



Pastor Allen encourages us to know and understand that we have the power to change the future. **Read that again: We have the power to change the future!** Frankly, it doesn't always feel like we have that power, but Scripture declares it is true. Believing that truth, above all the challenges and voices that daily cascade over us, will take reminding ourselves of the God we worship. He is our only God and Savior. He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth. He is God of All. He is the One who has all majesty, power, and authority through the Lord Jesus—for *all eternity*. God is able, and He is worth knowing. But God's people need to present a dramatically new response to Him and begin to ask, "God, if I were different, would You do something differently? Have I been apathetic and treated You too casually?" Church, extolling God and boldly proclaiming who He is will empower us to change our future.

I. POWER AND MAJESTY AND HONOR

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵*to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.* Jude, verses 24–25

1. Read Jude, verses 24 and 25, together as a group and as a declaration over your life.

¹²In a loud voice they sang: **"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"** ¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: **"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"** Revelation 5:12–13

²⁰"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²²**He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.** ²³I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king." Daniel 2:20–23

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. Isaiah 45:7

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

2. Share a season in your life when you didn't take your faith seriously. What led you to spiritual obedience?
3. How does it make you feel to know that nothing is hidden from God?
4. What are some ways our culture has overlooked evil instead of overcoming evil? What have been the results?

II. AHAB CHANGED THE FUTURE

1 Kings 21:17–19 ¹⁷Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸"Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ¹⁹Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"

1 Kings 21:20–24 ²⁰Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!" "I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. ²¹'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will consume your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. ²²I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin.' ²³'And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴"Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country."

1 Kings 21:25–29 ²⁵ *(There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. ²⁶ He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.) ²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly. ²⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”*

- 5. In what ways has the pursuit of “self” and “carnal indulgence” stifled the spiritual growth of the next generation? What are some spiritual lessons you have learned that can be shared to help the next generation?**
- 6. Share a time from your life or from the life of someone you know who experienced generational consequences from past sins. What was the outcome? What can we do to stop these generational patterns?**

III. “FORGIVE OUR SINS, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.”

Psalm 51:1–14 ¹ *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.*

⁵ *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*

⁷ *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

- 7. How can you better cooperate with God’s authority in your life? What new responses do you imagine going forward?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word’s truth, authority, and power. Thank You that You love us and desire the very best for us. We’re aware much change is taking place around us, and we turn to You as the Creator and Sustainer of All Things. Nothing in darkness is hidden from You—You know us by name and know our circumstances and every detail of our lives. We stand in Your presence today to offer ourselves to You as living sacrifices. You’ve called us and made provision for us through Jesus to be forgiven and delivered. You have released Your power on our behalf so no part of our past and no expression of evil has power over us—we can be free, in the mighty name of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, help us where we’ve ignored, walked past, or tried to forget our rebellious choices that were sinful and displeasing to You. We humbly repent. Forgive us and help us forgive others. May we have courage and boldness to choose obedience to You over the prompts of our emotions. We choose to humble ourselves and walk in obedience in new ways—choosing new behaviors and responses so You can write new futures for us as individuals, families, communities of faith, and even for us as a nation, Lord. We’re a people in need of healing, and the problem begins within us. Holy Spirit, thank You for Your presence, guidance, and direction—we praise You for the good things ahead. In Jesus’ name, amen.