

## Hands that Shed Innocent Blood - The Corruption of Divine Purpose 4 Pastor James Wheeler - Wednesday May 24, 2023.

### Proverbs 6:16-19 NASB

**16** There are six things that the LORD hates,  
Seven that are an abomination **[j]**to Him:

**17** Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,

**18** A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,

**19** A false witness *who* declares lies,  
And one who **[k]**spreads strife among brothers.

We saw previously this passage is a de-creation poetic idea. God created all good things including man on the sixth day, then He rested.

He wants to rest and rule with us as His creation. We are to rest and rule with Him in the creation of life, purpose and light. The enemy wants to use these six corruptions of divine purpose to enforce a kingdom of division and strife.

Instead of resting and ruling, the enemy wants to bring constant tension, lack of peace and striving against one another.

He doesn't want us to realize there is a good God ordained purpose for our eyes, for our words, for our hands, for our heart affections, and for our feet, our steps our direction. We need to see that there is a divine purpose for our witness, for our testimony - and it all should flow together in unity with God's fellow servants for the purpose of tending, stewarding, growing and ruling in His kingdom.

Daily we have before us the road with a split opportunity, take the road to God's glory or take the road to self-glory.

Fulfill our divine purpose or let it become corrupt by the plan of the enemy.

The things that are fed and nourished will always grow, and the things that are deprived of growth environments will struggle to grow.

If there are two competing elements in a growth environment, the healthy element will choke out the unhealthy element. So when God things are growing, and conditions are kept so that God things keep growing, then the tricks and traps of the enemy will be hindered from growing. We will be pursuing and fulfilling our divine purpose.

But when the elements the enemy prizes and values are growing, then the God things will be hindered and stifled from growing. The whole idea is to know what God wants to grow, and what God absolutely does not want to grow. We need to know this so we will give the right environment for the God things and eliminate potential for any kind of growth initiated by the enemy. If we sow to the spirit we will reap great spiritual rewards, we will glorify God and we will advance the kingdom. So we need to keep before us what might be the major contributors that will work against us living out God's Divine Purpose for us.

Here is our key verse:

**Proverbs 6:16-19 NASB**

[16](#) There are six things that the LORD hates,  
Seven that are an abomination [\[1\]](#) to Him:

[17](#) Haughty eyes, a lying tongue

**And hands that shed innocent blood,**

I talked last time about what an abomination is:

A thing that causes disgust or hatred. It is an offense to God. It is atrocious, obscene, it is disgraceful, and absolutely wickedness and pure evil.

When our hands don't do what they were created to do it is an offense to God.

Cane killing Able was the first corruption of divine purpose. Mirroring and extending the fleshly outworking of original sin. Cane let his corrupt heart corrupt his hands and shed innocent blood.

Cane was a gardener - our created assignment was and still is - to tend the garden of God. The purpose of our hands it to tend, care for, sow, plant, grow and harvest.

So instead of nurturing, planting, sowing, cultivating, giving life - the hands of Cain became the expression of the corrupted heart. The hands of Cain turned from life giving - to life ending in order to eliminate the competition. Pride and self-promotion, the selfish desire to be accepted on his own terms and not coming to God on God's terms caused the first murder. And those desires still exist as the root of all the evil in the world today.

This sin in particular corrupts both the individual and the territory. The Bible says that, "The blood of Able still cries out." The blood of the unborn cries out from the soil of our nation. And the root cause is always the same. That is - man trying to live on his own terms and not the terms of a Holy, righteous and just, loving God.

In addition to this passage being a de-creation narrative it also mirrors the corruption of King David's anointing. If you realize Solomon wrote this proverb, and He was well acquainted with and lived in the fall out of the sins of His father.

We see this progression in the sin of David. His eyes moved from steadfastly gazing into the beauty of the Lord in fear and reverence of the One True God - onto self pity and self fulfilling of personal desires. It was then followed by lies to cover sin then finally blood to cover sin.

David fulfilled the enemies anti-creation narrative and David proved that while He was a type of Christ as an anointed King - his shedding of innocent blood was a type of anti-Christ, shedding the wrong innocent blood. This picture creates even greater tension for a longing to see a truly anointed King without sin, and it foreshadows that the only One to live a truly sinless life must have His innocent blood shed for that sins of all creation. I just find that profound to think about. God's trail of bread crumbs, types and shadows all throughout the scriptures.

### **Psalm 24:3,4a NASB**

**3**Who may ascend onto the hill of the LORD?

And who may stand in His holy place?

**4**One who has **clean hands** and a pure heart,

Understand heart purity proceeds hand purity. In the Old Testament there were so many regulations regarding ceremonial cleansing, and while washing hands is good to avoid infection and impurity - our hands are never truly clean until our heart is repentant and clean.

The Lord was the pure and Holy sacrifice, and so we repent and come into the Holy place now by Jesus the new and living way. Only through His innocent blood can our hearts be made clean, and the work of our hands pure and consecrated for His purpose and for His glory.

You might say Pastor James I haven't committed murder with my hands. I'm glad for that. But when our heart embraces self above others, when our heart sins, like it is predisposed to doing - our whole body is impure. Just like one individual living in sin and not corrected by the church will corrupt the church, so any issue in our hearts will corrupt our entire physical bodies. And in reality it was our sin that put Jesus on the cross and so we have shed innocent blood. Thank God His blood was shed for us! In addition to that, in some indirect ways, if and when we fail to stand for righteousness and defend the voice of the innocent - we are culpable of the very sin we haven't stood up against. That's why our voice as the church for the cause of justice, and the rights of the unborn is so important.

**So what is the divine purpose for our hands? Or what are some of the divine purposes of our hands?**

The origin of the phrase "idle hands are the devils workshop" is a paraphrase from scripture about being slothful. In other words when we fail to set our hands to what the Lord desires, they are free to be used by the enemy to carry out his plans and strategies.

**On the contrary - Our hands are to produce the evidence of covenant prosperity. To flourish, to multiply, to heal, to commission, to wage war, to praise, to worship and to create and release the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.**

### **Deuteronomy 28:8**

The LORD will command the blessing for you in your barns and in everything that you put your **hand to**, and He will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

### **Deuteronomy 30:9a**

Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in every **work of your hand**,

### **Psalm 90:17**

**17** May the kindness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
And confirm for us the **work of our hands**;  
Yes, confirm the **work of our hands**.

Psalm 90:17 was a cry for deliverance out of captivity and back into the purposeful will and work of God. And this should be our prayer. To ask God for His kindness and favor and the mark of His confirming signs, wonders, miracles, missions, church planting, discipleship, evangelism etc. In the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, while we walk here in the valley of the shadow of death - may we carry the light of His Word and the have the evidence of His kindness all about us.

God should be growing what we set our hands to -  
and if not, if what we are setting our hands to isn't growing then we should be asking -  
"are we doing what He desires, and are we doing it the way He desires?"

### **Our hands are for Working, Building and Creating**

### **Genesis 2:15 NASB**

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it.

### **Exodus 35:31-33**

**31**And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all [ai]craftsmanship; **32**to create [ai]designs for working in gold, in silver, and in [ak]bronze, **33**and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work.

### **1 Chronicles 22:15,16 NASB**

**15**Moreover there are many workmen with you, stonecutters, masons of stone, and carpenters; and all *of them* are skillful in every kind of work. **16**Of the gold, silver, bronze, and iron there is no limit. Arise and work, and may the LORD be with you.”

**Our hands are for Clapping** Our hands are to be instruments of praise and worship. Specifically joyful worship!

### **Psalm 47:1 NLT**

Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!

Specifically our clapping in worship isn't just to keep time with the music.

It is a powerful declaration of the Majesty of the King. Our hand clapping is exaltation and a form of worship. We honor something when we clap.

The Bible also describes men clapping in scorn and derision. A mocking clap, a clap of dishonor and repudiation. So our clapping in worship can signify both exaltation of the Holy One and repudiation of the defeated foe, the devil, death, the power of sin, and evil in the world. Clapping is a percussive sound, it creates intense sound waves that God intended for spiritual warfare.

The Lord had Ezekiel prophecy and clap His hands declaring the sword of judgement against the people of Israel. We should get intensely prophetic symbolically clapping even in our private times as we wield the Sword of the Spirit against the dictates of our own fleshly desires, against the tactics of the enemy, and against the spirit of this worldly age. And let them all know they are defeated and must surrender to the One True Living God.

Clapping is an underutilized weapon of worship and I am exhorting you as the Body to re-ignite in your understanding and activation of this divine purpose for our hands. It is all about our intentionality.

## **Our hands are for Lifting**

### **Yadah**

To revere or worship with extended hands. This word for praise is found over 111 times in scripture.

### **Psalm 67:3 NASB**

May the peoples praise You, God; May all the peoples praise (yadah) You.

### **Psalm 145:10 NIV**

All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol (yadah) you.

### **Psalm 28:2 NASB**

Hear the sound of my pleadings when I cry to You for help, When I raise my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

### **Psalm 134:2**

Lift up your hands to the sanctuary And bless the LORD.

### **1 Timothy 2:8 NASB**

Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger and dispute.

This is also an underutilized weapon of worship in the Body of Christ. Our body was created to worship God and our hands were made to worship Him. When our hands are uplifted, we vertically align with the Lord. We show we want to be a conduit of the atmosphere of heaven to literally pull through us.

We are like lightning rods in this posture. We are simultaneous givers and receivers in this position. We are no longer able to defend ourselves against attack, we are vulnerable to others, and collectively when we all do this corporately it is a unifying expression of corporate worship. Whenever I encourage people to raise their hands up to the Lord I sense the atmosphere shift. Up raised hands is a posture of prayer and worship that we must not neglect.

## **Our hands are for Deliverance and Miracles and Healing**

### **Mark 16:18b**

they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

### **Acts 19:11 NASB**

God was performing extraordinary [e]miracles by the hands of Paul, [12](#)so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

### **Our hands are literal and figurative. What our lives touch it is said we have set our hands to.**

Think about your life as an expression that results in other lives touched. Do our lives show evidence that people have been built up by us? Have they been tended like a garden, nourished, grown, cared for? Have the people we come in contact with been freed from oppression, have they been delivered? Has whatever sickness that has a hold on them been removed from their lives?

God has given us time, He has given us a talent, He gives us treasure, and all of it is to touch those around us with the touch of God. To be the hand of God, to be His representatives. Our lives when we rub shoulders with others, figuratively and literally should leave them as though we anointed them with oil. As though we smeared the oil of the Holy Spirit all over them.

When that happens they won't last long serving the world. There will be an irresistible pull to get into alignment with the Kingdom of Light and Life.

### **Our hands are for Anointing**

#### **James 5:14 NASB**

Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

### **Our hands are to aid in the release of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

#### **Acts 8:17 NASB**

Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. The only way you get better at that is by doing it. What does our church look like if we asked everyone we know if they have experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Do

you want power from on high? Do you want to pray in a way that touches heaven directly and intercedes beyond our comprehension? Of course you do. Let's be more intentional about asking and about praying with people who need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

And you know what? Sometimes when I am struggling spiritually or in any area I just lay hands on myself and speak the Word for that specific issue. It's a practice you might want to look into.

I call you healed according to the Word of God right now in Jesus name! You are encouraged! You are blessed! You have energy, you have motivation, you are growing deeper in the Lord. Put your hands on your head and say you have the mind of Christ, you have a knowing from the Holy One and you know all things!

Begin to lay hands on yourself as a point of contact and a releasing of your faith.

### **Our hands are for Blessing**

#### **Mark 10:16 NASB**

**16**And He took them in His arms and *began* blessing them, laying His hands on them. I don't think we could do this too much for our children and our grandchildren and even our spouses and family members.

Maybe we shouldn't spend so much time in disagreement or complaining and maybe we should just every time we say goodbye we touch our loved ones and speak blessing. I do this with my daughter as much as I can. I say, you are beautiful, you are gifted, you are loved, you are so amazing, so creative, so talented, you are growing so much into a young woman of God. I believe in you I thank God for you. We need to say what God says about people and we need to mark it with a touch. Even if it is just a light touch on the shoulder.

There is power in that touch. And be careful who you let touch you by the way. Make sure the greater One in you is the one releasing the power into others and not the other way around.



## **Our hands are for Commissioning**

### **Acts 13;2,3 NASB**

**2**While they were [a]serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for Me for the work to which I have called them." **3**Then, when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. We do this as Pastors from time to time and it is a serious and holy thing. Not to be done lightly. But for your life anything that you know God wants to be commissioned, set apart, sent forth to do a work, you can lay your hands on it in faith.

I walked around my house several times and laid hands in it a few years back after I felt the Lord said to me, I am going to give you that house. We had been renting it since we moved here. And we were trusting the Lord to show us how we would ever get into home ownership again. We looked at so many houses, and we just couldn't find anything affordable where we wanted to live in the kind of home we were looking for.

Our landlord had a few times broached the subject of selling to us but the timing was never right and the finances were never right. So one day I was floating on a floaty in my neighbors pool in the heat of summer and I was looking back over at our house, the house we were renting and the Lord said that to me. I'm going to give you that house. So later I went around that house and laid hands on it and said, "thank You Lord for giving us this house." Literally laying hands on it.

Not long after we started a negotiation again with the Land Lord and when we still were coming up short in the down payment/closing fees etc God very miraculously provided the amount we needed.

This shares a principle, when God speaks prophetically to you there is often a corresponding faith action to go with it. There is a partnership with His Word that we must activate and enter into.

I spoke Sunday about the Trombone God just blessed me with, - it was one of three horns I tried at home. This music store in Minnesota allows you to have several instruments sent to you so you can try them before buying. So after trying the horns I knew which one I wanted and which one I felt the Lord wanted for me. So before I sent it back, I laid my hands on it and said, this is my horn, thank you Lord for providing the way for it to come back to me, and I dedicate it for your glory.

Here is how God did that. I gave two horns away, sowed them into kids in Africa, and now I had one small bore horn left to play jazz on. Just to see what it was worth I put it

up for sale on a Facebook Trombones for sale page. I had several offers for it that were pretty good for the age and condition of the horn. But not enough to buy the new horn. And I wasn't letting go of my current horn until the Lord provided for the new one.

Then over the course of time one individual became convinced they needed to buy my horn. I kept saying no I can't until I have the funds for my new horn, but I will make sure I sell my current horn to you when the time comes. In the space of about two weeks which felt like an eternity. Because I had my heart set on the new horn and I didn't want them to sell it to someone else.

Even though I could eventually have gotten it - it just may have taken a while because this horn is in demand and the manufacturer was having a hard time getting them supplied to all the dealers. So after about two weeks this person finally offered me such a great amount for my horn that I couldn't say no. He bought the horn without having played it, and he paid for shipping. And it came within less than 50 dollars of the total cost for my new horn. I think that's amazing! What if I didn't lay hands on that trombone?

We will never know for sure but I am convinced it made the difference.

### **In all of it our hands are made For Battle**

#### **Psalm 144:1**

[1](#)Blessed be the LORD, my rock,  
Who trains my hands for war,  
*And my fingers for battle;*

**All the ways our hands can be used for God's glory are ways that we wage war against the enemy and advance the kingdom of God. We have to get to the place where we sense God as the divine hand guiding and directing every action that our hands take. We have to allow Him to lead us so that our touch influences the world.**

Ask Him, Lord what do you want me to set my hand to? And prayerfully consider, what in you life needs you to lay hands on it? Who in your life do you need to lay hands on? How often do you need to clap your hands in victory and banish the power of darkness? How often do you need to lift up your holy hands in worship throughout your day? How much more do you need to participate in the use of your hands in corporate worship in the assembly?