

Springboard 28:18 : Aug '09

Positioned for possessing.

Taking territory with God

I commend you for your obedience and fruitfulness to this point! PIONEERING – PROCLAIMING – TRANSFORMING – TOGETHER will require that you move into a new dimension – going from 30 – 60 -100 fold fruitfulness. It is not business as usual. **Position yourself for this journey.**

1. The challenge of change.

The new 20/20 vision and direction implies change. How will you respond to it?

It includes a challenge to become more strategic in what you do – adding intentional planned actions to the organic base that you have.

I encourage you to embrace it with a willing heart and take ownership of it.

Change is part of life. Change is an inevitable part of progress. Everyone does not digest it equally well. You will be challenged in the future by this vision and word from God. It is how we handle the challenges of change that matters. We need all the help we can get to come through the changes of life successfully and to see them as new opportunities for growth.

Change brings you to a cross road. How we view and handle change mentally and spiritually will determine whether it will become an opportunity for disaster or for new growth. Allow pruning for purpose. Pruning in the Spirit is part of the process to shape and strengthen the core to ensure a future season of fruitfulness. Prepare yourself for this process.

You can survive change by submitting and yielding yourself to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, allowing for the renewal of

your mind. Knowing God's will is more important than remaining in your comfort zone.

If this is your attitude, change will be turned into a fruitful opportunity.

It requires willingness on our part and an open mind. The greatest challenge to change is a hard heart and entrenched thinking expressed in the statement – “we've never done it this way before...” (Famous last words of a stagnating, dying church). We need to allow the Holy Spirit to challenge our perceptions and patterns through the Word of God and ongoing revelation.

Distinguish between information and revelation!

Give God free reign through the Holy Spirit to change you; how you think, act and speak. Make your motto; “Tomorrow things are going to be different!”

2. Prepare for a new season.

(Joshua 1:11) "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

Go from a Wilderness people (lots of movement with little land) to a Possessing Land people. Preparation for occupation - some changes:

- Covenant confirmation with Christ – circumcision and Passover.
- Diet change – from manna to maize. Becoming self feeders.
- Guidance step up – from cloud to Presence; map to GPS.
- Strategy change – taking cities and towns.

The quest for being strategic. Building strategic is to build under the direction of the Holy Spirit according to the pattern

and plan He gives to leaders, apostles and prophets. It is responding to what He says and when He says it.

Think of the examples of Noah, Abraham, Moses and Solomon.

(Ezekiel's experience – Ezek. 40-43:10,11 The execution of the strategic plan results in a filling and flowing (Ezek. 47).of some kind. That is why strategic is so important. (Ezek 43:2,5) Jesus was strategic; Paul was strategic (Wise master builder). We must become strategic – listening to God for daily instructions but also for strategic long and medium term plans! (From slaves to friends and co-workers. Jesus says His friends will know what He is about to do and what He wants done. – John 15:15)

- Miracle dimension – from personal provision and deliverance to strategic miracles. A new level of anointing was always given for building.

3. A new level of faith is needed!

Desperate and dangerous faith!

There comes a time in every person's life that you have to put your desperation and faith on display in order to move forward. That is the place where your faith becomes dangerous! That is the story behind blind Bartimaeus.

Mark 10:46-52

(46) Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

(47) And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

(48) Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

(49) So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

(50) And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

(51) So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

(52) Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

A. Faith that demands!

Life will not give you what you deserve but only what you demand. - Benson Idahosa.

Let your faith start making a demand for what God has promised and said!

When grace knocks on the door faith needs to answer, if faith does not respond to grace its benefit will lay dormant.

Grace and faith will position you for God's purpose. His anointing will empower you to fulfill it.

Put a demand of faith on your covenant with God.

The prophetic word is an invitation to a possibility but faith needs to make a demand for it. Your prophetic word is not inevitable.

Faith needs to put a demand on the prophetic promises of God.

B. Become desperate to see change.

God is continually preparing me for what He has prepared for me! You'll never change what you are willing to tolerate. Don't murmur and complain about what you permit to stay unchanged. Ask with boldness! We are in a YES season. In Christ all the promises are yes and amen. God says YES and we need to answer with an AMEN of faith!

C. Get into your right place.

The powerful Christian life is all about position. It's about moving into your position in Christ. It is about the church correctly positioning herself as a territorial governmental force for influence and change in the community.

Bartimaeus, the son of the **highly prized** one is sitting in the dust **begging**. Think of Prince Harry or William begging at your car window at a London street corner.

Do you hear and see the paradox, so many of God's children are captives in this sort of situation. Are you such a person?

Become intolerant of this. When Bartimaeus heard Jesus call, he threw aside his garment which was a sign of his identity and moved toward what he heard. Many wear an identity fitted by their circumstances. The time has come to throw it off because Jesus is near!

He was still blind but he started moving! Will you get up by faith, put your wrong identity away and move toward the sound of His voice?

A people moving with the voice of the Lord Jesus are a powerful people of purpose!

D. God's up to something!

God's about to do things we have no frame of reference for. It was the same with Noah, Abraham, Moses and others.

What do we need to do to prepare for this?

- Don't live according to your situation and don't live off of sympathy and pity!

Only the devil comes to pity parties and he will even bring the eats.

- Live by revelation which comes by hearing the word of God through the Holy Spirit.
- Be careful how you hear and what you hear. Be diligent to stick with the Word of God and give it a permanent home in your heart. Remember the parable of the sower. (Mark 4:14-20)
- What you hear determines what you see!
- It is more important to hear than to see!

- God arrives on sound. Sound precedes manifestation. (Gen. 1:3 “And God said...”) Do you hear the new sound and will you respond to it?
- If you can hear you can see!
- Bartimaeus could not see but he heard that Jesus was passing by... and he shouted! His faith made a demand on Jesus and His power!
- The spirit of faith asks all and gives all!
- Beware of the trap of dead religion! Religion will always challenge you to lower your expectation. Shout even louder and refuse to stay there... it will get Jesus' attention. There comes a time when you must put your faith and desperation on display. That's when your faith becomes dangerous! The very same religious crowd that keeps your expectations in check and pour cold water on it will be the first to run to you when the manifestation comes of what you have believed for .
- Work with Jesus!
- Why did Jesus ask Bartimaeus what he wanted? Because **He can only fix and change what you admit. Change requires humble honesty!**
- Receive and follow after a Jesus. “Immediately he saw AND he followed.” Do not receive and then stop, keep on following!

Position and put yourself where Jesus has to respond to the demand of your faith!

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