he should, what does the Bible tell us that a wife should be doing for an unbelieving husband who doesn't believe in blessing his wife? Pray for him. (Feedback from Audience) These kinds of issues is where we call the rubber meets the road, isn't it?. This is where all our love for God, and the love of the Father and Son—this is where it becomes real. This is the practical side of

our belief in God. As how does it affect how we relate to one another as husband and wife. Our perspective—and let me—we’re going off on a—what’s the time? Is it 12:30? We better wind up. I’m going to—I’ll keep going.

Summary. The Father-Son relationship define the—it defines all relationships. How we perceive Father and Son defines how we understand all things. I wanted to spend more time going into, and I guess I’ll do this in the next presentation, but all of the structures that we see reflected in Scripture are a reflection of His Headship and Submission System (3rd Column of the “Life Source Systems” chart). And might I suggest to you, and I mention this in my presentation “The Authority of the Spirit of Prophecy, that the key battleground of Adventism since its inception has been in three areas, and they’re all to do with equality.

The first battle was over the equality of the Father and the Son. Understanding how that equality, and time came in 1888.

The next battle that really began to rage was the battle between the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Spirit of Prophecy took dominance over the Bible for many decades. You know what I’m talking about? Multiple compilations coming out, reading the Spirit of Prophecy over the Word, and then, because of, and let me just word it this way, when the church realized there was a domination of the Spirit of Prophecy over the Bible, many people then chucked out the Spirit of Prophecy, but that’s how Satan works. He elevates the one in submission in order to destroy them. (Audience feedback) Within Adventism, the raising of Jesus to be the very Lord God, Himself, Satan’s doing in order to cut Him down into the ground to destroy His personality.

And the last battleground? The equality of men and women. The introduction of women’s ordination. This is the battleground, and it’s all built around our perception, or misperception of dual authority and equality based upon our understanding of Father and Son. We have shifted away from the Biblical Value System (Column 3 of Chart), because we have shifted away from the true Father and Son relationship.

And that is why for many years I struggled with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and how they are equal, and knowing that the Bible is the only place where we get our doctrine, and yet, the Spirit of Prophecy is inspired, and I should follow it. It’s very simple when you understand that the Bible is the head and the Spirit of Prophecy is the one in submission. The Bible is the husband, the Spirit of Prophecy is the wife. The wife is equal to the husband; the Spirit of Prophecy is equal to the Bible, but they have different roles. And can you see through the Trinitarian System, the personalities of the Father and Son being confused and messed up, that causes confusion of the Bible-Spirit of Prophecy and confusion of men and women in terms of what I will say, is in terms of the Church. There is a dual authority—Prophet-Priests. The prophets contained in the Word rule over the priests, or pastors, but where you see a situation where the pastors usurp the authority of the Word and make themselves equal to the Word, so that the word of the popes is equal to the Word of the Bible, that’s saying usurp—that’s taking place again, and when we spiritualize the God’s Word as we are taught to do, as all Adventist ministers are taught to

do, to spiritualize His Word, then the priest has usurped the power of the Word. (...I see the queen, and I shall not sorrow.) (55:21) (Comment from audience)

Yeah. It's the same. It's breaking the dual authority structure, which will always be safeguarded by a true understanding of Father and Son. (Comment from audience)

In a nutshell, and I will speak to this next week in Miller's Chapel. The Rules of Interpretation (Wm. Miller) laid down by the Adventist pioneers was to take the Bible literally unless it became obvious that a figurative interpretation was mandated. If it required a figurative interpretation, the interpretation would be found somewhere else in Scripture. Okay? But a spiritualization—the most classic spiritualization is the term “Father and Son.” Within the Trinity those terms are not real. They're metaphors. That's the spiritualization process.

Another example of spiritualization? The seventh-day, rest—the concept of rest. “We rest in Christ.” It's a spiritualization of the Sabbath Commandment. “I rest in Christ everyday.”

The nature of Christ—the fact that Jesus is made of the “seed of Abraham.” Well, that's a metaphor. He's actually pre-fall. That's a spiritualization process where the word doesn't actually mean what it says. When our church began, every one of our doctrines was laid on a literal platform and understanding, but by shifting the cornerstone relationship, Father and Son, and turning them to a spiritualize understanding where Father and Son are just labels and don't mean what they say, everything else in its train becomes spiritualized.

The Sanctuary is a classic example. We no longer have two (2) apartments in Heaven. Do you know that? We have two (2) two phases. That's in our Fundamentals, two phases—not two apartments. We've had that for thirty (30) years now. It's a spiritualization process, and let me capstone this by saying it is spiritualism, which I believe is the omega of deadly heresy, but the spiritualization of the roles of Father and Son is what precipitates everything else in its train. Do you understand what I'm saying? Once you break that relationship, everything is gone. You're going to lose everything.

The joy for me is in finding the Father and Son is that I have found an understanding the word equality that allows me to live in harmony, and it has allowed me to approach my brethren who are in authority over me without feeling the need to be the prophet to come and tell them, “You are the one who has sinned against Israel.” I don't have to carry that burden, because I was never given that authority. I can simply submit to them what I'm seeing in scripture and leave it with them. I have no burden to convince them that they are wrong. This equality system that I see in the Father and Son give me that freedom. I don't have to convince them. I don't have to stomp my feet and yell and scream and get upset, and stomp out the door. Thank the Lord for that! That's what this has done for me.

Let's pray.

Father in Heaven,

We just thank you so much that you and your Son are the key to all relationships in the universe. As you said through Paul, “In Him we move and have our being.” To understand Christ is to understand the key to all relationships, as to how He relates to you, Father, begotten, by inheritance, yet equal, so that in our sphere, in a human sphere, we can replicate this in our sphere as You are in Your sphere, and that we can have a one accord. We can come to the point where we are of one accord in one place because we understand our individual identities as a reflection of Father and Son.

I pray that what I have discussed today will—you will water these thoughts and germinate them, and they will grow, and You will bless us as we continue this study and seek the word of God to understand what it means for us today.

In Jesus Name, Amen.