

Spiritual *Upgrade*

FIVE PREPARATIONS
FOR A NEW DIMENSION IN GOD

SPIRITUAL UPGRADE

Five Preparations for a New Dimension in God

INTRODUCTION · There Is More

DAY 1 · Prepare Yourself

DAY 2 · Check Your Power Source

DAY 3 · Free Up Space

DAY 4 · Connect To The Network

DAY 5 · Make The Time

SERIES CONCLUSION · Are You Ready For The Upgrade?

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INTRODUCTION

There Is More

> *“I was in the spirit realm on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice sounding like a trumpet,” Revelation 1:10 TPT*

> *“Then suddenly, after I wrote down these messages, I saw a portal open into the heavenly realm, and the same trumpet-voice I heard speaking with me at the beginning said, “Ascend into this realm! I want to reveal to you what must happen after this...” Revelation 4:1–2 TPT*

An upgrade is an improvement in the quality, value, efficiency or standard of something. Sometimes it involves replacing an existing version with one that has greater capacity and functionality. We understand this concept in everyday life. We upgrade our phones, software, professional skills and business systems because what worked previously may no longer be sufficient for what we need to accomplish next. But have you considered that your spiritual life may also need an upgrade?

In Revelation 1:10, John was already in the spirit realm when he received instructions concerning the seven churches. Yet in Revelation 4:1, he heard another invitation: “Ascend into this realm!” John was already experiencing the supernatural, but God was inviting him into a greater revelation of Himself.

There is a lesson for us here. Yesterday's spiritual experiences, however significant, are not the limit of what God has for us. There are deeper dimensions of intimacy, greater spiritual understanding and increased capacity to fulfil His assignments. But growth doesn't happen simply because time passes. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the process of transformation.

Over the next five days, we'll examine five practical preparations for a spiritual upgrade. As we begin, let's ask the Holy Spirit one key question: "Are my current spiritual habits sufficient for the person God is calling me to become?" We trust that the Holy Spirit will use this series to help prepare us for a deeper relationship with Him.

PRAYER

Father, thank You that there is always more to discover in You. Open my eyes to the areas where I need to grow. Give me the humility to recognise what must change and the discipline to cooperate with Your Spirit. Prepare me for everything You have ahead.

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DAY 1

Prepare *Yourself*

CONSECRATION BEFORE MANIFESTATION

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DAY 1

Prepare Yourself

Consecration Before Manifestation

> *“Then Joshua told the people, “Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.””*

Before Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, Joshua gave them an instruction: purify yourselves. God had already promised them the land, but He still required them to prepare themselves for what He was about to do. This is an important principle for spiritual growth because we often focus on what we want God to do next, without asking what He requires of us in preparation.

> *“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21*

Consecration is intentionally setting ourselves apart for God. It involves examining our priorities, habits, relationships and appetites, and bringing them into alignment with His purposes. And consecration may look different in different seasons. It may involve stepping away from certain activities or establishing greater discipline in others. The key thing for us to pay attention to is “Lord, what is my consecration for this season?”

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

As adults, we understand the importance of preparing for increased responsibility. We develop new skills, make sacrifices and adjust our schedules when preparing for a promotion or significant assignment. Some of us have development goals which we plan for and invest in. We shouldn’t approach spiritual development with less intentionality. Consecration helps to position our hearts to respond more fully to Him, so we can’t afford to ignore this aspect of spiritual growth.

Before asking God to take you higher, ask Him what needs to change in you.

REFLECTION

What is God asking me to surrender, separate from or become more disciplined about in this season?

ACTION

Commit to practising what the Holy Spirit reveals to you consistently over the coming week.

PRAYER

Father, show me what consecration looks like in this season of my life. Give me the grace to release whatever competes with Your purposes and prepare my heart for what You want to do.



DAY 2

Check Your *Power Source*

STAY CONNECTED
TO YOUR STRENGTH

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DAY 2

Check Your Power Source

Stay Connected to Your Strength

> *"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit." Ephesians 3:16*

When a device attempts a major software upgrade without sufficient battery power, the process may be interrupted, and sometimes the device cannot function properly until power is restored. The same analogy offers an important lesson for our spiritual lives. You cannot sustain spiritual growth on depleted spiritual strength.

Many of us are managing the many demands of careers, family responsibilities, financial commitments, ministry assignments and dependents. It is possible to be productive externally while becoming increasingly depleted internally. The danger is that we can continue showing up and delivering results in these areas but our personal communion with God gradually becomes an afterthought.

> *"…Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

Paul prayed that believers would be empowered with inner strength through God's Spirit. Notice the strengthening isn't taking place in our titles, accomplishments or outward activities, but in our inner being.

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Jesus reinforces this principle when He teaches that apart from Him, we can do nothing. Our spiritual power doesn't originate from activity. It comes from abiding in Christ.

So consider two important questions: What strengthens my spirit, and what drains it? Prayer, worship, meditation on Scripture and obedience strengthen our relationship with God. Constant distraction, unresolved emotional burdens, unnecessary conflict and excessive activity can leave us spiritually exhausted.

Before seeking an upgrade, examine your power source.

REFLECTION

Am I genuinely drawing strength from God, or am I relying on yesterday's spiritual reserves to meet today's demands?

ACTION

Identify two activities that consistently drain you and replace some of that time with intentional fellowship with God.

PRAYER

Father, strengthen me in my inner being. Teach me to draw from Your power rather than depend on my own ability. I lay all my responsibilities at Your feet and ask that You restore my connection to You.

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DAY 3

Free Up *Space*

MAKE ROOM FOR MORE

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DAY 3

Free Up Space

Make Room for More

> *"But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41–42*

Have you ever tried to upgrade your phone only to receive a notification that there isn't enough storage space? Before the new software can be installed, something has to go. Sometimes we discover that files we haven't opened in years are occupying valuable space. We may also have applications running quietly in the background, consuming energy without our awareness. Our spiritual lives can become like that.

We accumulate responsibilities, commitments, interests, relationships until there is very little room left for God. Like Martha, not everything occupying God's space is necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes the greatest competition for our intimacy with God may even be the work we're doing for Him. Martha was busy serving Jesus, but she became so distracted by the preparations that she missed the opportunity to sit at His feet.

Jesus wasn't condemning service, He was correcting misplaced priorities. This is particularly relevant for those of us with demanding

professional and family responsibilities. We can become so occupied with meeting expectations that we neglect the relationship from which our strength and direction should flow.

> *"Therefore…let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up..." Hebrews 12:1*

Notice that the passage distinguishes weights from sin. Some things are not inherently wrong, but they may be inappropriate for the season we're entering. An upgrade may require us to examine what is already occupying our capacity, delete or reduce some activities, reduce commitments and establish boundaries.

REFLECTION

What am I holding on to that is consuming the time, attention or energy God wants me to invest in Him?

ACTION

Conduct a personal spiritual audit. Identify one unnecessary commitment, distraction or habit that you can remove or reduce.

PRAYER

Father, help me recognise the weights and distractions that are limiting my growth. Give me wisdom to distinguish between what is good and what is necessary for this season. Teach me to make room for more of You



DAY 4

Connect to the *Network*

STAY LONG ENOUGH
TO RECEIVE

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DAY 4

Connect To The Network

Stay Long Enough to Receive

> *"Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. And the glory of the LORD settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from inside the cloud. Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain… He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights." Exodus 24:15–16, 18*

A device can be fully charged and still be unable to download an upgrade if it isn't connected to the network. And even when connected, a weak or unstable connection can interrupt the download. There is a spiritual lesson here. We can have knowledge of Scripture and years of Christian experience, yet still struggle to receive fresh direction because we haven't cultivated sustained fellowship with God.

Consider Moses. God invited him up the mountain, but Moses didn't immediately receive everything he needed. The cloud covered the mountain for six days, and it was on the seventh day that God called to him from within the cloud. Moses remained on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. During that encounter, God gave him detailed instructions for the tabernacle and the worship of Israel. Imagine if Moses had decided after the third day that nothing was happening and

returned to the camp!

Many of us struggle with extended periods of waiting. We've become accustomed to immediate responses and we bring that same mindset into our relationship with God. We pray briefly, expect instant clarity and become restless when answers don't come immediately. But intimacy cannot be hurried.

There are dimensions of understanding, spiritual sensitivity and divine instruction that develop through sustained attention to God. This doesn't mean God only speaks during long prayer sessions. It means we must learn to remain attentive to Him beyond the point of convenience and cultivate the attentiveness to recognise His voice.

REFLECTION

Have I developed the patience and discipline to remain in God's presence without rushing to my next activity?

ACTION

Set aside an extended, uninterrupted period this week for prayer, worship, Scripture meditation and listening.

PRAYER

Father, teach me to recognise Your voice and remain attentive to Your presence. Deliver me from impatience and give me the discipline to wait, listen and receive Your instructions.



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DAY 5

Make The Time

Prioritise the Encounter

> *“Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.” Mark 1:35*

> *“One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names:” Luke 6:12–13*

One of the greatest challenges we face as adults is finding uninterrupted time. Between work demands, family responsibilities, social commitments and ministry activities, our schedules can become so full that meaningful time with God is squeezed into whatever remains. Yet when we examine the life of Jesus, we discover that He intentionally created time for communion with the Father.

Mark 1:35 tells us that He rose before daybreak and went to an isolated place to pray. In Luke 6, before selecting the twelve apostles, Jesus spent an entire night in prayer. These weren’t casual moments squeezed between other activities. Jesus deliberately invested heavily in His relationship with the Father.

There is a place for praying while driving, preparing meals, walking between meetings or going about our daily responsibilities. These

moments help us remain conscious of God's presence throughout the day, but they shouldn't be a substitute for dedicated time with Him.

Some seasons require a different level of intentionality. You may need to wake earlier, stay up later occasionally, reduce social engagements or schedule a personal retreat. The goal isn't to create an unsustainable routine, rather it's to identify a time when you can give God your undivided attention.

Think about the significant investments you've made in your professional development. Perhaps you've attended executive programmes, taken study leave or travelled for training. You recognised that growth required time away from your normal routine. Why wouldn't we make similar investments in our spiritual development? We make time for what we consider important and spiritual growth deserves a deliberate place in our calendars.

As we conclude this series, I want you to remember that an upgrade isn't simply about having more spiritual experiences. It is about becoming more like Christ and developing the capacity to faithfully steward what God entrusts to us.

REFLECTION

What adjustment must I make to my schedule to create consistent, quality time with God?

ACTION

Schedule a personal spiritual retreat, even if it's only half a day. Use the time to pray, study, listen and seek God's direction for your next season.

PRAYER

Father, teach me to prioritise my relationship with You. Help me order my time wisely and recognise when You are calling me away from activity into deeper fellowship. As I make room for You, transform my heart, renew my mind and prepare me for the responsibilities ahead.

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SERIES CONCLUSION

Are You Ready For The Upgrade?

Spiritual upgrades are not simply about experiencing more power, receiving greater revelation or stepping into bigger assignments. They are about becoming the kind of person who can faithfully carry what God wants to entrust to us.

John was invited to come higher. Jesus emerged from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. Moses remained in God's presence long enough to receive the instructions needed for his assignment. Each account reminds us that spiritual growth involves responding to God's invitation with intentional preparation.

Throughout this series, we've considered five important disciplines: consecrating ourselves, remaining connected to our source of strength, removing unnecessary weights, cultivating sustained fellowship with God and intentionally making time for Him.

It's important to note that these disciplines are not formulas for earning spiritual advancement. They are ways of positioning ourselves to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's transforming work.

It's also important to remember that the purpose of spiritual growth isn't to become more impressive spiritually. It is to become more Christlike, more discerning, more obedient and more effective in fulfilling God's purposes.

The next level of your assignment may require a deeper level of surrender, intimacy and spiritual maturity.

So here's my final question: What must change in your daily life to make room for the spiritual growth you're asking God for?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for inviting us into deeper fellowship with You. Show us what needs to change, strengthen us where we are weak and teach us to make room for Your presence. May our pursuit of spiritual growth produce greater intimacy, obedience, wisdom and Christlike character. Prepare us to faithfully steward every assignment You have entrusted to us.

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