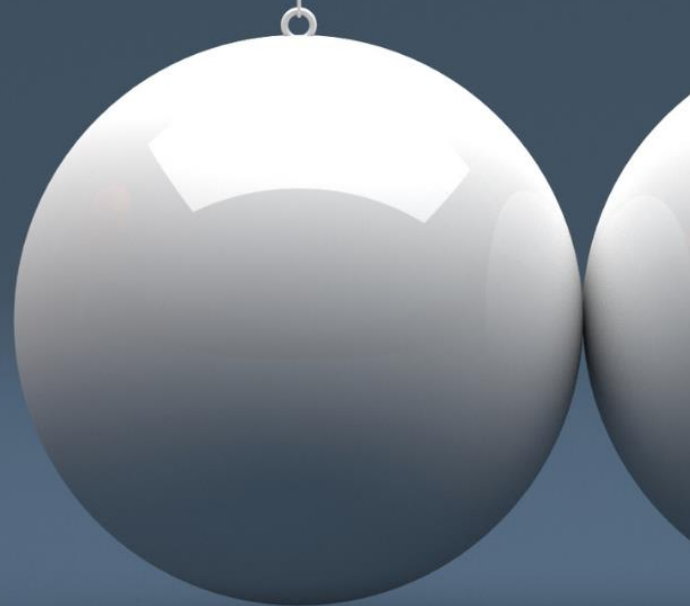
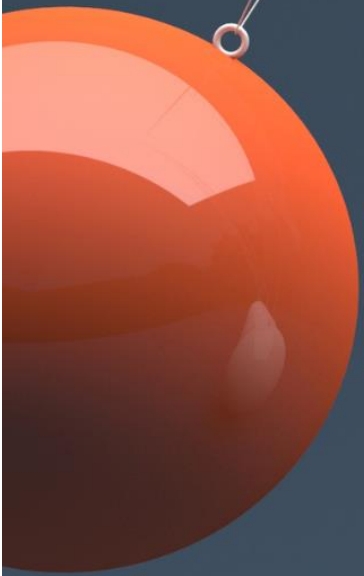


SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE SERIES

Making The
SHIFT



'When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough.' Deuteronomy 1:6

'But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.'
Proverbs 4:18

The Bible tells us that the path of the just shines ever brighter which means that a believer's life is meant to be one of continuous progress in all areas. But there are times where we don't move as we should for a variety of reasons. It could be the Lord pausing us as part of our spiritual development and maturity plan, it could be the enemy hindering our momentum or perhaps we are the ones hindering ourselves because we have become comfortable at a particular level. Whatever the reason, at some point the Lord will prompt us to let us know it's time to move from where we are to a new position.

How do we know when it's time to make a move and how do we position ourselves for this? How do we ensure we are constantly accurate with the timing of the seasons of our lives so we don't miss what God wants to do at that time? We will look at these and more in this series.



Day 1

Understanding Contractions

“When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, ‘You have stayed at this mountain long enough.’ Deuteronomy 1:6

As human beings we are by default creatures of comfort. People generally don’t like being uncomfortable and we sometimes go to great lengths to ensure our levels of comfort don’t reduce. However when God wants to provoke a transition, one of the things the Holy Spirit uses to nudge us is some level of discomfort. It may either be an internal sensing, or factors in our external environment, or both. The objective is for us to do something about it.

“Pain has come to the people like the pain of childbirth, but they are like a child who resists being born. The moment of birth has arrived, but they stay in the womb!” Hosea 13:13

Contractions aren’t pleasant or comfortable, but they are a necessary part of the birthing process as they signal to both the mother and the child that the time for the child to be born is near. The mother’s body either follows this process or there’s medical intervention to induce the contractions and remove the baby from the womb. Either way the child must be born.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.” James 1:5

There are times the Holy Spirit induces some “contractions” in our environment which should signal to us that it’s time for a new level to be born, yet we ignore those contractions. Remember people are by default creatures of comfort. So at times our immediate response to any discomfort we’re facing is to pray it away. But the Holy Spirit may be using those discomforts to try and push us into our next level.

Today let’s take some time to reflect on all that’s going on within and around us and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us what’s really going on so we can align with His plans.

Prayer: Lord reveal to me the source of the discomforts I am experiencing. Show me Lord if it’s the enemy at work or You prompting me about a new level. Grant me the wisdom to respond accurately so I don’t frustrate Your plans for my growth.



Day 2

Position for Progress

“It is time to break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the neighboring regions... Go to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, and all the way to the great Euphrates River.” Deuteronomy 1:7

When we know that we've been prompted by God to make a move, the next thing we are faced with is to know what to do with the prompt. For us today this could be a prompt about changing our current place of employment, physical location, way of doing business or so much more. When the Lord told the Israelites that it was time to move, He didn't leave the conversation open ended. He gave specific instructions and directions regarding how Israel should position so they wouldn't just be moving aimlessly or end up in the wrong place.

“After this, David asked the Lord, “Should I move back to one of the towns of Judah?” “Yes,” the Lord replied. Then David asked, “Which town should I go to?” “To Hebron,” the Lord answered.” 2 Samuel 2:1

“The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you.” Genesis 26:2

Positioning is important. It could mean the difference between success and failure or even life and death. This means our decision making shouldn't be based on environmental factors or peer pressure but on what the Lord says specifically to us. Reason being the Lord may be telling more than one person to make a move, but His objectives for each person could differ significantly. So if we make the mistake of copying someone else, we move ourselves out of the Lord's optimal position for us.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

There's a pattern we must observe with God, when He prompts, He also leads – He doesn't expect us to figure things out on our own with trial and error. Honestly, He may not give us the full picture at a time, but He guides us every step of the way. This way we're always connected to Him and leaning on Him for direction and instruction on the next step. Let's note that it was after following God's leading that David was made king in Hebron and Isaac became very prosperous. When we allow the Lord to position us, we give room for Him to do what only He can do in our lives.

Prayer: Lord give me the instructions that will position me for progress. Help me to lean on You and not my own understanding.

Day 3 Timing and Faith

“200 leaders from Issachar, along with troops under their command—these leaders knew the right time to do what needed to be done” 1 Chronicles 12:32 CEV

God’s prompting and instructions will have no effect if there’s no corresponding action on our part or if we act at the wrong time. Timing is important in the things of God because there are seasons assigned to our lives and with each season comes a grace to do certain things with relative ease.

When we miss this timing, God may in His mercy still permit us to make that move, but what should have been easy becomes difficult. Remember when David moved to Hebron, God had already positioned the people that would help make him king. Imagine what may have happened if David didn’t move at the right time.

“Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.” Isaiah 30:21

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

It’s easy to miss the right time to do what needs to be done if we only focus on what’s in front of us as doing so may lead us to “analysis paralysis” which speaks to overthinking a decision to the point that no action is taken. This doesn’t suggest we don’t need to think through God’s instructions, rather it means that the way God works, He gives us the information we require at the time to take the next step and continues to guide us as we move. If we wait for everything to be perfect before we take a step, we won’t get very far in life because things are never perfect and God moves in spite of the imperfections. This is why we are called to walk by faith and not by sight.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him...” Hebrews 11:6

“Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.” Isaiah 46:10 NLT

In going forward with God we need faith because God works from the end back to the beginning. So even if He were to give us the full picture of who we will become and how we will get there, our current reality would conflict with His mind for us. It is in going moving with God that things begin to change, not in analysis. Timing and faith go hand in hand.

Prayer: Lord help me to take the right action at the right time. Help me grow in faith so I can move forward regardless of how I feel or what I see. Help me to trust that You will lead me along the best pathway for my life



Day 4

Mind the Hindrances

“There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.” 1 Corinthians 16:9

When the Lord prompts us to make a shift, it would be naive of us to think that there we will not experience any opposition. Sometimes we think that if we face any form of hindrance then it means God isn't involved in the process. It helps to understand that the Lord may choose to bring the transition through some form adversity. It also helps to know that the enemy also takes note of wherever the Lord is at work and does his best to try and frustrate the move of God.

“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 2 Corinthians 2:11

Armed with this understanding, when we sense a prompting to make a move, we must also be on our guard to be aware of what the enemy may try and do to interfere with the process through offence, laziness, disobedience or outright opposition. Ultimately the objective is simply to take us out of alignment with God's plan. This is why a few verses before the scripture above Paul speaks of forgiveness because he recognised that staying offended is one of the devices of the enemy to take advantage of us.

“Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.” Psalms 24:7

We also need to address situations so they come into alignment with what we sense God is prompting us about. Every new level has spiritual access points called gates and doors and in the realm of the spirits these access points can listen and respond to instructions. This isn't a one-off activity. As with all things spiritual, we speak what we want to see until we see what we have spoken.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.” Psalms 32:8-9

With every prompt will come instructions. Therefore we could be our own saboteurs if we ignore the prompts, disobey the instructions the Holy Spirit gives us concerning our next steps, or don't even press in the place of prayer to get the specific instruction for us for the move we're to make. Let's take note of these potential hindrances so we can get the maximum benefits of what the Lord has planned for us.

Prayer: Lord help me to be mindful of potential hindrances and give me the wisdom and understanding to navigate this transition accurately.



Day 5

Activate the Accelerates

“You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.” Proverbs 19:21 NLT

We’ve looked at some of the things that could hinder our transition to another level, but it’s worth noting the things that could act as accelerants. Accelerants don’t necessarily create new seasons, but they make the process swifter.

“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

Prayer is non-negotiable as a way of life for a believer, but there are periods where prayer needs to be intensified. This is because it’s in the place of prayer we get clarity on what God is saying and receive the wisdom to take the right steps.

“But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face.” Matthew 6:17

Fasting is intentionally abstaining from something, typically food. Adding fasting to prayer and study of God’s word helps heighten our spiritual sensitivity. If all we do is fast without adding prayer and the word then all we’re engaged in is a diet, which may be beneficial to the body but may not achieve the spiritual mileage we’re looking for.

“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

Studying the word involves taking a section of the Bible and doing a deep dive on a topic, character, or book of the Bible. Meditation on the other hand usually involves muttering a relatively small portion of scripture through the day, which keeps that scripture on your mind as you engage the Holy Spirit to clarify what it means and how you can apply it. God Himself advised Joshua to study and meditate on His word as a way to succeed, so we would do well to follow that advice.

“But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” Luke 5:16

Life can get very busy so one of the accelerants we need in a period of transition is a retreat. Stepping away from the noise of life even for short periods in the day/week/month helps us to recalibrate and reassess what we’re doing and where we’re going. This is essential because it’s so easy to get off track.

Prayer: Father help me to activate accelerants so I move at optimal speed through my periods of transition.



Day 6 Handling the Waiting Room

“Kings shall be your foster fathers, And their queens your nursing mothers; They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, And lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord, For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.” Isaiah 49:23

Most transitions have an “in-between” stage which is the period between when the shift is prompted and the manifestation of the new. It’s a guarantee that we will all pass through this in-between stage at multiple points in our lives. What do we do in this waiting stage is critical as it determines our alignment with the process the Lord is taking us through. The Lord recognises how challenging waiting can be so He encourages us to stay focused on Him during this period.

“Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!” Psalms 27:14

Waiting on God isn’t being idle rather it’s a posture of expectation that recognises the tension that’s created in moving from where we are to where we are going. This tension exists because there is often the temptation to “help” God to move things along, as we may think to ourselves that we already know where we’re going so any way should be fine to lead us there. This is where we may start saying things to ourselves like “the end justifies the means”. But in God’s agenda where we’re going isn’t necessarily as important as who we’re becoming as we get there. So when we run ahead of God, we bypass critical development processes that are required to establish us at the new level.

“But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Jumping ahead of God means we’re constantly orchestrating things based on our own energy and intelligence rather than God’s grace and counsel. This can be exhausting as we’re not wired to exist like this. But when we wait on God, He gives us both strength for the wait and acceleration, grace, favour and everything needed to excel at the new level. We have the guarantee that the Lord is faithful and He those who wait for Him will never be ashamed. As we wait, we continue seek Him and ensure we put in our very best wherever we may be.

Prayer: Lord You said those who wait on You will not be ashamed. Help me to wait properly so I receive all the enablement and development required for me to excel at the level You’re taking me to

Day 7 Get Ready for Suddenly

'Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.' 2 Chronicles 29:36

The Bible tells us about the “suddenlies” of God – meaning when things seem to happen very quickly seemingly out of the blue. Seemingly because most people will see the “suddenly” but may not have seen all that went on behind the scenes. Picture a seed being planted in the ground, with diligent nurturing, there will come time when the shoot comes out of the soil suddenly. However, the only reason we see the shoot is because the seed must initially have developed roots which receive the relevant nurturing and in turn feed the seed until it can sprout.

'This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare' 1 Timothy 1:18

'Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.' Galatians 6:7

God's prompt is like a seed that we must nurture consistently to see the suddenly. Sadly, many times we expect God to do the suddenly without understanding the part we also have to play. This is why Paul admonishes Timothy to wage warfare according to the prophecies concerning him – he understood that nothing just happens.

'But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.' Acts 16:25-26

'When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”' Psalms 126:1-2

God's suddenly doesn't only bring entrance to a new level, it also brings deliverance and restoration. When Paul and Silas' suddenly happened there was deliverance not just for themselves, but for all around them. When the Lord turned Israel's captivity around, even the Israelites were in awe, not to speak of those around them. This lets us know that when God moves, He leaves us in no doubt as to who gets the glory. God works with processes, and He doesn't skip steps, but when He moves, He makes it all worth it.

Prayer: Lord thank You for reminding me about Your ability to move suddenly in my life. Help me stay faithful and consistent in trusting You as I go through transitions. Thank You for the suddenly that will make it all worth the wait.



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