



Empower Your Dreams

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EMPOWER YOUR DREAMS

WHAT FUELS YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY

Grace.

Strong's Concordance:

"the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life."

GRACE: "The empowering Presence of God enabling you to be who He created you to be and to do what He created you to do."

God's empowering Presence is the fuel for your life and ministry.

Zechariah 4:6,

'What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'

The Lord wants you to co-labor with Him. He empowers **you** with His empowering Presence to be and do what He asks of you.

He empowers you to soar in your purpose and destiny as ministers of His gospel.

THREE REASONS WHY YOU MAY BE STUCK

It is inevitable in the ebb and flow of life in the Spirit and life in ministry that we will face times when we wonder **if we will ever see that vision we carry coming to pass in our life.**

LACK OF PERSEVERANCE

Mirriam-Webster Dictionary defines perseverance as “***continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.***”

According to differencebetween.com the **difference between endurance and perseverance is**

“Endurance is experiencing or surviving the pain. Perseverance, however, is not merely experiencing pain or hardships in life, but also going against these hardships in order to strive for excellence.”

And

“The key difference between endurance and perseverance is that while endurance suggests mere tolerance of hardships in life, perseverance suggests going against these very hardships to succeed.”

FOOTBALL ANALOGY

BIBLICAL PERSEVERENCE

Romans 5:3-5

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

There is a team out there that does not want you to gain ground.

The key question when you hit those times is **how do you persevere through them?**

Seth Godin, **The Dip**

“Successful people don’t just ride out the Dip. They don’t just buckle down and survive it. No, they lean into the Dip. They push harder, changing the rules as they go.”

10 Practical Suggestions to Persevere:

- 1. Pray the Promises**
- 2. Speak of God’s Testimony**
- 3. Keep Walking**

4. **Contact your Cheerleaders**
5. **Activate your prayer warriors**
6. **Rely on your habits and training**
7. **Stay on your path**
8. **Remind yourself God is at work**
9. **Ask for God's confirmation** That is how you determine **whether resistance is from the enemy or it is the Lord changing direction.**
10. **Go back to your vision board, your cloud formation, your notes from brainstorming with the Lord.**

Use the time that feels like your dream is not manifesting to keep working as the Lord guides you.

You are not alone when you have your purpose tucked close to your heart and face opposition. You have the Lord on your team!

THE CYCLE AND SEASONS OF GOD

Dream Big, and Work Small.

Stay mindful and embrace **the sacred now.**

Today becomes sacred when I rest in whatever the Lord is doing in my life this day.

Learn to be content today while you ask the Lord for the step you are to take today.

By recognizing the season you are in, you can more easily co-labor with what the Lord is doing in your life.

Simon and the Great Catch of Fish

Luke 5:1-9

Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For amazement had seized him and all

his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

The seasons I have gleaned from this passage are these:

- **Tending the Nets** is a quiet season when the Lord teaches and/or heals you.
- **Launch** is the time when you begin to operate in your purpose and calling. {This may be a new area within a greater call} Keep in mind “no wake zones” close to shore
- **Harvest** is a season that brings Kingdom results from your labors.
- **Needing help** is a time when the Kingdom harvest is so great, you require the help of others.
- **Worship** is meant to be a continuous practice no matter which season you are in.

God’s seasons have purpose and are perfectly-timed even if you don’t experience the results you hoped for.

No season lasts forever as you live contentedly in whatever season you find yourself.

The key is to **align your day to day tasks with the season** the Lord has you in.

A MEASURE OF GRACE

We are not all called to the same territory, the same size sphere of influence, or the same style of ministry.

WHAT ARE YOU GRACED FOR?

Practical indicators of what you have been “graced” for

1. You have an **innate desire** to do the work
2. You have a **natural ability.**
3. **Opportunity** to use the gifts you possess presents itself in a manner that brings personal satisfaction and contentment.
4. You **experience effectiveness** when you step out in what you are called to.
5. You have **durability** no matter how challenging the schedule may be.

All of these things come together to paint a picture of what God is calling you to do. These are **the areas where He is providing His empowering Presence to you to accomplish what you are called to.**

I call this your **canopy of grace.**

You are called to a place, a time, and a people group to do what He created you to do in a way that is uniquely you...who He created you to be.

A canopy has **boundaries.**

What happens when we do not stay within the boundaries the Lord sets in place? When we step outside the canopy of grace the Lord has given us?

Hosea 7:1 (emphasis mine)

*When I would heal Israel,
The iniquity of Ephraim is uncovered,
And the evil deeds of Samaria,
For they deal falsely;
**The thief enters in,
Bandits raid outside,***

When we lack boundaries, when we do not stay within the canopy of grace the Lord sets in place **we open ourselves up to the thief** who Jesus tells us has come to kill, steal, and destroy. **(John 10:10)**

Abundant life—the opposite to a life that has been killed, stolen or destroyed —**is lived under the canopy of grace**—where the Lord has called you to operate as who He created you to be and to do what He created you to do.

SPIRITUAL/EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS OUTSIDE THE CANOPY

1. **Burn out:**
2. **Presumption: (Numbers 20 and Deuteronomy 34)**

3. **Service to Self:**

Make no mistake about it, the enemy of your souls would like nothing more than to lure you out from under your canopy of grace.

PRACTICAL SYMPTOMS OUTSIDE THE CANOPY

1. **Burdened by the work:**
2. **Ability:**
3. **Opportunity dries up:**
4. **Effectiveness:**
5. **Lack of Motivation:**

THE SOLUTION

Stop and turn around.

Repent and return to the throne of Grace.

The **Lord resides within your canopy of grace and waits for you to return to Him.**

Jeremiah 29:11-14

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

God wants you to succeed more than you do!

GOD'S PROMISE TO YOU

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

God stands waiting to empower you to live as who He created you to be doing what He created you to do.

God faithfully works in our lives to bring our call and purpose to pass.

Stay in communication with the Lord for each and every step you take in your dream.

Wait for Him to say, **this not that, now not later.**

Wait for Holy Spirit to say, **This is the place. Now is the time.**

Stay tuned to Heaven and wait for the Lord to make your dream a reality.

He will, **He gave it to you!**