

# FAITH IS ACTION

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## SIX PILLARS OF MAN'S CREATION PART ONE





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by sharon knotts

***“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*** (Psalm 11:3). The foundations of righteousness in our nation are being destroyed, and I want to know, *What are we going to do about it?*

*“The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men”* (v.4). God is looking down to see what we are going to do about the erosion of the foundations of righteousness upon which God established a family, a people, and a nation.

## **FAMILY IS FIRST**

The foundation of man’s creation is *the family* and it is supported by *six pillars*. A foundation must have

something to sit upon, such as cement footers. Without these, the foundation will weaken in time, causing a building failure or total collapse. God has footers or pillars that support man’s foundation, and the very first unit of divine structure on this earth that God created was *the family*, and today the family is under great attack on many fronts. Before there was a global community like we know it today, with air travel, satellite communications, and the super information highway of the internet, there were national and cultural entities with their unique languages and civilizations. Even before there was a spiritual kingdom on this earth, there was a family. Before God created Israel as a nation, and even before the

new covenant, when God created the Church, the body of Jesus Christ, *there was a family.*

### ***IT BEGAN WITH A FAMILY***

The nation of Israel began with one family. God chose one man, Abraham, and his son Isaac. Then He chose one of his twin sons, Jacob. His elder brother Esau should have been the one to get the birthright, but he thought the things of God profane. He thought fleshly things were more important than spiritual, so he sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal of beans. Even though Jacob went about it the wrong way, he wanted the blessing.

God chose Jacob and gave him twelve sons, and one of those sons, Joseph was the victim of the other brothers who were jealous of him and hated him. They sold him into bondage to Egypt, “but God works all things for good,” Joseph said (Gen. 50:20). He was the first one to say this. Before Paul said it, Joseph said it, and he said that God did it “to do much good to save many people.” Joseph went from prison to the palace and became Pharaoh’s prime minister. Years later when a famine came to Canaan, Jacob sent his sons down to Egypt, because it was the only place where there was food. God re-united their family when Pharaoh told Joseph to move all his family to Egypt and he would treat them good.

The Bible says they went down to Egypt 70 souls. One family of seventy people went to Egypt, but when

they came out, they were at least 2 million and possibly 3 million people. God began with this family, and He gave them a unique covenant 400 years later when He brought them out of Egypt. The covenant and the laws He gave to them were primarily crafted to protect the integrity of the family and the twelve tribes, because if the twelve tribes thrived, each tribe, each family, the nation would thrive. In any nation, no matter what its cultural system or belief system is, the family is the underlying structure.

### ***JESUS HAD A FAMILY***

Fast forward to the new covenant: Again, God chose a family when He sent His only Begotten Son to the earth wrapped in human flesh. God sent Jesus to a virgin girl named Mary, but He did not want her to raise Him alone as a single mother. He wanted His Son to be raised in a family. He told Joseph, to whom Mary was engaged, not to be afraid to marry her. He wanted His Son to know what it is like to have an earthly father. Jesus came to totally experience the human experience. He laid aside His deity, the properties of God, and came as a man. God wanted Him to be in a family the way He designed it to be. *His Holy Spirit would teach Him the ways of God*, but He wanted an earthly father to teach Him *the ways of a man*. He wanted Joseph to train Him *in an occupation*.

Jesus didn’t spend his young life and teenage years lying around playing video games. Just because He

didn't start His ministry till age 30, He didn't lay around doing nothing waiting for His ministry to come, waiting for the call, waiting for the phone to ring. No, He was a carpenter's son. Before He was a rabbi, a teacher, and preacher, before He was a healer and miracle worker, He had a job. He worked in His father's carpentry shop. (This is one of the pillars of the family: *Occupation*).

Jesus had a real family. Mary later had other children with Joseph: Four sons and at least three daughters (Mt.13:56) that Jesus grew up with. He was introduced into a human family before God sent Him forth as the Messiah to seek and save the lost sheep of Israel.

When the time came for Him to begin His Messiahship, Jesus began *another family*. He called Peter, James and John to drop their nets and come follow Him. He called Matthew a tax collector and eight others to follow Him. Not only did He have twelve male disciples, but there were women who also followed Him. Some were from families that had money, and they helped to support Jesus and the disciples. He chose a family, because God's divine pattern on the earth is family.

Once when He was preaching, somebody said, "Jesus, Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside and they want to talk to You." Jesus said, "*Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?*" Then He pointed to His disciples and said, "*Behold my mother, and my brothers*" (Mt.12:48-49).

He did everything in the context of a family. And just as the family is the underlying structure of earthly kingdoms, the family is the underlying structure of the kingdom of God on earth. It is noteworthy that Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding (Jn.2:1-11).

When Nicodemus came to see Him secretly, Jesus told him: "*You must be born again.*" You have to get born into this family. This is what the kingdom of God is. Just as you had to be born into your natural family, you have to get born into this spiritual family. Jesus said, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*" (Jn.3:6). God has always wanted a family, and when He created man on *day six*, He gave him *six pillars* for this foundation of the family.

### **THE CREATION OF MAN**

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image God created He him; **male and female created He them.***

*"And God blessed them, and said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over every living thing that moves upon the earth.*

*“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl in the air, and to everything that creeps upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.*

*“And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were **the sixth day**” (Gen. 1:26-31).*

Some rabbis claim God created man last so that he could not claim to have any part in creating everything else. We love to take credit for stuff, but God made sure we couldn't take credit for any of His works, so He made man last. You may have heard the story about a scientist who bragged to God: “Man has advanced to the place that we can create life out of dirt too.” God said, “Good, Show me.” As the man reached down to get some dirt, God said, “Hold it! *Get your own dirt.*” God created the dirt, and if you look under a microscope, you will see that the dirt is alive.

This is how God created man on the sixth day: *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul”* (Gen. 2:7). This is very powerful. God got down in the dirt with His hands and formed man. He formed all the beasts of the field and all the birds this way (Gen. 2:19). But He breathed into man **the breath of lives**.

The Hebrew word for *life* is CHAYIM which is a plural noun. He breathed into man *a double life*: physical and spiritual, *soul and spirit*. All other animals have souls. They have brains and a capacity for emotions. You can have a relationship with your pet. They can show you affection. They will love you, and you will love them. But they cannot have a relationship with God, because they don't have spirits. When they die, their souls go downward to the earth. When we die, our spirits go to God (Ref.: Ecc.3:20-21, 12:7).

We are the only ones with living spirits that can have a relationship with God, because when God breathed into us the breath of lives, He breathed a part of Himself into us. If you were to blow up a balloon, your breath would be in it, but also a little bit of your spit would be in there too. When God breathed into us, He put a little bit of His spit in us. He put a part of Himself in us. Job 33:4 states: *“The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.”*

### **A SPELLING LESSON**

*“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them”* (Gen. 2:19).

Just as God *formed* man out of the dust of the ground, He also *formed* every beast of the field and even the birds out of the ground, but there is something here you cannot see in the English text that I just



love: The KJV uses *formed* both in Gen. 2:7 when God formed man, and in verse 19 when He formed the beasts and the fowl, but in Hebrew they are spelled differently.

In verse 7, the Hebrew word is *YYATSAR*, and means *to mold, even to squeeze like a potter*. This is how God created Adam's outer man, and His breath is what gave him his inner man. The outer man came from the dirt by God squeezing and molding him, and then He breathed into him *a part of Himself*, and he became *a living soul*.

But in verse 19, *formed* is **not** spelled *YYATSAR*. It is spelled *YAT-SAR*. Notice that the consonant "y" is doubled in vs. 7—but not in vs. 19. There is no grammatical or linguistic reason for this. It would be like spelling *yellow* as **yyellow** in English. So why are there two "y's" in verse 7? I'll tell you why: Because the letter "y" (YUD) by itself in Hebrew is an abbreviation for *YEHOVAH*—*Jehovah* in English, which means "*the Eternal God, Who was, and is, and shall ever be.*" The reason God spelled *YYATSAR* with a double Y *when He formed man* and not when He made the animals is, when He formed man, *He breathed part of Himself into him*. Man is His handiwork, and He put His signature on us and the extra Y stands for **Yehovah!**

### **A PERFECT MATCH**

After He made Adam, God said: "*It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a helpmeet for him. And out of the ground the Lord*

*formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air .... And Adam gave names to all the cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helpmeet for him.*

*"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh thereof. And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman and brought her unto the man.*

*"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh"* (vv. 18-24).

God said that it's not good for man to be alone, so He made a helpmeet for him. Let me tell you, Guys, *a wife is a good thing*. Proverbs 18:22 says, "*Whoso finds a wife, finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord.*" God places special favor upon husbands who live according to His design, but division and disruption in the home can cause the favor of God to be lifted.

God said, "*I will make a helpmeet.*" He didn't say a *helpmate*, but a *helpmeet*. The Hebrew *EZER* *KENEGDO* means *a counterpart, a complement, to be suitably matched*, and it carries the connotation "to be equal." The first part, *EZER*, means *strength, help, or to be able to help someone*. *KENEGDO* means *equal to*, and when you put the two togeth-

er, the literal meaning is *help-opposite*. One particular rabbi said, “If the man is worthy, then his wife will be an EZER—a help. But if the man is unworthy, she will be a KENEG-DO—an opposite force against him.

### TO LOVE & TO HONOR

This principle is seen in 1 Pet. 3:7: “*Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them (wives) according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*” Let’s look at the word *dwell* in Greek: SUNOIKOS. The prefix SUN, is like the English SYM, as in *symphony*. We understand this means sounds that are played together. So the first part of this means *together*; but Peter had more in mind than just living in the same house, because SUN always carries the idea of *partnership and cooperation*. Basically, it means *to share your life with your wife*. Not just to live in the same house separate lives and never connecting to one to another. The question is: Is your house a *house*, or is your house a *home*? A house is a home when love is there. A house is a home when God is there. A house is a home when peace and harmony are there.

Husbands are to dwell together with their wives in cooperation and partnership, “*according to knowledge.*” Husbands, this means find out what *blesses* your wife, and *do it*, and find out what *distresses* your wife, and *don’t go there!* Because *Happy*

*Wife—Happy Life!*

You are the most important thing to her, especially if the children are raised. But before there were children, there was a “you and her.” One day, if you live long enough and you stick together, the kids will leave the nest, and it will be back to you and her. You are the most important thing to her, so what message are you sending her? That your buddies, your friends are more important? That whatever you like to do, your sports, etc., are more important? Or your ministry is more important? Get the knowledge of what God’s Word says about marriage, and you will be able to dwell with her according to that knowledge and *give her honor as unto the weaker vessel*.

The Greek word for *give* means *to designate, to allocate*, in other words, *to do it on purpose with intention*. You intentionally make a decision to give your wife honor. It may not come naturally to you based on the way you were raised, or by the example you saw in your home. But we want to know what God’s design is, which is *to make a decision to give her **honor!*** The Greek word TIMAO means *precious, valuable, cherished, treasured, very dear*. It means *to hold your wife as a very precious and very dear thing*.

Peter used it in 1 Peter 1:18-19: “*...You are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... But with the **precious** blood of Christ...*” The **precious** blood of the Son of God is the same word Peter used to give your wife **honor**.

See her as being *precious as the weaker vessel*.

I want to clear up something right here: The idea of weaker refers to something very fragile. In fact, in classical Greek, it referred to *physical* weakness. The woman is **not** weaker mentally, emotionally, morally, and certainly not spiritually. She is not weaker or inferior in any of these ways, *but she is physically*. There maybe exceptions, but because he has more muscle mass, a man is physically stronger. The term *vessel* means *a utensil, an instrument to hold something*, but we are talking about a *precious vessel*. Husband, your wife is not like the cleaning bucket under the kitchen sink, so don't treat her like a cleaning bucket. By using *precious* Peter made the case for giving her honor and treating her as a beautiful porcelain vase.

Here's the most important part: *as being heirs together in the grace of life*. Again we see the Greek prefix SUN which means *to cooperate together as co-heirs*. We know that we are *heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ*, according to Rom. 8:17. It is the same idea in marriage: Husbands and wives are *co-rulers* in marriage. The word *heir* means *a piece of ground, inherited property that has become your possession and your responsibility*. God is saying that married couples are co-rulers over the possessions they have: Their marriage, their kids, their house, cars, bank accounts, etc. When couples don't run their house and marriage like this, there can be jealousy, bitter-

ness, anger, and constant tug of war in the relationship.

### **HINDERED PRAYERS**

They are not only partners in marriage, but it goes beyond marriage “...and of the grace of life.” A husband and a wife is a powerful team standing against the attacks of Satan to destroy their marriage, their family, their children, and all that God has done for them. Otherwise, Peter warned *your prayers will be hindered*.

The Greek *hindered* literally refers to the actual moment when someone who is running in a race is suddenly elbowed by another runner who knocks him to the side. Your enemy doesn't want you to succeed. He doesn't want your home to be blessed, and when there is strife in the marriage, he elbows you, and your prayers are invalidated. This is the reason for some unanswered prayers: When there is strife between husband and wife, trouble in the home, arguments, and an air of tension, their prayers are a waste of time.

When they've prayed the prayer of repentance and asked for forgiveness and received forgiveness, then will their prayers be heard. Otherwise, they open the door to Satan and do not obey the Word: “*Be angry and sin not: Let not the sun go down on your wrath. Neither give place to the devil*” (Eph. 4:26-27).

### **THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE**

We have been reading what Peter wrote, and I'm glad Peter wrote it



and not Paul, because Paul wasn't married. Peter was married a long time when he wrote this, so his words carry great weight. Something Paul wrote in Eph. 5:25-33, however, brings out an important point:

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water of the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it even as the Lord the church." (Here cherish matches Peter's words "to give her honor.")*

*"For we are members of His body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband."*

There are about 8 mysteries Paul gave in his letters, and this is one of them: *"Men ought to love their wives just like Christ loved the Church."* We know to what degree Jesus loved the Church—He gave Himself for us that we could be part of His body, bone of His bone, and

flesh of His flesh. Satan gets the mystery: He sees the marriage of husband and wife is a reflection of Christ and the Church, and is why he attacks marriages so fiercely. It is the vital union of Christ with His Church that marriage embodies. In the same way that we are Christ's body, of His bone, and of His flesh, so are husband and wife one flesh.

### **PILLAR ONE: EQUALITY**

We have seen that the unique creation of man and woman formed the foundation of marriage and family, and the first pillar of that foundation is **equality**. We read in Gen. 1:27 that God created man in His own image, and *"male and female created He them."* Both are created in the image of God. We saw in Gen. 2:18 that the wife is the husband's counterpart—*his equal*. We saw in 1 Pet. 3:7 that they are *heirs together*, sharing equality in the grace of life. We read that Adam said of his wife: *"She is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh, because she was taken out of me."* And a pivotal Scripture is Gen. 2:24: *"Therefore, shall a man leave his mother and father and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* We also read Eph. 5:31 where Paul cited it, and Jesus also cited in Matt. 19:5. These verses clearly witness God's original design for man and woman is **equality**.

### **PILLAR TWO: DOMINION**

The second pillar of man's foundation is **dominion**: *"And God said...Let them have dominion over*

*the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth*" (Gen.1:26). Not only did He say for them to have *dominion*, in vs. 28, He said, "*Let them subdue it.*" Man was not made for the earth, but the earth was made for man!

*"For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honour. You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas"* (Ps. 8:5-8).

(There is an interesting fact about *the paths of the seas*: An oceanographer named M. Maury (1806-73), discovered the ocean currents. If you have ever seen a global map with lines going across the oceans that look like broken arrows, they denote the ocean currents. [That is how we know when debris from Japan's earthquake and tsunami is going to arrive on the coasts of Washington, California and Alaska, because of the ocean currents.] Maury discovered and mapped out these ocean currents, because he was inspired by reading this verse about *the paths of the seas*. He realized that there are lanes in the sea, and we even call them *sea lanes*.)

The phrase *under his feet* denotes total dominion over. Paul said in Rom. 16:20: "*And the God of peace*

*shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.*" The Greek actually says "repeatedly"! Jesus said in Lk. 10:19: "*Behold, I give unto you power—authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.*" We see that this has a double connotation, both physically as well as spiritually.

Why has He put all things under our feet, including Satan? *Because He has made us a little lower than the angels?* No, it's better than that! The Hebrew word for *angels* is MALAKIM, (plural), but instead of MALAKIM, David used ELOHIM in this verse, which means "*gods*" (plural). *He has made him a little lower than the Godhead!*

In Hebrews 2:7-9, this verse is used in reference to Jesus: "*You have made him a little lower than the angels, you crowned him with glory and honour; and did set him over the works of your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet... But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*"

Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, because angels can't die. He came as a man, so He could taste death for every man. He had to taste death for us so that we could live forever. In His human form, Jesus was made lower than the angels, but Psalms 8:5 states that *we are made lower than ELOHIM*: We are created

to be between God and the angels. Consider 1Cor. 6:3: *“Know you not that we shall judge angels?”* Referring to angels, Heb. 1:14 says: *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be the heirs of salvation?”* They are sent to serve and minister to us, because we are a higher form than the angels.

Please understand: **We don’t pray to angels!** We don’t order angels around. *“They hearken to the voice of His Word and do His commandments”* (Ps.103:20). But when we, the redeemed, are in our glorified bodies, no longer tempted to sin: when we can stand to have great authority without getting a big head and falling into the sin of pride like Lucifer, we are going to judge angels, and they will hearken to the voice of our command, because God made us to have dominion.

Psalm 115:16: *“The heavens, even the heavens are the LORD’s: but the earth he has given to the children of men.”* This is important: *God created the earth for man. He did not create the man for earth.* I’m all for taking care of the planet and “going green” and preventing pollution, and not killing off God’s beautiful creation. But when it comes to the place that people worship Mother Earth, and the earth is more important than people, this is idolatry. Man is made in God’s image, and He made earth for man.

Let me illustrate it this way: When a husband and wife want to start their family and they get pregnant, they start preparing for their child that is coming. They redecorate

their spare bedroom. They buy a crib and a changing table and all kinds of accessories. They are preparing that room *for the baby*. They are not preparing the baby for the room!

God made this earth for us. He fine-tuned this earth for life. There is no other planet that we have found where humans can live. They don’t have enough oxygen or water, or nitrogen, or all the components that make the earth perfect for human life to survive. Just tweak the placement of the earth a little bit, and the earth would become an ice ball or a fire ball. Just alter the speed of gravity, and we would all go flinging somewhere in outer space. God fine-tuned this earth down to the metals and minerals He put into the ground: Calcium, magnesium, selenium, copper, zinc. All these things are fine-tuned for life.

God designed it perfectly and made it for us, and said, “I’m giving it to you—*Subdue it and have dominion over it all.*”

**Coming Next Month: Pillars 3-6**