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POSITIONING YOUR MIND FOR FREEDOM

RATIONALE

Positioning:

- to put in place
- to determine the position of
- to align
- to set
- to create a platform
- to create a conducive atmosphere

Positioning your mind for freedom is ensuring that the disposition of your life embraces the fullness of the Freedom that Christ gained for us.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO POSITION YOUR MIND FOR FREEDOM?

1. There is no honorary victory from the enemy.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The Greek word used here for devour is “**katapiein**”, literally meaning to "swallow," or to "drown."

2. The devil will not let you inherit the promises of God just like that on a silver platter. He is going to fiercely fight you every step of the way and you are gonna have to fight back to defend your interest. Nothing for Mahala.
3. When the devil afflicts you, often, he goes for the most severe form of destruction. He is not kind.

PARADIGM SHIFTS TO POSITIONING YOURSELF FOR COMPLETE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

PARADIGM SHIFT DEFINITION

- A fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.
- An important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way.

1. PARADIGM SHIFT NUMBER ONE: YOU HAVE A KINGLY ANOINTING

Context: 1 Kings 18:

What do know about these gods?

BAAL: One of the names of Baal “the lord of the covenant”. In Hebrew “Baal” means “husband” or “marriage”. It’s interesting to see how this spirit always attempted to cause Israel to “divorce” or break covenant with God.

ASHERAH: The worship of the god Asherah was noted for its sensuality and prostitution.

JEZEBEL: Jezebel is a spirit in the church that **teaches** and **leads** the people of God astray so that they commit acts of immorality.

Revelation 2.20

The word of the Lord to Church in Thyatira:

Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

A Jezebel spirit is also a spirit of controlling, domineering, manipulating spirit, full of witchcraft, rebellion and sexual immorality. Three dominant, demonic and territorial spirits had enveloped a whole nation.

If Elijah were to deliver a State of the Nation address in that day it would probably read something like this:

ELIJAH'S SONA ADDRESS

Prophets of the God of Israel, those that are still alive, if any. Priests of the God of Israel, those that have not been polluted by deceiving spirits of this land. King Ahab, generals of the army of Israel, Elisha my servant, comrades and friends, all protocol observed (applause). It is with deep regret that I Elijah the prophet of God, aka, Man of God, advise that Israel has forsaken her God and fallen into sin (murmurings in the audience). I have walked across the full breadth of Israel and note with utter disgust the innumerable billboards that showcase the false gods Baal and Asherah. All media channels are inundated with talk shows, advertising and jingles encouraging the worship of these false gods. Trending on social media channels, twitter, facebook, instagam, youtube are reports that currently 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah eat at Jezebel's table at the expense of Israel and are also on Israel's payroll and this is putting incredible pressure on Israel's budget. Furthermore, a gig that is set to attract thousands of people has been scheduled at JNS (Jezebel National Stadium) for next Sunday, a day, that Israel should be worshipping her God. It is also believed that at this gig, Queen Jezebel is launching her new song ***"He ain't my god"***.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, my committee has devised a three-and-half-year strategy entitled Operation NO Rain (ONR) (Elijah is heckled at this point but he continues).

In addition, my committee is the final stages of putting together a project dubbed **#prophetsofbaalandasherahmustfall**, details pertaining to this monumental project are being safeguarded (paper kites are thrown at him). I warn you Israel, believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established, believe His prophets and you shall prosper. My name is Elijah, Minister of Prophecy, in the office of the most High God, Jehovah, God of Israel. (chants of "Elijahmustfall" led by Queen Jezebel fill the room the Man of God exits).

1 Kings 18: v40

And Elijah said to them, seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Here's the main point I would like to drive: Jezebel the main culprit, the most influential force in Israel against the God of Israel was still alive and possibly just as powerful. The woman who was behind the spirit that teaches and leads the people of God astray so that they commit acts of immorality was much very alive. Israel was still under the curse, of this controlling, domineering, manipulating spirit, full of witchcraft, rebellion and sexual immorality.

Even though Elijah slew the prophets of Baal. Elijah didn't have a kingly anointing and it would take a kingly anointing to deal with Jezebel and the Jezebel spirit. It was Jehu the king of Israel after the death of Ahab, who crushed Jezebel.

2 Kings 9: 30-37

Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" And he looked up at the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. Then he said, "Throw her down". So they threw her down and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses and he trampled her underfoot. And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel, and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel"'. "

It takes a kingly anointing to eradicate a Jezebel spirit. It was King Jehu who finally confronted Jezebel and effected her death.

Rev 5:8 -10

Now when He (the Lamb) had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying; You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals. For you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood. Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And have made us kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth.

Because the Lamb was slain, certain things came into effect, we have been redeemed to God by His blood and in this new covenant we are both kings and priests unto the Most High God.

QUESTIONS: WHAT DEMONIC SPIRITS? WHAT STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY HAVE SOUGHT TO HINDER YOU FROM ATTAINING YOUR COMPLETE FREEDOM IN YOUR CHRIST? WHAT LIES, DEMONICALLY INSPIRED LIES HAVE YOU BELIEVED THAT NEED TO BE DECONSTRUCTED SO THAT YOUR MIND CAN BE POSITIONED TO BELIEVE GOD AGAIN.

There is no Jezebellic spirit, in our personal lives and nation that we cannot conquer, if we are fully submitted to God. There is no controlling spirit, domineering, manipulating spirit, full of witchcraft, rebellion and sexual immorality, no evil passion that you cannot overcome, if your mind, your spirit have fully embraced and walk in the revelation that in the new covenant, Christ has made believers kings and priests unto our God. As such, currently, in this life, we function in a ruling capacity (if you are born again) and we know that even as we proceed to eternity, this fact, will be fully realised. We have an inheritance based on our relationship with Christ, which is, He is our Lord and Saviour and we have submitted ourselves to that association. Bear in mind that Christ will not be the Saviour of any who will not own and rely upon Him as their only Saviour. We are partakers of the full rights and privileges of the heavenly kingdom. We are kings in royalty with him.

2. PARADIGM SHIFT NUMBER TWO: IT MAY TAKE A BATTLE TO PROCURE WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID IS YOURS.

Joshua 6: 1-20

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

Even before the battle begins, God makes it clear to "Team Joshua" that He had given them the city and its mighty men of valor. Jericho was not necessarily a big city but it was a formidable fortress city. The Israelites had to face the most difficult opponent first.

3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Even though Joshua and the Israelites had been promised Jericho, but the real task before them must be faced and tackled. Before you conquer your promised land, your enemy has to be first displaced. Israel had to dispossess the Canaanites.

QUESTION: What enemy, struggle, obstacle, mountain, and hurdle do you have to eliminate in this season and life stage before you can advance in your relationship with God?

Is it a bad attitude, it is offense, is it some sin that has entangled you, is it unbelief in some area of your life.

6 Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord." 7 And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the Lord." 8 So it was, when

Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. 9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout." 11 So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13 Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 14 And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days. 15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! 17 Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." 20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

What kind of a mindset did it take to defeat Jericho?

1. **Faith:** Joshua and Israel believed the battle plan. We don't have to be army generals to understand that the military strategy they employed here did not make sense, at least initially. But Israel chose to believe God. Sometimes when God wants to increase our faith levels He presents us with a methodology for the situation that does not seem make sense in the natural.
2. **Obedience:** Joshua and Israel followed the exact battle plan. There were no short cuts.

Ever been tempted to do things in your own way. Have you ever felt the urge to expedite God's processes in your life? Could it be that we fail to conquer certain battles because our obedience in God is not complete or we obey for as long as it is convenient, the moment it cease to be convenient we take a detour.
3. **Courage:** Israel followed the battle plan despite danger and uncertainty.
4. **Endurance:** Israel followed the battle plan over a period of time, even when it seemed that nothing was happening.

Israel took the Jericho. It was clear that God gave, but that the Israelites had to shift their mind-set to a state of obedience and persistent faith.

PARADIGM SHIFT NUMBER 3: YOU HAVE BEEN EMPOWERED TO RECLAIM THE DOMINION MANDATE

Gen 1:26-28 ESV

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the

sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Dominion is translated from the original Hebrew word ‘**Radhah**’ that means to subjugate, to rule, to reign and to prevail against. The word **subdue** is translated from the Hebrew word ‘**kabash**’ which means to **conquer**, and to bring into **subjection**.

Genesis 3 records man’s disobedience to God’s specific instructions - causing sin to enter the earth and in so doing, losing dominion of the earth and transferring the title deed to Satan.

Christ pays the penalty for mankind’s sin on the Cross:

Colossians 2:15

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

He stripped the devil of his power and disarmed him of the keys of sin and death.

The earth belongs to God and He gave His Church (the ecclesia- the called out company or assembly) i.e. you and I, the express mandate and the authority to restore His rule. Man’s dominion is not limited to the living creatures. He is to dominate the earth for its good. Such dominion obviously is under God as a stewardship, not as autonomous sovereignty.

The paradigm shift enters when we understand that the key to reclaiming the ‘Dominion Mandate’ as the Church, we need to understand our authority as Christians.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The concept of authority refers to the power, ability, or capability to complete an action.

Matthew 28: 16-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

There is an intense war raging between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of the devil.

The devil will not leave us alone and unfortunately, sometimes he understands his assignment better than we understand ours. Have you ever noticed how civil groups that advance evil agendas in society sometimes more committed and passionate about their cause more than those of us who have a direct mandate from God to promote righteousness.

The devil is launching unprecedented attacks against God's most sacred institutions in the earth such as marriage and the family, knowing fully well that these vital cornerstone institutions are critical to society, the devil relentlessly attacks them knowing that if he breaks down the family unit and societies collapse.

The time is now for every believer to get out of the pew, position our minds to regain and exercise our authority in Christ, and enter the battle for freedom of the nations from the bondage of the enemy for the glory of God. We have a preferable future for our country, that more and more righteous people will hold the offices, will fill places of trust and responsibility, will have a controlling voice in that which pertains to all of life. But we have to step out to possess the land.

OYes you can overcome the enemy, yes you can mortify sin, yes you can prevail with God in prayer, yes you can rule and reign in Christ, in your personal life, family, in whatever domain you operate in, Business & Economics, Church, Government,

Politics, Education, Health, Science & Technology, Arts, Sport, even in your role as a dedicated stay at home mom, students in your school or college environment.

QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW UNDERSTAND THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW OF THE DOMAIN IN WHICH YOU OPERATE.

David Noebel defines a worldview as:

The framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "It's any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world,"

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe that the Bible is true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do.

Having a biblical worldview in our spheres of influence absolutely matters because if we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. We then are taken "captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (as it says in Colossians 2:8).

QUESTION: DO YOU WALK IN AND BELIEVE IN THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW PERTAINING TO YOUR DOMAIN?

PARADIGM SHIFT NUMBER 4: You are child of the Promise

Galatians 4:21

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the[d] two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children... v28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Paul encourages the church in Galatia them to be steadfast in the freedom from the Mosaic Law, freedom obtained for them by Christ, and was announced to them by the gospel and not be entangled by the yoke of Jewish bondage.

It is with that mind-set that we forge ahead in our journey with Christ. It is that mind-set that distinguishes the free from the slave, it is that mind-set that isolates a life lived from the spirit from that lived by the flesh, that differentiates the saved from the heathen. That separates those who are faith driven from those devoid of faith.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, - by me, Silvanus and Timothy was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Christ Jesus is the confirmation and seal of God's promises. The promises of God for our lives are fulfilled and ratified in Christ. Encapsulated in those promises is the promise for freedom.

PARADIGM SHIFT NUMBER 5: YOU ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION

1 Peter 2: 9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvellous light.

Chosen...Greek "eklektos" ek- out of and lego "to pick, gather". The word denotes one picked out from among the larger group for special service or privileges.

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 4: 17-24

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of[a] the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

As we walk as Christians, were in a battle for our minds.

1. We have to position our minds for victory and freedom.
2. You will either be a person who controls your mind or you will be a person who is controlled by your mind.
3. Your mind is the area of most consistent attack by the enemy. Where satan will try to get a foothold where he can.
4. The good news is this; you can win the battle in your mind.
5. You do not have to be defeated in your walk with the Lord.
6. You do not have to be a slave to worry and fear.
7. You do not have to live a life controlled by the lusts and desires for the flesh!
8. You can live your life under the control of the Spirit of God.