



Influence

IMPACTING THE PHYSICAL
FROM THE SPIRITUAL

“while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” II Corinthians 4:18

“for through him (Christ) God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:16 NLT

The Bible tells us clearly there are two realms: seen and unseen. The seen is temporary, the unseen eternal. This unseen realm contains thrones, kingdoms, and so much more, all of which have a direct impact on the things we can see. Therefore, since the seen is subject to the unseen, we must make it our priority to understand how to have influence in the spiritual realm if we want to make any lasting impact.

This series we are looking at spiritual influence from the perspective of developing the capacity to create realities in the spiritual realm and translate these realities to the physical. Our prayer is that God will give us revelation and the grace to become people of influence, not just in time but also in eternity.

Day 1 Spiritual Profile

'But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?"' Acts 19:15

Seven sons of a leading Jewish priest called Sceva tried to cast out an evil spirit from a man "in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches" (Acts 19:13). But the evil spirit gave an interesting and educative response. He knew Jesus and Paul, but none of the 7 men trying to exorcise the spirit had enough influence to register recognition in the spiritual realm.

As sons of a leading priest, they may have assumed their earthly profile automatically translated to a spiritual profile. Their interaction with the spirit clearly shows that this is not the case. Perhaps they also felt that they had the power of numbers on their side, but one man beat 7 men until they fled naked and battered. However we see many examples of people in the Bible who took on significant situations singlehandedly. This indicates that the way things work in the spirit realm is different than in the natural.

'and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus' Ephesians 2:6

Sceva's sons preached the Jesus that Paul knew, without having their own personal revelation of Him. Though they never met physically during His earthly ministry, Paul had very deep revelations of Jesus and more importantly who he was in Christ. It was this revelation that spurred him to take territories and enabled the Holy Spirit move through him powerfully. The sons of Sceva show us that encounters will challenge our understanding of our identity in Christ which is based on who our Father is, who Jesus is and where we are seated in Him. If we don't know our identity, we won't know who we are and what we have access to and the capacity to impact.

Prayer: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give to me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, so I know my spiritual profile.

Day 2

Consistency in Spiritual Disciplines

“The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries...” Daniel 2:47

“I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel...” Daniel 6:26

Daniel demonstrated capacity to influence the spiritual realm and based on his life, different leaders in Babylon had to acknowledge the glory and power of God (Daniel 2,5,6). He was also able to change the course of Israel’s history and prompt their exit from Babylon’s captivity. How did one man who was a slave in a foreign nation achieve this? One of the things we can pick from Daniel is that he was consistent in his pursuit of intimacy with God and his spiritual disciplines.

“in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.” Daniel 9:2-3

Starting from the feast at the King’s table, Daniel lived a life of fasting frequently (Daniel 1;10) and prayer was “his custom since early days” (Daniel 6:10). He was also a man of the word and it was through his depth in the word that he knew Israel was overdue their deliverance from exile.

At the various points when he fasted, prayed and studied, Daniel may not have fully realised that he was building capacity in the realm of the spirit which directly impacted the level of influence he could exert. He didn’t study, pray and fast just because he wanted something, rather it was his lifestyle. The person who exercises for say 30 minutes a day will have a higher level of fitness than someone who only exercises an hour once a week. Consistency has the power to build our capacity both physically and spiritually. God always starts with the little things and as we mature and build capacity through consistency, He’s able to trust us with more as our level of influence is extended

Prayer: Lord help me as I commit to building consistency in spiritual disciplines.

Day 3 Consecration

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

To consecrate something is to make or declare that thing sacred; set apart for a noble purpose, for the Master’s use. It is in levels and some aspects may be for a season. Consecration isn’t just something we’re to do once in a while for a specific reason, perhaps trying to get clarity from God, preparing for a program, etc. While these are important, the Bible tells us that because we’re the Lord’s temple, we’re to live a lifestyle of consecration, which means it goes beyond just spiritual activity as we consecrate our time, body, life for God

“... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” Heb 12:1

There’s no one recorded in the Bible who lived a consecrated life that didn’t carry spiritual influence. The closer we get to God the more spiritual influence we will wield because we can be trusted to carry out His agenda. Getting closer means there are some things we have to intentionally shed, which the Bible calls weights. These weights need not be bad things, but whatever the Lord is laying emphasis on at the time. Beyond general consecrations (Rom 12:1), the Holy Spirit also gives specific instructions at different points in time - meaning we need to be wary of just copying others and always engage Him. As we respond to the Holy Spirit, we open the door to make our relationship with Him more experiential and increase His ability to work in and through us.

“...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:6

There are consecrations and requirements for every stage of destiny and a greater level of consecration will be required for each higher level. So at every point we have a choice to go further or not. But we have the encouragement that God is a generous rewarder of seriousness and obedience.

Prayer: Lord show me the consecration I need to position accurately to wield spiritual influence.

Day 4 The Spoken Word

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.” Proverbs 18:21 AMP

Our words play a huge role in our ability to influence the spirit realm. Words have power, life and the ability to shape our world for good or bad. When we want to bless, we use words. Curses are also activated using words. This is why the Bible often cautions us to be careful about the words we speak so we do not create wrong outcomes for ourselves and others.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night...” Joshua 1:8

Who we really are and what we really believe will always show up in what we say. At a time of crisis our true belief will emerge through our words because that’s what is in our hearts. How do we ensure we fill our hearts with the right things? Through spending time with the written word in the Bible. As we spend time in the word, our hearts are transformed as God’s word fills us and starts becoming our default response to situations as our minds are renewed. When the Bible speaks of meditating on the word, it means reflecting on and also speaking the word frequently. As we engage the Holy Spirit to bring light to the word and speak it until it becomes part of us, then we slowly start creating the world we want to see because our hearts are genuinely connected to what we’re saying.

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

We are spirit beings and our words aren’t empty, so when we speak God’s word backed by revelation, we shift things in the spirit realm. The life giving essence of the word of God transforms both the seen and unseen realms and so it’s important for us to know what God’s word says about a situation so we can address it correctly.

Prayer: Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips (Ps 141:3)



Day 5 Our Obedience

“... Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22

A key to wielding spiritual influence is to pay attention to the things that God values. We know that sacrifice is important, but if the Lord says obedience is better than sacrifice, then it means obedience is something that requires our attention. Our level of obedience is a determinant of how influential we can be because as we obey, we become more malleable in God’s hands and become reliable channels for the expression of His power.

“The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.” Isaiah 50:4 NIV

When the Lord wants to do something, He works through instructions which may be in the form of something that is impressed upon us as we read the Bible, a prompting in our hearts to do something, or through a third party. It’s important to always remember that God’s instructions will never contradict His word, so whatever we receive either as a prompting or through a third party must always be checked against the word of God.

Partial obedience is disobedience. When Saul was given clear instructions through Samuel the prophet, he obeyed partially and thought that was okay (1 Sam 15). However as far as God was concerned this was disobedience and it cost Saul the throne in the spirit even though he was still there physically for a few more years. This tells us that when we walk in disobedience things may appear to be okay, but in the spirit realm we don’t carry any weight and someone else may have already been allotted our position of influence.

The instructions we receive may not always seem to make sense or appear inconsequential, however we must be faithful in little before we can be entrusted with more. Many times influence lies in our obedience to the seemingly little daily instructions we get from God. The more consistent we are in obeying these little instructions, the more accustomed we become to walking in obedience.

Prayer: Lord give me a heart of obedience to you.



Day 6 Reverence

“The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”
Psalms 25:14

One of the things that impacts our ability to have influence in spiritual things is the reverence we have for God. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, one of the things He deposits in us is a reverence and awe for the Lord which grows as we mature in knowing Him. This is key because God only reveals His secrets to those who fear Him.

“Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, says... But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.” 1 Samuel 2:30 NLT

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” Hebrews 5:7 NIV

There is a level of honour that comes from fearing the Lord because with this fear comes a submission of our lives to Him. The honour comes from a place of revelation of God’s sovereignty, power, love and so much more. As we grow in revelation, our level of reverence for God also increases and we respond to Him not out of a mindset that He will punish us, but out of our love for Him and desire to please Him. Jesus lived a life of total submission to God and exercised incredible influence as a result.

“Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children. Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.” Proverbs 14:26-27 NLT
God is a consuming fire, but He isn’t a wicked Father. Rather He delights in doing good things for His children so the fear of the Lord brings many blessings with it. Wisdom, knowledge, understanding, might, direction, long life, good health, sound mind and so much more are all available to us as we grow in the fear of the Lord.

Prayer: Lord teach me to reverence You as You deserve. Let the spirit of the fear of the Lord rest upon me

Day 7 Our Thoughts

Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or THINK, according to the power that worketh in us Ephesians 3:20

Our thoughts are much more powerful than we actually realise. When the Bible tells us that God is able to do far more than we can think, it means what we think is a determinant of what He is given liberty to do in our lives. Ideally this should cause us to pause and ask ourselves: “what occupies my thoughts?”, because what we think either hinders or accelerates what God can accomplish through us.

'And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.' Philippians 4:8

Thoughts become actions, actions become habits and habits shape our lives, so our lives are fundamentally a product of what we think. The enemy knows this, which is why we are constantly being bombarded with influences that will affect the way we think. Some of these influences are through some traditions, some are through various forms of media, others through associations. Because these influences are relentless, Paul gave us a two-step strategy: Fix and replace.

Nature abhors a vacuum, so whenever we want to change a habit, the most effective way is to replace it with something else. For instance, if a person is trying to cut down on time spent on social media, rather than just cut it out that person ideally would replace the time spent on social media either walking, reading or some other activity. Likewise, a person who wants to stop negative thought patterns should replace those thoughts whenever they come up with something positive. This is why Paul said to “Fix” our thoughts: it starts off being an intentional act until the thought pattern we want becomes part of us.

'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus' Philippians 2:5

Thankfully we do not have to rely on willpower to fix and replace our thoughts – the Holy Spirit our helper is available to us. This is the confidence we have, that because we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we have access to everything He has access to including His thought process. So we know that wherever there are gaps in our thinking, the Holy Spirit is more than able to correct, replace and transform so we become like Jesus here on earth.

Prayer: Lord, please help me identify every wrong thought pattern I have and replace them with Your thoughts so I function like Jesus.

Day 8 Power of Association

'As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.' Proverbs 27:17

Who we consistently associate with impacts our decision making, actions and outcomes. We also have access to the grace on the lives of those we associate with because people rub off on one another through constant interaction both physically and spiritually. Whomever we choose to associate with will either sharpen us and our capacity to influence, or draw us back.

'When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.' I Samuel 10:10

'Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah.' Daniel 1:6

'And being let go, they went to their own companions...' Acts 4:23

When Saul walked with the prophets, he began to prophecy as one of them. The spiritual atmosphere around the prophets created a trigger for the prophetic grace to rest upon Saul. The Lord worked many exploits through Daniel, but Daniel also had his companions who helped him walk in the way of righteousness. Similarly, the early believers kept their company which helped them encourage one another and grow in the things of God as the Holy Spirit helped them. This doesn't mean we shouldn't engage with everyone, however we must be deliberate about those we choose to bring into close proximity with us.

'But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.' I Corinthians 6:17

Associations are very powerful in the spiritual realm. Lot benefited from the grace on Abraham's life; Laban benefited from the grace on Jacob's life; Potiphar benefited from the grace on Joseph's life. So who we connect to and who we allow to connect to us matters. The Bible tells us that those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour become one spirit with Him, so by association we have access to everything Jesus has access to. This means we can partake of all the grace that was made available to Jesus in His earthly ministry as well as everything the Holy Spirit is able to do. This is the highest level of association possible and one that we will do well to carefully nurture.

Prayer: Lord help me place a premium on my association with You over everything else.

Day 9 Discernment

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven” Ecclesiastes 3:1

God has ordained things to happen in specific periods, so if we are to be effective in the place of influence we must understand the seasons we are functioning in both at a personal level and for the world at large. For instance, God gave Abraham insight that his descendants would be slaves for 400 years (Gen 15:13-14) so it was bound to happen and Abraham couldn't pray it away because it was part of God's plan. This tells us that God plans way in advance and the current state of the plan may or may not look palatable, but it's always part of a bigger picture. Therefore discernment is required to understand how to respond to whatever situation we're trying to influence. For us to have this, we must always ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the season we're in globally, in our nation, career, family, etc so we're not inadvertently fighting against God's agenda.

“From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.” Acts 17:26
NLT

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.”
Colossians 1:9-10

Knowing how precise God is and how He expects us to align with His agenda, we would do well to daily connect with His will so we don't go off track as God's plan is not always the obvious choice. Discerning is critical especially in the times we're in as Jesus already warned that there will be a great level of deception in operation which will only increase over time . So poor discernment may actually cause us to take wrong decisions both for ourselves and others. Discerning seasons is not only a tool for influence, it will also be a tool for protection as it's when we know exactly what God is doing or focusing on per time that we can align effectively.

Prayer: Sharpen my discernment and sensitivity to You Holy Spirit. Give me understanding of heaven's priorities per time.



Day 10 Burning Altars

'A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.' Leviticus 6:13

Influencing the spiritual realm cannot be done without having an altar. which is essentially a physical representation of a place where spiritual negotiations and transactions are executed. Altars are meant to be holy, sacred and consecrated to a deity. As believers, we are meant to be the living embodiment of an altar, consecrated to God for His good works, so the Holy Spirit can flow freely through us. Keeping our altar active and connected means we consistently exercise our authority to legislate in the realm of the spirit. The opposite is also the case as leaving our altar fallow and unkempt means we will largely be at the receiving end of other influences.

It's impossible to have a powerful altar without being a person of prayer – it's in the place of prayer that the Holy Spirit transforms, instructs, empowers us. It's as we pray that angels are sent on assignment on our behalf to implement God's agenda. It's in the place of prayer we develop immunity to besetting sins and gain strength to do exploits for God. This is why the Bible instructs us never to let the fire go down on our altar, so we don't become vulnerable to the wiles of the enemy.

'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.' Romans 12:1

'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.' Galatians 2:20

Our altars represent our personal power base and there is a direct correlation between the fire on our altars and the level of influence we wield. This is because the key thing required on the believer's altar is a sacrifice of our lives. Living a sacrificial life simply means that everything we do should be to the glory of God as He dictates – regardless of how we feel. We pray, praise, worship, give and serve for the sole reason that the Lord may be glorified. We cannot carry Christ's power without His presence and we cannot carry His presence without laying our lives down for Him, so He lives in and through us through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord help me to keep my altar on fire for You.

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