

*Key Spiritual*

# GAME CHANGERS



“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8

We know that physical exercise is important to the body, however when people are training for sporting competitions, not all exercises will yield the same results. A good sportsman knows the series of training activities required to make a difference in their performance. Similarly, there are spiritual exercises we engage in, but some are game changers when it comes to making a difference to our spiritual capacity.

This series we’re looking at these game changers, trusting that the Holy Spirit will give us understanding so we are well equipped to walk in dominion this year.



## Day 1 Worship

'But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.' John 4:23

As believers we pray, but if we analyse our prayers we may find that the content of our prayer may likely include more of requests than worship. As a Father the Lord enjoys looking after His children, but beyond our requests we know worship is very important to God as Jesus Himself said that the Father is seeking worship in spirit and truth. This means we need to understand what worship means from God's perspective as this will significantly impact our spiritual life.

'Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men' Isaiah 29:13

Worship really begins in the heart, not the lips. It's possible for our mouths to say something, but our minds are distracted, or we may simply be engaged in reciting. When we worship, we need to reflect on who God is to us, who the Bible tells us He is, what He has done or is doing and based on that, within us we start magnifying God for who He is, appreciating what He has done, is doing and will do.

'When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.' Matthew 6:7

'[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son].' Ephesians 1:17

The objective of worship isn't to sound spiritually articulate or to get something from Him, rather we seek to get closer to Him. It will be difficult to worship one who you don't have an idea of so one of the things we need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us with as we read our Bibles is a revelation of who Jesus is. As we grow in this revelation, worship becomes an integral part of our prayer life because we will start prioritizing fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:** Lord help me become a true worshipper.



## Day 2 Altars

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

The Bible lets us know that we don't wrestle with flesh and blood but with the spiritual realm. This tells us that there's a wrestle that needs to go on to win in life, and this wrestling takes place in the place of our altar. In the Old Testament, the Levitical priests had to ensure the fire on the altar in the temple never went out day or night. It was a responsibility they took seriously and performed with faithfulness.

'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light' 1 Peter 2:9

Today we understand that we are a royal priesthood which means that in addition to the kingly function as tools of expansion of God's kingdom in our various spheres, we also have to perform the responsibilities of a priest. In the Old Testament times, priests had to maintain a physical fire, but now our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and the fire is kept aflame in our hearts. Interesting to note also that the Old Testament kings/warriors who consistently won battles never downplayed the role of the priest in their lives, because they understood that victory was first obtained in the spiritual realm before it manifested in the physical.

As we proclaim the kingdom of God and His righteousness, the kingdom of darkness isn't going to sit idly by and watch us win. There will be resistance, but we already have an inbuilt advantage in the person of the Holy Spirit resident in us. However, if we don't cultivate that relationship daily, our altar starts getting cold and we will find that we start falling back into old habits we thought we had left behind as things of God begin to take less prominence in our heart. This is what Jesus referred to as being lukewarm and He warned us clearly about the consequences of that.

Our altar is where we foster intimacy with the Holy Spirit, become transformed and receive critical strategies for success. So our faithfulness in consistently manning our altars will determine how successful we are in winning the constant battle going on in the spiritual realm. We can't afford to neglect it.

**Prayer:** Lord help me to keep the fire on my altar burning daily.



### Day 3 Meditation

'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.' Joshua 1:8

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” Joshua 1:8 NLT

As the Lord engaged Joshua after the death of Moses, it was interesting that He linked Joshua's success to meditation of the Word. Which tells us that there's a clear connection between success God's way and constant meditation of the Word. What does meditation really entail? It means focusing on a portion of scripture and reflecting on it. Meditation isn't done in a hurry as it involves really thinking deeply about a scripture verse/passage throughout the day, engaging the Holy Spirit to help uncover the truth in word.

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

“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

The word of God isn't just text in a book, it's God talking to us. As we meditate, we start seeing how the passage we're focusing on applies to our lives and what the Holy Spirit needs to change in us as our hearts are softened to obey His instructions.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

Could it be that some of the things we are struggling with in the Bible is because its reality hasn't yet 'entered' our spirits? Meditating shows us not just who God is, but who we are in Him and this revelation brings transformation to our minds. Nutritionists often say that we are what we eat. Likewise, we become what our spirits ingest. As we 'eat' the word of God we become more like Him and consequently flourish in all we do.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit please teach me how to meditate so I can be a person who meditates



## Day 4 Declarations

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26

God is a creator and He uses words as His primary tool of creation. Through Genesis 1 we see God saying, “let there be...” and it came to be, meaning creation responded to God’s words. God also created man (species not the gender) in His image to be like Him, which means that among the many capabilities we have is the ability to create using words.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21

If you were to do an audit of your speech daily, how many positive things do you speak compared to the negative? Negative speaking includes lying, insulting people, murmuring, gossiping, etc. Words aren’t empty, they have creative abilities. Should we choose to constantly speak negatively about something, then the reality of that situation will remain negative. And it’s critical we realize that we can’t speak negatively about someone and expect positive things in our own lives. Remember, every word we speak sows something into the future and we will reap the rewards of what we sow.

“Where the word of a king is, there is power...” Ecclesiastes 8:4

Should we choose to consciously and consistently speak God’s word over a situation, we’re releasing the power in His word to go into operation and create the reality we’re declaring. The enemy knows this very well, which is why he constantly wars against our knowing the truth of the word of God, and our ability to consistently speak it. He knows that as a royal priesthood we can make declarations that will thwart his activities so he keeps us focused only on the negativity around us. This doesn’t mean everything around us is perfect, rather we choose to speak God’s word over a situation, person, etc in spite of what we see. And as kings we declare what we want to see until we see what we have declared come to be.

**Prayer:** Lord help me to be mindful of the words I speak and to be intentional about declaring Your word over my life, family, business/career and nation.



## Day 5 Revelation

'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...' Hosea 4:6

The biggest game changer for a believer is revelation, and this is where the battle with the enemy is fiercest. Interesting that it's lack of knowledge that destroys. Which means that we can engage in spiritual activity but if we do so without knowledge, then we will not get the full benefit. The enemy doesn't mind how much we pray, worship, fast, etc in so far as we are still in the dark about who we are and what we carry. When we know our true identity then we become a real threat to the kingdom of darkness.

'[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son].' Ephesians 1:17  
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If lack of knowledge destroys, then it's important to be clear on what that knowledge is. We get some insight into this from the verse above which tells us several things. First is that to know God requires the spirit of wisdom and revelation to be in operation. We can't just figure Him out by 'head' knowledge as He doesn't reason or function the way we do. Second is that revelation is required for depth and intimacy with God. Where there's no revelation we won't really be drawn to committing our lives to Him. Revelation gives us insight into who God is and why He does certain things. This is why the Israelites knew the acts of God, but Moses knew His ways (Ps 103:7).

For there to be a true knowledge of God means that there's false knowledge as well. The enemy is quite deliberate and strategic about distorting our knowledge of God because if we don't know who He is, we won't know who we are as His children. This is what gives the enemy room to cheat us even though he's already been defeated.

'But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord' Jeremiah 9:24

Knowing God doesn't happen overnight, it's a lifelong pursuit that requires our active involvement and engaging the Holy Spirit. As we see Him, we see ourselves and all we have the capacity to be and do. That's the real game changer.

**Prayer:** Lord grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation so I may truly know You.



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