

Higher Dimensions

This message is based on the first chapter of 2 Corinthians. Let's explore the things Paul felt were essential to pass on to the church at Corinth, considering that he would not see them the next day or send them an additional email later on.

2 Cor 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1. **Make sure you are what you are by the will of God.**
 - a. You can become something by your own will or the will of others
 - b. There are people who burn out because they were doing things by their own will.
 - c. When you are in God's will you are guaranteed God's resources
 - d. God "budgets" for His will.
 - e. God's resources are for His strategy not yours.
 - f. Take time to figure out what you are by His will.
 - g. God is personal and has a will, desire and strategy for you.
 - h. God will tell you His will. He cant make you accountable for what He does not tell you.

Poet and Critic Samuel Johnson said "Almost every man wastes part of his life in attempts to display qualities he does not possess".

2. **Embrace the relational assets that God has given you.**
 - a. Your relational assets are the people God has resourced you with
 - b. Your relational assets are not visible on a balance sheet
 - c. Paul wrote the letter together with Timothy
 - d. Study the scriptures to see how Paul speaks of his team
 - e. Who are you walking with?
 - f. With whom are you in one mind?
 - g. Can you write a joint letter with your spouse?
 - h. There is power in agreement
 - i. There is no self-made man.
 - j. Always function in team ministry
 - k. This year God has given you people, you just need to see it.
 - l. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness
 - m. Identify the people that drain you or are timewasters. These are relational deficits.
 - n. Determine to see people after the spirit.
 - o. I dispel any ungodly alliances in your life.
 - p. Who are you going to build with this year? Who are you going to pursue?

2 Cor 1:1b To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia:

3. **Walk as God's holy people.**
 - a. He described them as holy first, not clever or prestigious. What is your primary description? Many just settle for "clever guy".
 - b. Holy = hagios = set apart
 - c. Scripture describes us as a peculiar people
 - d. Become comfortable with your set apartness
 - e. You have been set apart for God's assignment and special use

- f. Many people are being used for the wrong purpose but they feel no conviction
- g. How do you feel when you have prepared food for guests but your kids eat it?
- h. When God formed you, He did so after He had set you apart.
- i. Ps 139 says we were fearfully and wonderfully made.

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Know what you carry for others.

- a. What is the thing you consistently impart or declare over those you interact with?
- b. What do you wish for those around you? For Paul it was Grace and Peace.
- c. We are stewards of grace and peace
- d. You cannot greet one way and then have your relationship characterised by something else.
- e. How you meet and greet characterises the rest of the interaction.
- f. How are you contributing to your relationships?
- g. How are you contaminating your relationships?
- h. Is your primary focus on how to get your needs met by the people or is it what you can release to them?
- i. You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. Which ones are for you to impart?
- j. What package do you have to deliver? Imagine a postman carrying a package but not knowing what is in it and who to deliver it to. Do you know what you carry and for whom.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

5. Learn to receive from God first

- a. You can only impart what you have
- b. There is comfort from God and there is comfort from man. Pass on only that which is from God.
- c. Have you lingered in His presence long enough to receive His comfort, His wisdom, His love. You will pass on what you have and don't assume what you have is from God.
- d. If your heart has been hurt and is closed up to people it's often also closed to God.
- e. Many people are trying to give out without first receiving from God. They end up running on empty. For some this becomes a lifestyle. Some like to always be above half tank when it comes to fuel. Others play around at zero.
- f. Let God be the source and originator of your love. Father = Originator. This protects you from other types of love such as love with a hook.
- g. When we go through difficulties often God wants to reveal Himself to us in a special way. What are you doing with that revelation? What have you been through that God wants to use to help others. God heals you so you can heal others. He comforts you so you can comfort others.
- h. Sometimes we rebuke people as we have been rebuked by the Lord.

5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.

6. Rely on God completely

- a. **God will allow you to go through certain things so that you come to a place of depending on Him alone. He is passionate about this.**
- b. **Are you experiencing pressure far beyond your ability to endure? Trust Him.**
- c. **One of the main processes God takes His people through is the stripping away of self-reliance.**
- d. **Remember how He has delivered you in the past and believe that He has not changed. Often we think He is the God of the once off miracle. He will deliver us again.**
- e. **I announce over you that your breakthrough will not be a once off breakthrough. You will have more testimonies this year. You will have more testimonies this month. You will have more testimonies this week. God's mercies don't rest. They are new every morning. There is something new and fresh for each day. God does not sleep nor slumber.**

11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

7. Remember that Prayer works

- a. **Paul ascribed the favour he experienced to the prayers of many.**
- b. **Take advantage of the power of agreement**
- c. **Get lots more people praying into things**
- d. **Do everything so that more glory and thanksgiving go to the Lord**
- e. **I want to do things that cause God to be glorified all the more**
- f. **Part of team ministry is involvement in prayer. Paul acknowledged that this is how they were helping.**
- g. **Do you pray for favour?**

12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity[b] and godly sincerity.

8. Function with a clear conscience

- a. Is there anything the Holy Spirit is convicting you of that you are suppressing?
- b. Ask God to search your heart
- c. Are you sincere and full of integrity?
- d. Is there anywhere that the enemy has a foothold in your life?
- e. Paul speaks of godly sincerity meaning there is ungodly sincerity. This is where some may be sincere in a manner that is inappropriate. Some people say the truth but not in love.
- f. Build up moral authority instead of focusing on positional authority.

We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. 13 For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, 14 as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

15 Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. 16 I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea. 17 Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

9. Follow through on what you have resolved to do

- a. Paul was clearly a planner. He prepared the details before hand
- b. He was not double-minded. Many Christians are double-minded about church involvement, relationships, parental responsibilities, degree of prosperity etc
- c. We were not created to live in limbo. Make decisions and commit.
- d. Do not live in the land of wishing but rather resolve to do what God has told you to do relying on His promises, which are yes and amen for those who believe.
- e. Great leaders have a bias toward action. This is part of your spirituality.

18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas[c] and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." 20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

10. Walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit

- a. We have been empowered by the Spirit.
- b. Do you know what He has anointed you for?
- c. You have fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Rely on Him to counsel you, teach you etc
- d. This down payment (caution money) should give us assurance of our salvation and a sense of belonging.
- e. God has set His seal of ownership on us.

To seal (affix) with a signet ring or other instrument to stamp (a roller or seal), i.e. to attest ownership, authorizing (validating) what is sealed. 4972 /sphragizō ("to seal") signifies ownership and the full security carried by the backing (full authority) of the owner. "Sealing" in the ancient world served as a "legal signature" which guaranteed the promise (contents) of what was sealed.

23 I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. 24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.