

## True North

### Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- Inside every believer there is a compass
- An internal force placed by God
- “True North” is something that needs adjustment

The way God speaks to us and leads us is through our spirits

- We have to be spirit-conscious to receive His direction

### 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## DISCERNING GOD’S WILL

We need to follow peace in our decisions, not make a decision and then pray for peace over it

## WHO’S YOUR MENTOR?

It is so important to have the right, life-long relationships in our life to help us clearly discern the voice of the Lord

- Finding the right people is an important part of determining God’s will for your life

## PROPER PLACEMENT

Acts 17:26 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Being in the right place at the right time is an important key to finding and staying on course with God's will for your life

- God has a proper placement for you
  - Where you worship, live or work
- It is the place where you will thrive

## GET THE RIGHT PLAN FROM GOD

God has a specific plan for each and every one of us

- Regardless of our upbringing or background
- When you were created God encoded you for an assignment
- He gave you the power to get it done
- The enemy is dedicated to pulling you out of that divine assignment

*Destiny is reached by discerning those transitional moments as God is leading you to your purpose*

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*” <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

## The Story of Esther

King Ahasuerus was hungry for power

He threw a party to “wine” and “dine” his warlords in order to gain their favor

- At the end of the seven-day party he ordered the best-looking women in his harem to come and dance
  - Ensuring his warlords would follow him into battle anywhere
- The custom was then to bring his queen out to dance
- Queen Vashti refuses
- Embarrassed, the King gets rid of her

The command goes out throughout the kingdom that the king is looking for a new queen

- He decides to have a beauty contest
- 127 women are chosen
- Esther, a young orphan girl was chosen as one of the participants
  - She wins the contest

Vashti’s actions set the stage for the higher purpose of God

Sometimes when things happen that you can’t explain, remember who is really in charge

- Things don’t happen by chance
- God has a plan for our lives
- When we’re busy living ordinary lives, God is planning extraordinary things for our lives

## Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

- Don't let anyone tell you can't reach for the stars
- Even if you don't get there today, you possess the possibility that tomorrow you will make it!

God was at work throughout Esther's childhood preparing her for this special time

An uncle named Mordecai groomed her, physiologically and spiritually to become great

We all need a mentor alongside to give insight, wisdom, and direction

- Esther had Mordecai
- Ruth had Naomi
- Mary had Elizabeth
- Timothy had the faith of his grandmother as well as the Apostle Paul

## 2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

- Faith is something that is passed on
- As parents it's our responsibility to mentor our children
- Speak into their lives today
- Prepare them for the things of God tomorrow

God had a higher purpose for Esther than winning a contest

- Before she was selected she didn't know proper protocol
- She hadn't been taught proper etiquette and table manors
- She didn't know the right clothes to wear
- She didn't know how royalty was supposed to behave

The king didn't choose Esther because she was Jewish or because he had a spiritual revelation

- He was just using his senses
- All the while God was guiding his decisions
- Did you know that God will sometimes use people who aren't spiritual?
- Sometimes people just want to help you
- When you are in the perfect will of God you walk in divine favor!

**Proverbs 16:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**Psalms 5:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

- When you know who you are in Christ
- When you're submitted to God's divine plan
- You walk in divine favor
- Many times, it can't be explained
- It just works out for your good!

## THE PROCESS FOR PROMOTION

### Esther 2:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

## OIL

In scripture oil represents the Holy Spirit

- She had to soak in oil to smooth her skin, her toes, her feet
- She was a simple “country girl” living in the hills and mountains
- Before God can use you, He has to soak you in the Holy Spirit
- It will smooth out the rough places in your life

Esther was going to determine the fate of her nation

She had to be anointed

- After soaking for six months Esther is a picture of someone who is attuned to the Holy Spirit
- Remember you not only have a mind and body
- You are a spirit

### Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

## PERFUME

In the Bible, incense represents the praises of God and the prayers of His people

Just like perfume makes you smell good, gets people's attention and draws them to you a life of praise and prayer gets people's attention and draws them to you

- It also rises to heaven before the throne of God!

### Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

When we praise God verbally it is liking spraying perfume or cologne that goes up to heaven and gets God's attention

Esther's scent reached the king before she did

- When you praise Him, you invite the presence of God
  - The calm of God
  - The serenity of God
- With praise you get a sense of your purpose and direction

### Esther 4:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?"

## A LIFE WORTH REMEMBERING

### Mark 14:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. <sup>9</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told *as a memorial* to her.”

- A hundred years from now, will it even matter if I was born?
- Are the things I’m living for, worth Christ dying for?
- Lay hold – **Philippians 3:12**

The Gospel tells of a woman who lived a life worth remembering

- A woman who was at the home of Simon the leper
- Broke her alabaster box of costly perfume
- She poured it all over Jesus
- She wiped it with her hair as she wept

### Luke 7:38 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil.

- She stood at the feet of Jesus
- She washed the feet of Jesus
- She dried His feet with her hair
- She kissed His feet
- She anointed His feet
- There is strength in brokenness



## LIVE WITH GREAT EXPECTATION

### Luke 2:25 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

- It is one thing to know that God can do something
- It is another to know that He will do something
- Then there is expecting will do something for you specifically

Many of house think we hear God and move out with great expectation

- We might even see confirmation after confirmation that tells us we are on the right path
- However, when we don't see immediate results or progress seems to come to a halt discouragement can set in
- If we aren't careful this is where doubt can get in
- We are tempted to throw up our hands and quit

The promises of Gods are yes and amen and we are to live a life of great expectation

### 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

### Hebrews 10:35 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

## GOD SPEAKS TO YOU IN GOD’S HOUSE

When Jesus was just a few weeks old His parents took Him to the temple – **Luke 2:22**

- Its never to early to get your kids to Church
- Don’t wait until you have problems with them as teenagers
- There is a blessing that comes on you in church
- A word of wisdom, knowledge or prophecy
- The laying on of hands and prayer

Going to church shouldn’t be something we only do when we have nothing else going on

The Body of Christ has spiritual gifts that flow through the members for the benefit of all!

– **See Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14**

Simeon was not a Prophet, he was not a Priest, he was not a King

- He was a normal, everyday person

### **Luke 2:26–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law

- He takes Jesus in his arms and blesses Him
- He spoke something *specific* over Jesus

God had promised Simeon that He would see the Christ before his death

- When God sets a promise in motion its coming to you!
  - It's worth waiting for
  - It's worth crying for
  - Its worth a season of trials
- What God has coming is amazing and its worth the fight

### Habakkuk 2:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

- Every miracle God does is within a time frame
- You want to be in the right place and the right time
- Don't give up!
- Are you willing to risk looking foolish?
- Are you willing to be obedient to God and do what it takes to make a stand of faith?

Sometimes your miracle can only be released when you get to the end of you

- Humble yourself and declare, "Not my will but Yours"
- Keep your faith alive through the word of God and the encouragement of those around you
- God will fulfill His will in your life

### Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.