god's EFING Process



'He has lifted up a horn for His people [giving them strength, prosperity, dignity, and preeminence], Praise for all His godly ones; For the people of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord ! (Hallelujah!)' Psalms 148:14

'For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.' Psalms 75:6-7

We know God lifts men and there are several illustrations in the Bible to this effect, and sometimes the outcome may be spectacular. However, many times the outcome we see is a consequence of the processes He employed to get to that outcome. This means it will help us to gain some insight into How God lifts men so we can identify when He is in operation and cooperate with Him.

This series as we look at different ways God lifts people we pray the Holy Spirit will give us wisdom and understanding so we can live in the fullness Jesus paid for.

Day 1 Gift of Men

"of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king;" I Chronicles 12:31

It's one thing for someone to have an assignment from God and another to successfully complete that assignment. God works through people to do what He wants here on earth and often times He uses the gift of men to help us complete the assignment. This simply means that He puts a person's name on the minds of people (men and women) He's assigned to help that person fulfil His agenda.

When it was time for David to be made king, the Bible tells us there were eighteen thousand men designated <u>by name</u> to help in the successful completion of this agenda. This means that 18,000 people had been stirred up in their hearts to support David. Remember, life is spiritual and nothing just happens. If we're struggling in a particular area, perhaps what we should be doing isn't second guessing God but asking Him for the people that will help carry the weight of that assignment so the burden is eased and the assignment completed speedily.

"The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases." Proverbs 21:1 NLT

Oftentimes when God wants to orchestrate an elevation, He needs to turn the heart of a king (someone wielding significant authority) in our favour as without this that elevation will not happen. The king's heart would then be softened to ensure he fulfils his assignment concerning the person on whose behalf God is working.

"When people's lives please the Lord, even their enemies are at peace with them." Proverbs 16:7 NLT

God isn't restricted to working with only the people who like us as His word says even our enemies will be at peace with us when our lives please Him. This amazing insight shows us that living a life that pleases God ensures not only that our enemies will be at peace with us, but that God will also guide the hearts of kings in our favour and stir up the hearts of the people assigned to help us fulfil our assignment.

Prayer: Lord help me to live in a way that pleases You. I ask that You stir the hearts of men on my behalf so I can fulfil Your agenda for my life.

Day 2 Book of Remembrance

"So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name... and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king." Esther 2:22-23

Mordecai uncovered a plot to assassinate King Ahasuerus so he informed his niece queen Esther who in turn informed the king. We don't know the full details of the plot, but it's fair to presume Mordecai put himself on the line by exposing the bodyguards as things could have backfired, especially if others were involved in the plot. However that didn't deter him from doing the right thing.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9

"That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king... Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."" Esther 6:1-3

The king had multiple options available to keep himself entertained overnight, so how come he chose to review the country's records? Why did he specifically feel Mordecai must be honoured as a number of years had already passed from when he reported the plot against the king and why wasn't he honoured when it initially happened? Let's always remember four key things: God always has a bigger plan in mind, life is spiritual, nothing just happens and we will reap what we sow, even though it may not be immediately.

Had Mordecai not performed that act years before, there wouldn't have been a basis for God to stir up the king and prompt him to reward Mordecai, which was ultimately instrumental to foiling the plot by Haman against the Jews. It's easy to feel one is overlooked, but we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us with the revelation that God always has a bigger picture in mind. So let's not get tired of doing good, trusting God to make everything beautiful in His time.

Prayer: Lord show me a token of your kindness, let a book of remembrance be opened for me and stir up the hearts of kings on my behalf.

Day 3 Favour

"Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs." Daniel 1:9

When God's favour is in operation on someone's life, that person receives an unexplainable level of kindness and positive partiality from people, systems, etc. Things seem to always work for their benefit and people seem to go out of their way to help the person God has favoured, giving them a seemingly unfair advantage. Favour is a major tool for lifting. In Daniel's case, God knew favour was required to help Daniel maintain his loyalty to the Lord so he gave him favour and goodwill where it mattered.

"... And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her." Esther 2:15

Esther was on her way to the palace where she would play a crucial role for the Jews even though she didn't know this at the time. So favour needed to come into operation on her behalf so she could get to and stay in the palace. God always knows exactly what is needed to position us so we can fulfil our assignment and favour always has a role to play.

"And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men." I Samuel 2:26

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52

Samuel and Jesus show us that not only does God give favour, He can give in increasing measures, so it's possible to have more favour today than yesterday. It's important to note that all these people were committed to God and played a role in His agenda for the season. As a reflection let's ask ourselves: what role are we playing in advancing God's agenda? As we look to the Lord for favour, let's also ask ourselves what we will do with it. Will His kingdom benefit from it, or do we just want it for ourselves? One way to ensure His favour is always upon our lives is to be relevant to His kingdom agenda as favour will always be necessary to complete our assignment.

Prayer: Lord give me a heart for what matters to You, show me how I can be relevant to Your agenda and clothe me with a garment of favour.

Day 4 Divine Direction

"I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time." Ecclesiastes 9:11 NLT

Lifting doesn't automatically happen because a person is intelligent, skilled or wise. It's not even about the "connections" one has as those connections may not always be willing or able to exert influence on one's behalf. The Bible tells us that the key differentiator for success is being at the right place at the right time. Question: How does one achieve this?

"The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalms 32:8 NLT

Believers are supposed to have an edge based on God's promise that He will guide us along the best pathway for our lives. For there to be a best pathway suggests that there are other alternatives we could take, which may not necessarily be bad. However only God's choice guarantees us the best results according to His divine plan for us. He also promises to advise us, but His advise has to be accepted and acted upon for it to be beneficial. This means that for His divine positioning to come into play in our lives, we must be able to sense the prompts of the Holy Spirit, be willing to move according to His guidance and act on the advise He gives us.

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." Psalms 37:23 NLT

When we are in constant communication with the Holy Spirit, we will receive His direction which ensures we're strategically positioned for what He's planned for us. The key is staying in continuous fellowship with Him.

Reflect: How close are you to the Holy Spirit, how involved is He in your daily life?

Prayer: Thank You Lord for Your promise to lead me along the best pathway and give me divine direction. I ask for the grace to maintain a close walk with You so I can involve You in every detail of my life.



Day 5 Assignment Alignment

"Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God." Hebrews 10:7

God's lifting always aligns with His agenda, therefore it stands to reason that we need to be clear that we are walking in alignment with His plans for us. To illustrate, imagine a situation where someone is meant to function in nursing for example per God's plan, yet the person decides to go into banking for example and expects to experience God's lifting. While the person may do reasonably well by the standards of men, in God's assessment that person is already out of alignment.

"You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you." John 15:16 AMP

God is very intentional about everything He does and that includes our assignments. We are meant to function as representatives of Jesus and He has appointed certain jurisdictions to us in which to do so. He's also made grace available to us so we don't have to toil in that area – work hard yes, but not toil. In our earlier illustration, the nurse in banking may function effectively, but she may be working with someone who has grace to excel specifically for that area and may think God is being unfair to her. Grace to excel is always connected to assignment.

'But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' I Kings 8:18-19

David wanted to build a temple for the Lord but that wasn't his role in the equation. Rather he was meant to provide the resources that Solomon would use to build. God's plan for His children fits into a bigger picture we may not fully realize, so we need His constant guidance to ensure what we're doing is part of His agenda and not our own thing.

Prayer: Lord please help me understand clearly what and where my assignment is per time so that I will always be in the place of purpose.

Day 6 Creative Insight

'I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.' Proverbs 8:12

There's a level of creativity and insight that God can make available to us which cannot be easily replicated, if at all which the Bible calls witty inventions. When we ask God for promotion or expansion, we may be expecting Him to maneuver things and people to our advantage but what He may give us instead is an idea that will consistently create the promotion/expansion we are asking for.

'The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord .' Isaiah 11:2

We have the Holy Spirit available to us as believers and by the Spirit we have access to wisdom, understanding, counsel (direction) and knowledge among others. But if we do not place a demand on these to become active in our lives, we will keep asking God for things He has already made available to us.

'And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink. So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.' Genesis 30:38-39

"And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you." Genesis 31:10-12

When Jacob was being taken advantage of by his employer, God gave him a strategy to enable him become financially independent. It may have seemed strange – what could be the connection between peeled rods and the colour of sheep – but Jacob followed through and saw the results. Jacob's story is just one example. There are several ideas the Lord makes available to us, however if we do not follow through, we will not see the results and may erroneously think that God has not heard us.

Prayer: Lord please open my mind to download the knowledge of witty inventions needed for my lifting.

Day 7 Problem Solving

'You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus has told us that we are the light of the world, which means we are meant to shine light in darkness. A consequence of the existence of darkness is that the world is filled with many issues and challenges which make life difficult for many. Everywhere there is a challenge, there is an opportunity for believers to rise and resolve that challenge. As believers we aren't supposed to join the world to complain about the issues around us, rather we should ask the Lord which problems He's created us to solve so we can represent Him in that area.

'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.' Romans 8:19

'See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:10

Creation is eagerly waiting for us to arise in our areas of assignment and reveal Jesus to the world. Not just for His coming but to help ease the agony of the decay across the world. We have been designed to create, build and maintain systems and structures across various spheres to reflect the character of our Lord and it is in doing so that He lifts us. When we see God's people in the Bible who were elevated, they were all problem solvers in one way shape or form. Let's reflect today on the areas God has called us to address and ask for His help to do so.

Prayer: Lord help me solve the problems of kings and nations. Open my eyes to see the solutions to the problems you have assigned me to resolve.

Day 8 God's Promises

"Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses." I Kings 8:56

"Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." Psalms 2:8

"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." Isaiah 55:11

God takes great delight in every detail of our lives and one of the things He expects from us is that we ask Him for what we want and that includes lifting. When we do so, we are demonstrating to Him that we judge Him faithful to do what he says he will do and that we trust Him as the source of the expansion/promotion.

'...We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:9-10

Sometimes when we do not see exactly what we want, the way we want it, we may think God isn't listening or is unfair. It's important we also understand that what we ask for must be in line with His word and plan for our lives so we do not ask amiss. God desires that we know His will, His word concerning His will and that we ask Him for its manifestation in our lives. This is the way we do our part in fulfilling Jesus' requirement that we represent Him in every sphere He positions us in (John 15:16). So today let's ask, trusting that He will hear and answer us.

Prayer: Lord I believe You when You say You watch over Your word, and today I ask that You give me complete knowledge of Your will for my life and the spiritual wisdom and understanding I require to walk in Your will (Col 1:9-10). I ask that You fill me with a hunger for righteousness and more of You in my life. I ask Lord that You cause me to flourish like a palm tree in all You have planned for me, that I grow in strength and might and be fruitful in every area of my life (Ps 92:12-14). I ask that You give me favour and establish all the works of my hands (Ps 90:17). I ask that You give me all I need for my joy to be full and Your name glorified in my life (Jhn 16:24).

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