



Creating An
Atmosphere for
Enlargement



“Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited” Isaiah 54:2-3

God is expansive in His nature and agenda, everything He does originates from both a global and eternal perspective and He created us to function like Him. However, sometimes situations and experiences force us into a subsistence rather than expansion mentality. We focus on surviving rather than thriving and existing here on earth alone, without realising that there's eternity to consider.

When we think small, we unwittingly shrink our perception of God's capacity down to the level of our thinking. The challenge with seeing God as small is that such a mindset gives room for compromise as we will be tempted to think we need to take care of ourselves, rather than depend on God. Dependence on self also makes us earthly focused rather than heavenly focused because nothing of eternal value can be achieved by our strength alone.

This series we are digging into what it takes to create the atmosphere in which we need to function to experience expansion in our daily lives. We pray that as we go through this series, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes, hearts and minds so we are equipped to operate in expansion and enlargement.



Day 1

Setting the Right Foundation

'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

In His wisdom, God made us to be like Him in image and likeness to reign over His creation here on earth. God's image speaks to His nature and His likeness speaks to His character. His expectation therefore was that we would function here on earth as a reflection of His nature demonstrating the power and authority He wields as well as His nature of love, holiness, righteousness, justice, etc. It's also worth noting that we're to demonstrate this across all the earth which speaks to His global perspective, so from the start we have been equipped to have global impact.

'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?... Do you realize the extent of the earth?'... 'You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.' Job 38:4,18; 42:3

In Job 38, the Lord started a discourse with Job which made it clear that everything we see in creation has a foundation which was created by God. So when God wants to do something He always starts at foundation level. This means that before we start focusing on enlargement, it's important that we get the foundation right, otherwise whatever we're building will not last.

'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

Four foundational questions we must prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit include:

- ✨ What is my assignment?
- ✨ What does enlargement mean for me from God's perspective?
- ✨ What is the specific equipment needed for enlargement?
- ✨ Who are the people assigned to work with me on this journey?

Prayer: Lord please show me how to build a strong foundation for my assignment and equip me for the journey.

Day 2

Making the Bold Move

“Don’t put it off; do it now! Don’t rest until you do.” Proverbs 6:4

There’s a phenomenon called “analysis paralysis” where a person spends so much time analysing something that the analysis becomes overwhelming and leads to a state of paralysis. Nothing is done, no tangible movement is made, just analysis upon analysis. There is a place for getting wise counsel before jumping into something, but nothing will happen if we don’t actually start.

“Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Matthew 19:26

“...for we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:16

God is unlimited in His resources and thinking, so limitations aren’t factored into His instructions. This is why when we face obstacles we must remind ourselves that we have the mind of Christ and therefore have the capacity to see the same way He does and overcome all challenges accordingly.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.” Exodus 14:15-16

Moses and the Israelites knew the Lord had delivered them from Egypt and were happy to leave. However, had the Lord told them beforehand that the Red Sea must be parted for them to crossover, they would likely have spent a lot of time analysing how that would happen and probably come to the conclusion that it was impossible. But God’s ways are not our ways. We will certainly encounter numerous challenges as we advance in our God given assignment, but as we see in the example of Moses and the Israelites, challenges cannot stop God. Rather than give up, He expects us to confront the obstacles and ask Him for the wisdom needed to move forward, even when we’re doing something that has no precedent.

Prayer: Lord deliver me from procrastination, put an urgency in my heart for the things You would have me do. Give me the boldness to face challenges head on, knowing that nothing is impossible for You.



Day 3

Getting Ready for God's New

'But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.' Isaiah 43:18-19

People are not designed to look backwards and forwards at the same time and enlargement involves looking forward towards the future. If we're not careful the past – be it good or bad – could hold us hostage and stifle what God wants to do. Challenges of the past can make us afraid while victories can make us complacent. This is why God encourages us to keep in mind that there is always more in Him available to engage with so we start seeing each day as an opportunity to experience His newness thus creating an atmosphere for enlargement.

'And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.'" Mark 2:22

There's always a new version of us that must emerge for us to fully harness the enlargement God has in store for us and if we're not sensitive to His promptings, we run the risk of stagnating without even realizing it. Whatever God is calling forth from within us has already been deposited in us and just requires the right circumstances to come forth. But we must be willing to cooperate with God's process for bringing the new out of us.

'...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 3:13-14

Seeing the new can be uncomfortable and challenging because it will require changes on our part both within interns of our mindset and possibly our environment, work, etc as well. However, if we're willing to release ourselves from the past and open up to the new things God wants to do, even though we may not yet fully understand where it will take us, we can be assured of consistent enlargement in and with Him.

Prayer: Lord help me to always embrace the new. Give me boldness to look forward and align with all You have for me



Day 4

Driving God's Agenda

'... We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:9-10

God is very intentional about His agenda as such success in creating an atmosphere for enlargement involves knowing two things – what His agenda is and what our role is within that agenda. There's no period in life where God isn't doing something, but it will be difficult for us to key into His program if we don't know what it is. This is why Paul shares that there's a direct connection to our continuous growth and knowing God's will per time.

God wants us to know His will and always gives specific instruction(s) to people regarding what He would have them do. There may be a general word from God for a season, but there's also a specific word for each of us for the seasons ahead. The onus is on us to find out what that instruction is.

'Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.' Job 33:16

If we truly believe God has our best interest at heart and gives specific instructions for how we're to live, then it stands to reason that we should dedicate time to hearing what He has to say to us. When this is our priority, then it's easier to consistently hear and align with the instructions He gives us.

'...All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:10

Inasmuch as God gives instructions, He is more interested in our relationship with Him, because this is what will aid us in understanding His heart even if we don't fully understand His instructions. Our relationship with Him helps us function in a level of trust that simply won't come into play if we don't know Him. And as we know Him better, we trust Him more and are willing to partner with God to take on more territories with and for Him.

Prayer: Lord give me complete knowledge of Your will. Help me accurately discern what You are saying concerning this season and help me grow in my knowledge of You daily.



Day 5

Paying the Price for Enlargement

'But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.' 1 Corinthians 15:10

Enlargement comes at a cost, and the broader the growth, the greater the cost. When we look at the life of Paul, it's clear he made significant impact for the kingdom and touched many lives. Yet he also noted that it wasn't easy and he paid a price for this enlargement. Spiritual enlargement will come at a price which the Lord Himself will determine as He gives 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 6

The Power Faithfulness

“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...”
Matthew 25:21

No one gives more responsibility to someone that can't be trusted and neither does God. His love is unconditional, but His growth criteria involves us demonstrating trustworthiness and responsibility with what we already have before more will be given to us. The servants in the parable above were all trusted with responsibility based on their abilities and we see that the master gave those who were faithful with the resources available to them more responsibilities, meaning he enlarged their territories.

“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...” Luke 16:10

The master 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's focus was on 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 will demand an account of what He's made available to us, knowing that no one is without some form of resource. Though we may think God is only interested in the “big” things, 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 7

Being Intentional About Making Impact

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

God designed the path of a believer to continually shine brighter and brighter which means our journey of life should consistently be expansive. This means that from God’s perspective we are purpose built for expansion both in our knowledge of Him and in the impact of that knowledge in our lives and environments.

“From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.” Acts 17:26

A forest can start from a single seed. Likewise God can impact an entire generation through the life of one person. So expansion doesn’t necessarily mean we are doing everything directly ourselves, rather it may be through the lives of those we’ve touched for God. Our light doesn’t diminish when we light someone else up. Instead it creates more light in the area. This means that a critical strategy for enlargement lies in equipping others.

“For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”... And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” Matthew 25:35-36, 40

We create an atmosphere for enlargement when we set about meeting the needs of others, especially in the areas Jesus Himself highlighted. Not for the purpose of making ourselves look or feel good, but with a heart that genuinely wants to please Jesus and take care of what matters to Him. Kingdom resources will always flow in alignment with kingdom agenda. Therefore it would be wise for us to pause and reflect on whose lives we are intentionally and consistently touching for God.

Prayer: Lord help me to be intentional about being a person You can rely on to make a positive, lasting impact in the areas that matter to You.



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