

AGENTS OF ENCOUNTER

BIRTHING GOD'S AGENDA



'Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"' 1 Samuel 10:1

When God wants to do something in the life of a person, He works through people. Even if He speaks directly to us and we receive anointing for an assignment, there are people we need to have in our lives to help us actualize what God has said. These people are the agents God will use to bring the instruction, prophecy etc to pass. It is important we are able to identify them as some may already be in our lives and others we will need to pray into our lives.

This series we are looking at 4 critical agents of encounter that God will use in equipping us. So as we partner with the Holy Spirit to birth who He has designed us to be and what He desires for us to do this season, our prayer is that this series will enable us pray accurately and sharpen our spiritual antennas so we recognise them.



Day 1

The Prophetic Word

The manifestation of the prophetic word requires partnership between both God and us as He uses people as the key to all the doors that need to be opened for prophecy to be fulfilled. When we know God's mind, we can activate people through prayer to activate God's word. This series we will study 1 Samuel 10 as our anchor scripture to see how God uses four agents of encounter to activate His word.

"Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel... So when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people.'" 1 Samuel 9:15-17

"...Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us."... "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God." 1 Samuel 9:27

Having received the word from God concerning Saul, the first step Samuel took was to anoint Saul. Anointing is empowerment for service so Saul needed to be given instructions on why he was being anointed: to be commander over God's inheritance (meaning the people of Israel). Having anointed him, the next step was to give Saul direction on where to go after leaving him, what to expect and how he should respond. If all Saul needed for the journey was the prophetic word, there wouldn't have been a need for all the other steps. It was this word that set the various encounters Saul was going to have in motion.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed..." 2 Peter 1:19 KJV

There are times we may focus on the prophetic word and the anointing without getting clarity on what steps to take. Remember the fulfilment of prophecy isn't automatic. So if we focus only getting a prophetic word without knowing what to do next, we may run into frustration. This is why God uses 4 critical agents of encounter to assist us. These are agents of direction, information, provision and spiritual activation.

Where we may not yet have a specific word from a spiritual authority in our lives, the Bible is our sure word of prophecy. This means as we read our Bible, we should ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into His word for us. As He guides us, He will show us what is expected of us and those who have been activated to facilitate the fulfilment of His desire in our lives.

Prayer: Lord show me the people that have been activated as a result of Your word over my life.

Day 2 Information

“Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: “Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?” I Samuel 10:1

“When the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable”. Samuel didn’t just anoint Saul and proclaim him king, he also informed him about the purpose of his role, which was to look after God’s inheritance, Israel. This information may seem obvious but there’s a critical element in what was said: Israel didn’t belong to Saul, but to God, therefore Saul’s role was to be that of a custodian. As a custodian, he would always have to defer to the rightful owner to determine what to do with what was in his possession. The same applies to us, whatever we have been given, wherever we have been placed are all for a specific purpose, therefore we must also find out from the owner what the purpose is.

“...Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”” Acts 9:6

Saul (who became Paul) asked Jesus a critical question at the encounter at Damascus: “What do you want me to do?” Sometimes we assume we have sufficient information about an experience or positioning in order to take the next steps, but if we don’t have the right information we will end up doing the wrong thing. It’s interesting to note that Jesus didn’t go into specifics with Saul, rather He had Ananias take up that responsibility (Acts 9:10-18). One of our regular prayer points should be for the Holy Spirit to connect us with the person who has the specific information we require per time.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” I John 4:1

Not every information is God’s mind for us. We should always ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us first and then confirmation can come from a person rather than on what someone says without confirming from the Holy Spirit, regardless of who the person is. The person may not necessarily be speaking with evil intent, but in so far as they’re not speaking God’s mind concerning the matter, error is inevitable.

Prayer: Lord show and connect me to the person(s) you have given specific information concerning the season I am entering so I make the right decisions.



Day 3

Direction

“When you have departed from me today, ... let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.”
1 Samuel 10:2, 7

Agents of direction don't just provide information on what to do, they provide detail and guidance on how to do it, thus minimizing trial and error on our part. After anointing Saul, Samuel gave him very detailed directions regarding where to go, who he would meet on the way and how to respond (1 Sam 10:2-7). Why was so much detail required? So Saul would understand that it was God at work in His life and so he would also know what the appropriate response from him should be. And also to show us how involved He wants to be in our lives.

As we commit our ways to Him, the Lord connects us to the right people to bring the direction we require. Direction gives us a process for successfully navigating in order to see the desired outcome of information we have. We're not supposed to try and figure out how to navigate daily life based on just what we see, because the Holy Spirit who knows all things knows the potential pitfalls and opportunities ahead and guides us accordingly.

“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

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

It's one thing to get general direction, but a better thing to have the person giving direction provide specific, personalized guidance to us. It's the difference between reading a map that says your location is 200km away and with multiple routes and someone who knows the way getting in the car with you, telling you the best time to travel and best route to take. That's what the Holy Spirit does for us when He leads us and works through people to lead us on His best path. As we shared earlier, the direction we receive should resonate with the inward witness we have so we're not led astray.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for delighting in the minutest detail of my life. Please give me discernment to recognize the people You will use to give me direction for every area of my life.

Day 4

Provision

“...three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread...” I Samuel 10:3-4

A set of people Samuel informed Saul he would encounter were agents of provision, people carrying resources for Saul. It's worth noting that Saul didn't have to cajole or lobby them, they freely gave him the bread. When God wants to give us resources, He puts them in the hands of a person who He's instructed to provide for us. This means that rather than try and manipulate people, our focus should be on doing what God asked us to do and engaging the Holy Spirit to help us identify who He's appointed to help us. It's also an indication that when people are reluctant to assist, rather than be offended, we should ask the Lord if they're the ones assigned to provide for that situation.

“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” I Kings 17:9

“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.” Exodus 31:2

“And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you losing it?’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’ Luke 19:31

When Elijah required sustenance, the Lord provided an unlikely agent of provision using the widow of Zarephath. When Moses needed help in building the temple according to what God had shown Him, the Lord provided a skilled craftsman called Bezaleel to help bring the plan to life. When it was time for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem, an unriden colt was made available to Him by the owners without any pre-conditions. God always plans ahead and prepares people in advance.

When we partner with God on expanding His kingdom, it's God's responsibility to work out through whom and how our needs will be met (Phil 4:19). It's our responsibility to stay close to Him so we can discern what He is saying and who He is sending. This isn't a call to laziness as God will not waste resources on frivolities. Rather it's a call to responsibility, hard work and spiritual intelligence as we will give an account of every resource we're given.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for being mindful of my needs. Please open my eyes to see who you are using as agents of provision in my life as I realise it may not be obvious.



Day 5

Spiritual Activation

'...And it will happen... that you will meet a group of prophets ... and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.' I Samuel 10:5-6

The agents of spiritual activation are the persons who will sharpen us spiritually. These agents are critical because our spiritual life is the foundation of who we are and all we do as believers. We become like those we surround ourselves with (1 Cor 15:33), as such it's important we surround ourselves with those who support and drive our spiritual growth. There are two types of people we will always encounter in life: those who nurture us spiritually, encouraging us to mature in the things of God. And those who essentially act as 'wet blankets' – dampening our passion for God – not necessarily bad people, but content with not maturing spiritually.

'So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.' Revelation 3:16

'But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord ...' Jeremiah 9:24

Being lukewarm is a dangerous place to be it's something Jesus Himself says clearly he won't tolerate. Our lukewarmness may not be the result of not loving the Lord but being focused on the legitimate issue of life that we see and handle on a daily basis. Whereas God is primarily interested in our spirit and who we're becoming as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him. He positions agents in our lives to aid our growth in the knowledge of Him so it becomes our priority which will definitely impact how we spend our time and who we spend our time with.

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

Not everyone is meant to be in our close circle and not everyone should wield spiritual authority over us. As always, we must always check with the Holy Spirit to identify who the specific agents for us are to ensure they're part of God's plans for our lives for that season.

Prayer: Lord please direct me to the agents of spiritual activation who will help me consistently grow in my knowledge and understanding of You.



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