



GOD'S PRINCIPLES FOR
ENLARGEMENT
CHANGE-MAKER SERIES



Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:28

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God Romans 8:14

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?... 1 Corinthians 6:19

When we think of the expansion of God's kingdom, we may sometimes think of it as setting up churches, crusades and the like. These are great, but only form a part of God's expansion program. The expansion of the children of God is the expansion of the kingdom of God here on earth. Because when we function as He created us to and allow the Holy Spirit to fully express Himself through our lives, whenever and wherever we show up, we bring God's kingdom and its principles into that environment. And it's God desire that His children fulfil their dominion mandate.

This means our ability to expand our territories as God's children isn't a function of how well read, charismatic or connected we are. Rather God works with a different set of indices and principles based on which He promotes and expands. This series we are looking at the principles for significant enlargement, trusting that the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to the unlimited possibilities available to us in Him.

Day 1

Building Capacity

"Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." I Samuel 17:36

Goliath challenged the army of Israel to send someone to fight him and taunted them daily for 40 days. In that period everyone had the opportunity for enlargement especially given the reward Saul offered the person who defeated Goliath. Yet no one took up the challenge until David showed up. David's qualification wasn't a military pedigree, but the fact that he had spent time in the desert protecting his father's sheep from wild animals during which he had single-handedly defeated both a lion and bear. Unlike the rest of the army that was probably more comfortable with strength in numbers, David was no stranger to one to one combat. And because God had given him victory earlier, he trusted God to do it again.

Enlargement always involves a partnership between divinity and humanity. God has already demonstrated His capacity, we must also demonstrate ours. When we ask God to take us to a higher level or give us more territory what we're saying is, "Lord give me more problems to solve, challenges to overcome". And before He will do that, the Lord will first see how much capacity we have built at our current level.

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

God is not necessarily moved by our emotions concerning a situation. Rather when God wants to move us, He looks at where we are, where we're going and the steps necessary to take us there. God doesn't set us up to fail. If He sees we're not ready to take on what we're asking for, He begins to prompt us to make the necessary changes until we are ready. God is always moving and working in us and as we commit to our spiritual development we will see that growth should be a constant in our lives. As we grow we increase in our capacity to take on additional responsibilities and the time will come when God says it's time to expand.

Prayer: Lord show me where and what I need to work on for me to be ready for the next level of enlargement

Day 2

Step Forward

“... Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

For the first 5 chapters of the book of Isaiah we see God giving Isaiah words for Judah and Jerusalem, then Isaiah had an encounter that brought him into God’s presence. At that encounter Isaiah was presented with an opportunity to take action on God’s behalf and he stepped forward. It was after this that the Lord began to make Isaiah a messianic prophet whose prophecies were some of the most accurate concerning the earthly ministry of Jesus.

We may not all have the type of encounter Isaiah had, but we all have daily opportunities to take action on God’s behalf - a show of kindness, a word of encouragement, sharing the love of Jesus and so much more. The more we are attuned to the Holy Spirit, the more we get guidance on what’s on His mind. What really makes the difference is taking action to meet His needs, which is what Isaiah did.

”Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus has an agenda and is constantly seeking people who are willing to step outside of themselves and align with Him on His assignments and are open to take responsibility for the things that matter to Him. There’s a level of maturity that we demonstrate as we look beyond ourselves and intentionally focus on ensuring that God’s will is done here on earth.

”You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16

God’s kingdom is always expanding and if we truly want God to enlarge us then we must reflect on how effective we are in pushing His agenda in whatever capacity we can. We can be confident that the Lord will continually enlarge us as He is able to commit more into our hands.

Prayer: Lord help me to always seek and align with Your agenda. Help me be open to giving more of myself for You.

Day 3

Alignment with God's Plan

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

God has a plan for all of creation and more importantly He also has a plan for us at an individual level. Connecting to Him creates the opportunity to navigate us into the areas He has already prepared in advance for us to walk in. It's critical to recognize that because His plans are specific to us, our focus should be on Him not on what may be happening with others around us.

"My future is in your hands" Psalm 31:15

"For everything there is a season a time for every activity under heaven... Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time...." Ecclesiastes 3:1,11

If we measure our progress by the clocks of other people, chances are high that we will become frustrated and think God is unfaithful. But He works with us according to His timing for us, not the timelines we set for ourselves. So enlargement isn't about comparing ourselves to others, but about how much closer we are getting to fulfilling all God has assigned for us to do.

"...Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me." John 21:22

Jesus was quite clear when it comes to comparing with others: other people should never be the focus only Him. When our focus is on what He is doing and saying to us, then we're less likely to try and engage Him to position us in places He never planned for us.

But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! 2 Corinthians 10:12

During his lifetime, Moses was a prince in Egypt, a shepherd and the man God used to bring Israel out of Egypt. Daniel was an Israelite of noble birth who realized that the time for Israel's deliverance from exile had come. Both Moses and Daniel played critical roles in Israel's destiny as a nation, but they took very different paths. Had Daniel compared himself to Moses, he may have been expecting a spectacular deliverance, and missed the opportunity to play his role in God's agenda. Likewise, we need to have clarity on who God has called us to be and what He has called us to do as our expansion will be in line with this plan, not ours.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see who I am in You and my role in Your agenda. Help me to stop focusing on others and keep my eyes fixed on You alone.

Day 4

The Price of Enlargement

“Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” Psalm 50:5

Growth comes at a cost, and the higher the growth, the greater the cost. There is a popular adage that nothing good comes easy and this is true both in the natural and spiritual realms. For example, when it's time to go to a higher level in school there's a need to study in order to prepare for the assessments. The student understands that giving up leisure time is required to attain the goal of passing the assessment. Students don't have the liberty of setting up their own exam questions as that lies within the purview of the examiner. Likewise spiritual enlargement will also come at a price which the Lord Himself will determine. In addition to general requirements, such as time spent in prayer, study of the word, the Lord will often give us specific instructions that are tailor made to the growth process He wants to take us through.

So Manoah asked him, “When your words come true, what kind of rules should govern the boy's life and work?” Judges 13:12

When Samson was to be born his father asked a very important question regarding how Samson was to be raised which tells us he recognized that God had a specific plan for his son. God has a specific plan for us and movement from one level to another requires specific consecration on our part. Consecration simply means being set apart for a holy purpose. As we mature there are things we will need to set ourselves apart from that are not necessarily bad, but not in alignment with God's expansion plan for our lives.

The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.” Psalm 32:8

God doesn't expect us to play guessing games with Him. We have unlimited access to the Holy Spirit but it's our responsibility to engage Him to find out what God's instructions are for our lives, so we don't become stagnant. The more we engage Him, the more accurate we become in hearing His specific instructions and receiving the grace to successfully meet His requirements.

Prayer: Lord please show me the price to pay for my enlargement and the steps I need to take so I can continually move from one level to another.

Day 5

What Are You Doing with what you already have?

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ Matthew 25:21

When the master in the parable above was travelling for a long period he distributed money to three of his servants. Two of them traded with the money and brought him profit while the third hid his money in the ground. Our focus today is on the response of the master to the servants. He gave those who were faithful with the resources available to them more responsibilities, meaning he enlarged their territories. There are a few learning points here for us.

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? Luke 16:10-12

The criteria for enlargement was a demonstration of faithfulness in handling what they were given as individuals. He didn’t compare the results of the person with 5 talents with the one with 2, so it wasn’t an issue of how much each person was given, but what they did with what they had. The first two made an effort to put their talents to use while the third had already decided in advance that he wasn’t going to make an effort to grow what he was given. The master wasn’t necessarily focused on the returns, but the faithfulness the servants demonstrated. We all have something God has given us. As we ask Him for more, He will first assess what we have done with what we already have.

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. Romans 14:12

God is generous and will demand an account of what He’s made available to us, knowing that no one is without some form of resource. Sometimes we think God is only interested in the “big” things, however He checks our faithfulness even in what we may consider the little things. This is important because it helps us live intentionally. Knowing that He notices everything helps us stay connected to and dependent on the Holy Spirit because He knows our strengths and weaknesses and helps us mature in faithfulness as we stay connected to Him.

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me that You notice everything I do. Help me to be faithful in the little things so I can be trusted with more.

Day 6

Discerning The Timing of God

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven...Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. Ecclesiastes 3:1,11

A critical aspect of enlargement is God's timing. Life is made up of seasons and a time period is allocated for every activity and every season. Which means that inasmuch as we are constantly meant to expand, there will be periods where we experience growth at different paces due to the season we are in.

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding... All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. Colossians 1:9-10

Our growth is tied to our knowledge of who God is and what His will for our life is per time. This knowledge keeps us in alignment with His plans for us because we can discern by the Holy Spirit what season we are in and how to maximize it.

...All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take. 1 Chronicles 12:32

He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel Psalm 103:7

Times and seasons always give us signs, so we have an indication of what is going to happen and how to prepare. However, our ability to respond accurately is a function of our sensitivity to God and our maturity in understanding His character. Sometimes seasons of enlargement are preceded by a gestation period during which we are transformed to the person that can succeed in bringing about God's purpose.

Not accurately discerning the season we're in can cost us the enlargement God planned for us. When the Israelites left Egypt, the Lord didn't let them go straight into the promised land because they needed to be built up in the level of warfare required to take the land (remember they had spent over 400 years as slaves). However rather than take advantage of this period and build both intimacy to God and battle capacity, they murmured and complained to the extent that only Joshua and Caleb were left out of those who originally left captivity. May we always discern and respond accurately to the demands of our seasons.

Prayer: Lord help me to accurately discern the seasons of my life. Help me grow in my knowledge of You so I always understand what You are working out in and for me.

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