

God is Our All

As we begin taking our steps into this new year, I want to encourage you. You are on a path that few people have dared to walk. It is a path that can only be led by the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to stay the course no matter what it looks like. We are on this path in pursuing an honest revival of God's power, one that is up to the standards of God and not of men's natural means.

For too long, the church has settled with good works instead of seeing the fullness of Christ come forward. The main reason for this is simple: it costs too much. The cost of laying down your life can be too overwhelming for anyone to consider. I know for me, it would seem an impossible mission if you asked me to lay my life down. That is why I'm grateful for praying in tongues because that prayer closet is the place where the Holy Spirit establishes God's steps for me. On my own strength and ability, I could never accomplish God's will, but with His help and direction, He takes me step by step into the life of Christ.

The apostle Paul said this in 2 Corinthians 12:10, *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* The plan of God for our lives requests us to become weak in our own ability and strong in Christ alone. There is no shortcut to the move of God; there is no other way. Many today show their exploits and success as proof of God working in their life, but Paul's proof of victory was the battles that he overcame not to let go of the will of God.

That is why it is crucial to keep our eyes on God's promises and never on the circumstances surrounding us. Don't allow discouragement to speak to or to lead you. "Look around," it will say, "there's barren ground; maybe you missed it; look at those other's success." That voice of discouragement is your natural man complaining because it is dying and not thriving. To participate in a genuine revival, we must mortify our outward man's ability to lead us and lean entirely on Christ in us so that no flesh will glory in what God does.

When we walk with the Lord, there are seasons that we must go through. Some call it a wilderness experience. Others call it the time of our maturity, but it is a period from when we start until we fully walk in our calling. During this season, it can be easy to become discouraged because everything can feel the same. It will appear to our carnal mind that this is all there is in our service to God. Every person of a great move of God had to go through their season, and that includes us. *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."* John 17:15-17

For Israel, when in their wilderness, it was the same food, same Moses, same fire at night and cloud by day. For David, it was almost fifteen-plus years between being anointed by the prophet Samuel and the moment he became king. For Elisha, it was the twenty years of washing Elijah's hands between picking up the mantle until he would actually wear the mantle.

It can be the most humbling time, and many believers avoid this season, with some even blaming it on a lack of faith. I know Christians who will fill their days with busy activities in the name of God so that they won't feel the weight of their wilderness. It is in these times when you will face loneliness, unworthiness, discouragement, and feel unfulfilled, but that is fantastic news because as you face these emotions, you can now overcome their power to rule over you.

I had a young girl ask me about loneliness many years ago while she attended a Bible college. She said it felt overwhelming at times since she had moved away from family and friends. My advice was to face it and not fix it. Don't fix that loneliness by running to friends or boyfriends; otherwise, it will control you for the rest of your life. Face it and enter your heavenly Father's presence, as it will allow Him to satisfy you. She found her answer in God, and the Lord gave her an incredible life.

It is in the wilderness times where we become dependent upon God and Him alone, and if we stay the course, we will see Him bring us into our promised land. The giants we need to face cannot be defeated by man's strength but through God's strength through us. When He is your only hope, your only answer, and when you desperately are clinging to Him so that you will not die, then the wilderness has done its job in your life, and you are walking where few have dared to go.

The world is bored with the form of Christianity it has seen from the church. I believe that the Lord is stirring up His remnant to let go of their natural abilities and become completely reliant upon the promises of God. As believers, we call ourselves faith people as we stand on God's promises, yet many give up when discouragement overtakes our hearts. Life has the ability to push and pull on us when things get tough. During our beautiful times when everything is easier, it makes us feel strong, but the true test of our faith is standing in God's will when our only evidence is the promise of God.

Your Heavenly Father believes that you can finish your course, which is why He's placed you on this path. His prophecies and promises of your future are more real than the breath you breathe. I'm praying for you to have the strength and courage to stay the course the Lord has placed you on. I speak that you will keep your eyes focused on His words to you and not turn to the right or left.

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