

EXPANSION SERIES

WINNING IN ADVANCE



Fluo

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

The Bible can be defined as a compendium of God’s promises, prophecies and principles, with the principles of God being critical to maximizing His promises and prophecies. Life is not random or sentimental, rather it’s governed by principles and the principles we employ determine our outcomes.

One of the things principles teach us is how to address situations before they even arise. It’s not in the middle of a crisis or when presented with an unexpected opportunity that we should start trying to figure out what to do. Ideally we would have already sown seeds in the necessary principles so we are equipped to adapt what we know in order to win.

Our proficiency in implementing principles depends on what we know and how we use what we know. This helps us live with minimal inconsistencies as we are assured that in all situations we are indeed more than conquerors. This series we’re exploring key principles that will help us in shaping the coming months for success.

Day 1 Wisdom

"A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables. The wise are mightier than the strong, and those with knowledge grow stronger and stronger. So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers."
Proverbs 24:3-6 NLT

Success in many of life's battles is hinged not on strength but on wisdom. If wisdom is so crucial to our success then it helps to know what it is so we can make good use of it. Wisdom in essence is making accurate judgement based on information available to you about the future and take corresponding action. Where we could run into trouble is if we base our actions on the wrong information. As believers who have access to the Holy Spirit, our judgement shouldn't be limited to what we see or have experienced in the past because we also have access to accurate spiritual information which gives us an edge if we take advantage of this access.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future." John 16:13

"And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding..."
Isaiah 11:2

Nothing that will happen this year will take the Holy Spirit by surprise as He knows exactly what the future holds and is able to make that information available to us. As we spend time with Him seeking His wisdom for the future, He helps us align with what God had planned for us so we're preserved from the dangers and shakings and also able to recognise, position and take advantage of the opportunities that the year will present.

"I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine." Proverbs 8:12, 14

Wisdom isn't passive, it has to be exercised to experience its benefits and we will always see the results of wisdom or lack thereof in the results our lives produce.

Prayer: Lord what is the wisdom I require to excel in every situation this year? in life require the use of wisdom.

Day 2 Diligence

'Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.' Daniel 6:3

'Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.' Daniel 6:10

Daniel was faced with a policy designed specifically to bring him down and he responded by going to his place of prayer. The key here isn't the prayer itself, but the fact that Daniel had built a habit of prayer from early days. As such when a crisis arose, he knew exactly how to respond. The habits we build are what will determine how we respond in times of challenges, because challenges will come.

'Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.' Proverbs 22:29

Daniel's excellence distinguished him, causing his colleagues to connive against him. But he didn't become excellent by chance or luck because excellence is the result of consistently doing something very well over a period of time. When opportunities presented themselves, Daniel's work ethic positioned him to take advantage of them. Likewise, when challenges showed up, his spiritual ethics of fasting and prayer also positioned him to address them.

'But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit' Jude 1:20

'that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man' Ephesians 3:16

Strength doesn't come by accident, it's the result of consistently exercising ourselves in the areas we want to see developed, be it spiritually, physically or mentally. As we plant seeds of diligence, we are preparing in advance for what is to come so we have the capacity to be victorious when the challenge or opportunity shows up.

Prayer: Lord I ask for grace to be consistent in these areas (mention them). Help me as I commit to being diligent in these areas.

Day 3 Divine Counsel

'Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

Imagine how frustrating it can be knowing you need to go somewhere but not knowing exactly where to go and how to get there. This is why counsel is critical for success in any pursuit in life as it provides strategic direction telling us where to go and the steps necessary to get there. Accessing strategic counsel ahead of time minimizes trial and error and shortens the amount of time it will take for us to achieve what we need to in the days to come. Which means access to counsel gives us a strategic advantage over those that don't have it.

'Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark...' Joshua 3:4

When Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan, the priests went ahead of them carrying the ark of God which would act as a guide since Israel hadn't passed that way before. The interesting thing is that the priests hadn't passed that way before either, it was the presence of the ark that gave them direction, not the men themselves. Today we don't have to carry a physical ark as we should be carriers of God's presence. As we carry Him in us, we come under His influence so He can guide us along the best pathway we should take.

'There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.' Proverbs 14:12

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.' Psalms 32:8

There is a saying that goes, "if you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there". But that's not God's plan for His children. He has a clear design for us and has given us the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit who is available to guide us in the way we should go in every area. If we neglect to work and walk with the Holy Spirit, we will depend on "head knowledge" – what we think we know. As valuable as it may be, head knowledge alone can't give us consistent victory because we simply don't have insight into what the days ahead hold – but the Holy Spirit does. We can't afford to face the coming days without tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit resident in us.

Prayer: Lord I ask that You open my ears to hear You and help me yield to Your counsel as You guide me along the best pathway for the days ahead.

Day 4

Winning with Words

"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:26-27

"Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person" Genesis 2:7

In Genesis 1 God showed us how He creates things so we can follow the same pattern since we're made in His image. Throughout Genesis 1 we see a running theme before God created anything, He spoke first. We see in Genesis 1 that God created humans both male and female, then in Genesis 2 we see that He formed man from the dust of the ground. The first creation was a result of words He spoke while the second was a result of formation. This is how we're also to create the things we want in advance: first we speak them into being and then we work it out.

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

Words are powerful and have the capacity to either create or destroy before any physical action is taken. This means that as believers we must be mindful of the words we speak as we will see what we consistently say. However, there are three caveats to winning with words.

"But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind." James 1:6

First, we must genuinely believe what we are saying because what we believe in our hearts is what gives life to our words. If we say one thing and believe something else, what we believe will override what we say because our thoughts also have a voice. When we say something and believe something else, we will get what we believe.

"...For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Psalms 138:2

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" Colossians 1:9

Secondly what we say must align with God's word. God will never sponsor the creation of something that contradicts His word no matter how often we say it. Finally, what we say must align with God's will for our lives. God has a specific plan for each one of us and as we align with His plans we are able to overcome whatever challenges show up ahead because we are in partnership with Him to meet His objectives.

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me the power of my words and showing me how to put power behind the words I speak so I always win

Day 5 Supernatural Intelligence

When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, "We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place." But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, "Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there." 2 Kings 6:8-9

"It's not us, my lord the king," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!" 2 Kings 6:12

In 2 Kings 6 the Bible tells us that when the king of Aram was conferring with his officers on their war strategies against Israel, Elisha would immediately know of their plans and warn the king of Israel in advance. To put this in context Aram was over 500km away from Israel. So how could Elisha in Israel know what was going on in Aram, to the extent that the king was convinced there was a spy among his officers feeding Israel with information?

Elisha was sitting in his house with the elders of Israel when the king sent a messenger to summon him. But before the messenger arrived, Elisha said to the elders, "A murderer has sent a man to cut off my head. When he arrives, shut the door and keep him out. We will soon hear his master's steps following him." 2 Kings 6:32

As skilled as the armies of Aram were in warfare strategy, their skill was no match for the spiritual intelligence Elisha was functioning with. At each point the Holy Spirit gave Elisha supernatural intelligence which gave him the advantage of always remaining ahead of any opposition. Today believers have access to this same intelligence in the person of the Holy Spirit so we should never be stranded.

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him... The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19

As believers we have the Holy Spirit resident in us and He has the capacity to make all knowledge available to us as we walk with Him. The Holy Spirit is our advantage and it's up to us to get to know Him, so we understand all He has made available to us.

Prayer: Holy Spirit thank You for the revelation of what You can make available to me. Teach me how to walk with You so I can consistently access supernatural intelligence.

Day 6

Investing Wisely

“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

There is a basic principle that all of creation functions with and that is the principle of sowing and reaping. In everything in life there is a time of planting and a time of reaping the harvest of what was planted. Whatever we will see tomorrow is dependent on what we do today in every sphere of life. The challenge we have with this law is the element of time. Sometimes we don't realize the significance of what we're doing on our future because it doesn't seem to have an impact in the immediate. But we can be assured that this principle holds true.

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. Galatians 6:7-8

We can either set ourselves up to win or fail in advance as the Bible tells us clearly that we will always harvest what we plant. Not necessarily when we plant or where we plant. This means even if no one acknowledges the good things what we are doing today, we will still reap the rewards in the future. It may not necessarily come from those we have done good to. Likewise, if we plant negative seeds, we will reap what we planted. So the person who is actively planting negativity will reap it in future.

“They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind...” Hosea 8:7

Another thing we must be mindful of is that whatever we sow will return to us in multiples and that harvest may go through generations, so we may not know the full impact of our actions or inactions. The best way to set ourselves up to win in advance is to keep planting the right seeds. So in the future we reap a whirlwind of blessings.

Prayer: Lord help me to consistently sow the right seeds so the whirlwind I will reap in the future will be pleasant.

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