

## One Cause – 6

### John 18:37 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- His cause was so vital He was willing to die for it

Before you were born the Father

Knew you – Destined you – Purposed you

### Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

United Around One Cause

### Psalms 133 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup> *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. <sup>3</sup> *It is* like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

Time is for a purpose:

When you understand time as it relates to God's purpose for you, it will change how you see where you are, as well as where you are heading.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)**

**3** To everything *there is* a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:

**Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)**

**4** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

- Nothing about God is futile or inconsequential
- Time is pivotal to our destiny
- I am sure there have been times you've prayed and believed for something that seemed to be delayed
- God does not wait to answer prayers to frustrate us
- He knows that there is something significant about the passage of time
- Moments are the fabric of life
- God is found in the moments
- Every moment is full of purpose and has the power to shape your destiny

*“God will use time to grow, enlarge, and increase your capacity, so do not ever dismiss the value of time.”*

– Brian Houston

## Prosperity on Purpose

Anyone who reads the Bible knows that prosperity is in fact a word that encompasses more than just money and wealth

- Prosper – (Greek) – “to be granted a long journey, an easy way; to be successful.”
- (Hebrew) – “to make progress, exceed, succeed and be profitable; show or experience prosperity.”
- (noun) – “ease and quietness” – relates to peace and abundance
- Another Definition – “help for the journey.”

### 3 John 2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- Our prosperity has a purpose
- It is however, conditional

### Matthew 25:14–30 (NKJV) Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup> “For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. <sup>15</sup> And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. <sup>16</sup> Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. <sup>17</sup> And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ <sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>22</sup> He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>24</sup> “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’ <sup>26</sup> “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. <sup>27</sup> So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. <sup>29</sup> ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- 5 talents – doubled what he had been given
- 2 talents – doubled what he was given
- 1 talent – fearfully buried it
- It was taken from him and given to the one with 10

Two servants took what they were given and prospered with it

- They used what was in their hands understanding prosperity had a purpose
- God gives gifts, abilities, blessing, and potential for all areas of our life to prosper
- Do not bury those gifts

God will never ask us to do anything that He will not enable us to do

- The person with one talent was asked to gain a return according to his own measure
  - Not the measure of the other two
- God may have a different perspective of our gifts than we do, yet
  - He will enable us
  - He adds His exceeding abundance to the gifts and abilities
  - He takes your natural and adds his supernatural

The servant who buried his talent buried something that was not his to hide

- If you bury your potential, you are not burying what is yours
- These gifts are given to us by God
- They belong to him

**James 1:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

The issue is not what you do not have, but who you do not help

### Matthew 25:29 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

- Prosperity is not just about you
- It’s not about greed and selfishness
- Some may think they sound pious by saying they don’t believe in prosperity
- In fact, the opposite is true
- The selfish person is the one who keeps all of God’s blessing to themselves or hides what has been given to them

We are in partnership with God to take the Gospel to all the ends of the earth

- We need to use what is given to us for that!
- When you live below your potential you are unable to do all God has for you to do
- When we use what He has given us, He will ensure that we have enough to achieve all that we are supposed to

It is wicked and lazy to live only for yourself

### Matthew 25:26 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

When you say that you don't have enough to help you are calling God a liar

- You may have reasons or excuses for your inaction
- You may be fearful
- The reality is that God's breath of life is upon you!
- He has filled you with potential
- He has given you the opportunity to live a life bigger than yourself
- **2 Timothy 1:9** says you are "saved and called"
- Don't live as one who is just saved
- Live each day as an opportunity to multiply, expand, enlarge, and make a difference

### **Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Some people talk about a "prosperity gospel" in a negative way

- There is only one Gospel
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- It contains promises born out of sacrifice, which apply to every area and aspect of life

God wants people's lives to move forward and enlarge in every area of life

### **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

The Bible is clear that financial prosperity only becomes greed when we love money

### 1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Prosperity in and of itself is almost irrelevant when it's not attached to purpose
- Prosperity highlights vulnerabilities and exposes weaknesses
- It reveals what's in your heart and character
- Money becomes a master when driven by "self"
- In the hands of someone who understands purpose it becomes a servant

When you see yourself as a conduit of generosity, committed to the Cause of Christ you are positioned for increase that brings value

- Blessings in your life
- Your family
- Your health
- Your relationship with God
- Your studies
- Your finances
- Position you for purpose

A heart surrendered to God recognizes the need to live beyond personal desires and surrender the self to God's will

## Romans 12:1 The Message (MSG)

**12** <sup>1-2</sup> So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

- Surrender your every day, ordinary aspects of life to God
- Self-centeredness is the enemy of living a life for “One Cause”

## James 3:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

- Self can get out of control
- “Self” occupies the part of you that Christ wants to occupy

## Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- You are filled with potential
  - Self is destructive
- You thrive in the presence of God
  - “Self” thrives in the absence of God
- You have limitless potential
  - Self has limitations
- You are human
  - Self is humanist

The purposes of “Self” are directly opposed to the purposes of Christ

- Self: the flesh or ego

## 2 Timothy 3:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

- The Bible speaks positively about you and your potential
- What issues in your life are bringing “Self” to the forefront at the cost of God’s amazing plans for you?
- Are you pretending to be someone you’re not?
- The way you dress?
- The way you do your hair?
- God doesn’t want clones
- He wants you to be who you were created to be
- Don’t confuse the God-breathed (*you*) and the God-opposed (*self*)

## Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well.

- God wants the real you to live
- For that to happen “self” needs to die
- Self-centeredness
- Self-loathing
- Self-gratification
- Self-serving behavior

## Self Will Shrink You

Being self-conscious means you are far too aware of *self*

- *Self* will keep you small and contained
- God's plan is to enlarge you'
- Christ wants you to see way beyond yourself

If you see the world through the eyes of self your vision will be limited and skewed

- Start seeing yourself the way God sees you

No matter how gifted a person may be natural ability will take you only so far

A self-confident, self-taught, self-made person will limit his or her potential

- It will infiltrate your attitudes
- Your spirituality, humility and compassion
- Self will cause us to judge others harshly
- Self will cause us to use scriptures to keep others contained, and operating in a false sense of humility

**Proverbs 14:16** “a fool rages and is self-confident”

- Self is pre-occupying
- It wraps itself in past failures and mistakes
- Even forgiving yourself will not work
- You must let “self” die and the feelings of guilt and condemnation will die with it

You must allow Christ to occupy the part of your heart that “self” previously occupied

- You will come alive!
- It’s no longer “self” that lives but Christ that lives in you

It’s not enough to have healthy “self-talk”

- You must challenge the very existence of “self”
- Tell yourself what God’s word says

Stop believing in yourself and start believing in the Lord Jesus Christ

- Stop justifying yourself
- Start to become justified by faith

Instead of self-control start to be controlled by the Spirit of God

- “Self” will always dominate and pre-occupy your life by focusing on itself
- “One Cause” the cause of Christ will take us beyond our own pre-occupation and lift us into supernatural possibilities

**Matthew 23:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

- A religious spirit will see this scripture as negative and bring you down
- The Spirit of Jesus will always compel you to go up
- True humility is seeing yourself the way God sees you – In Christ!