

TAKE UP THY SWORD †

A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)

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Get in Position for Transition

I beseech you... by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God... And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Romans 12:1-2).

While we're riding down the street in our cars, we expect to go forward when the car is in 'drive'. But if it was in 'park', then we would be at a standstill. So how can we “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:14) if we're not moving? And if we don't make it to the starting line, how can we make it to the finish line? The apostle Paul explains it this way: *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain (1 Cor 9:24).*

Most of the time, God has to bring us out of our comfort zone in order to bless us. What we have to remember is that He is looking for us where we should be and not where we are or have decided to remain because of fear of the unknown. Since we are “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Cor 5:20), our Father is obligated to provide our needs wherever he leads us. Remember this promise He made to the children of Israel about their new home:

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land... A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it... (Deut 8:7, 9).

The Lord brought me from California to Rhode Island to Florida in order to position me for 'relationship' as opposed to religion. Then I had to transition from 10 years of mortgage experience into the career management field. In the midst of this ongoing process to manifest my calling, relationships were both formed and severed, finances were first increased then squeezed, and my faith was tried and stretched beyond measure. So how was I able to survive this emotional roller coaster? Every time I asked the Lord “why?”, He answered me with His Word:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28).

Although God said in Malachi 3:6 that He does not change, He is always doing a 'new thing' in us. The Lord expects us to “walk in the Spirit” (Gal 5:16) and be “doers of the Word” (James 1:22). We need to seek Him for guidance and instruction so we will know:

1) WHO to connect with, 2) WHAT to do, 3) WHEN to move, and 4) WHERE to go. Then we have to trust God wholeheartedly while He works on the WHY and HOW.

Let's see how Esther found success on her road to destiny:

From Maiden to Queen

The book of Esther is about one Jewish girl's destiny to rule an empire and save a nation. King Ahasuerus (aka Xerxes) needed to find a new queen after his wife, Vashti, dishonored him/their law. So when it was decided to “let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she” (1:19), Hadassah (aka Esther) was chosen as one of the virgins brought to the palace. Mordecai, Esther's cousin who had raised her as his own daughter, kept a close watch and instructed her not to reveal that she was a Jew. Esther immediately found favor with Hegai, the keeper of the women, while she went through a 12-month purification in preparation to meet the king. She obeyed Mordecai, accepted the wise counsel of Hegai and was taken to Xerxes in the month of Tebeth (January). “And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti” (2:17). When Mordecai uncovered an evil plan to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom, Esther had to push past the possibility of death by going before the king without first being summoned. She instructed the Jews to fast with her for 3 days; and when she came before Xerxes, he held out his golden sceptre and said, “What is thy request? It shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom” (5:3). With a divine strategy, Esther was able to defeat the Jews' adversary, Haman, and his wealth/status was transferred to her and Mordecai. They were saved because Esther had “come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (4:14).

In order to receive all the promises of God, we must “be instant (prepared) in season, out of season” (2 Tim 4:2)!

THUS SAITH THE LORD, “And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel... Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand...” (Jer 18:4, 6).

PRAYER: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path... Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me (Ps 119:105, 133).*

“...Be encouraged in the law of the Lord” (2 Chron 31:4):

Deuteronomy 2:3; 1 Samuel 15:22; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Isaiah 1:16-20, 43:18-19; Jeremiah 1:5&12; Haggai 2:9; John 9:4; Romans 8:1; Philipians 4:13&19; 2 Peter 1:10.

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