

Spiritual Positioning 4

We have been discussing and exploring various spiritual positions in life. We've looked at the power of being positioned in thanksgiving, being positioned in praise, the importance of the position of forgiveness, and last week we looked at how crucial it is for us to be continually positioned in worship. Today we are going to explore the importance of being positioned in purpose. Positioned in purpose.

Positioned in Purpose

David:

*2Sa 11:1-5 (NKJV) It happened **in the spring** of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained at Jerusalem**.*

[2] Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. [3] So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" [4] Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. [5] And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

2Sa 11:8-11 (NKJV) And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. [9] But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. [10] So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" [11] And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

2Sa 11:14-15 (NKJV) In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. [15] And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

*2Sa 11:26-27 (AMP) When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for Uriah. [27] And when the mourning was past, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was **evil in the sight of the Lord**.*

2Sa 12:9-14 (AMP) Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, doing evil in His sight? You have slain Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife. You have murdered him with the sword of the Ammonites. [Lev 20:10; Lev 24:17] [10] Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because [you have not only despised My command, but] you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. [11] Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. [12] For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun. [Fulfilled in 2Sa 16:21-22] [13] And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. [Psa. 51] [14] Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord and given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child that is born to you shall surely die.

- The point is this, David stepped out of his purpose with terrible consequences.

We see as we study David's life, that the downfall of his kingdom and family began here when he stepped out of doing what He was supposed to be doing. The consequences for his sin were far reaching:

- the sword shall never depart from your house,
- I will raise up evil against you out of your own house
- and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.

- the child that is born to you shall surely die.

Ecc 10:8 (AMP) He who digs a pit [for others] will fall into it, and whoever breaks through a fence or a [stone] wall, a serpent will bite him.

Being positioned in purpose protects us.

What is your purpose?

When we position ourselves where we are supposed to be, we are protected. There are walls or boundaries through which the enemy cannot reach us. We are inaccessible for all intents and purposes. When we choose to break through these boundaries, we may get bitten by the serpent. We can break through in many ways which are mentioned in the NT. Unforgiveness, bitterness, offense, envy, malice, lack of submission to those in authority, spiritual trespassing, and so forth. As we position ourselves correctly in God, in thanksgiving, praise, forgiveness and living a life of worship, we are protected. In the same way, choosing to position ourselves in our purpose (which we should be doing if we are living a life of worship) helps to protect us and keep us.

God is a God of purpose. When He created you, He had a purpose in mind.

- There is grace for you in that.
- He has wired you for that.
- He has put desires in your heart that align with that.

Psa 139:13-16 (NKJV) For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. [15] My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Eph 2:10 (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:10 (AMP) For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Jesus

*Mat 1:18-21 (NKJV) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. [19] Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. [20] But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.** [21] **And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**"*

- When God brings forth something, He knows its name and its purpose.

*Luk 2:41-49 (NKJV) His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. [42] And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. [43] When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; [44] but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. [45] So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. [46] Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. [47] And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. [48] So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." [49] And He said to them, **"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"***

- Even at this young age, Jesus knew that there was a purpose for Him.

- He had work to do.
- He needed to position Himself to do what was required.

Fast forward in Jesus' life, to His baptism...

Luk 4:16-21 (NKJV) So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. [17] And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: [18] "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; [19] TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." [20] Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. [21] And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

- The anointing is given to... for a purpose.
- To fulfil **God's** purpose
- To build **God's** Kingdom

Luke 4:42-43 Jesus Preaches in Galilee (Matt. 4:23–25; Mark 1:35–39) Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

- I love this scripture. Jesus was purpose-oriented. Mission-minded.
- He models saying no to good things for the sake of God's purpose.
- We need to know what we are saying yes to so that we know what to say no to in order to make room for God's purpose!

What is your purpose?

Questions to Explore:

- Identify your high leverage activities
- For what do you receive the most complements?
- For what are you the GO TO person?
- What comes to you easily where others seem to struggle?
- What do you do that is high impact yet requires relatively little effort on your part?
- What do you get so absorbed doing that you lose track of time?
- If I were to phone you at 2am and ask you to do this you would quite happily do it.

Discover and walk in your ministry SHAPE.

- Many people understand their life roles or talents but they don't align them to their passion and gifting
- Do you know what you were born to do? This is where the grace lies.

SHAPE, a concept developed by Rick Warren (Saddleback Church).

- S = Spiritual Gifts
- H = Heart (Your unique emotional heart beat)
- A = Ability
- P = Personality (Individual style e.g. two people can be teachers but one loves speaking to crowds whilst the other likes writing educational blogs)
- E = Experiences (Negative past experiences – taking revenge on the enemy. Positive past experiences – building values in us e.g. learning to receive strangers into your home taught you hospitality)

We need to stop trying to be someone else.

What season are you in?

I would like to take this a step further. When we have an idea of our purpose, it's about more than that, it's about understanding the season we are in.

*2Sa 11:1-5 (NKJV) It happened **in the spring** of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and*

*they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained at Jerusalem.***

It was a season for Kings to go to war. It was a season for David to be at war. He remained at home in peace. It was more dangerous for him at home out of his purpose in that season than it was at war with the spears and arrows around him!

- What season are you in?
- A season of preparation?
- A season of manifestation?

Jesus knew His purpose and the hour or season he was in. He knew when it was time to begin his public ministry. He knew when it was time to focus on training His disciples, He knew when it was time to die. It's important that we gain understanding of seasons for ourselves. It protects us from quitting when it gets hard. It keeps us in the will of God. The safest place to be is the will of God. Not the easiest. Not necessarily the least harm will come to you here. But we trust in God's wisdom, that this is the best place for us with respect to His kingdom purposes, and also for us as He loves us and knows what will be best and most fulfilling for us.

Jesus

*John 12:27-33 **Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross***

*"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But **for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.**" Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**" **This He said, signifying by what death He would die.***

It is important that we have vision for our purpose in life. That purpose may look different in different seasons. It may have different emphases in different seasons. But ultimately we should look for that thread of purpose that God has set in each one of our lives.

For example, I believe that an overarching purpose for my life is to know God and make Him known. This transcends life seasons and may look different depending upon what season I am in? Purpose transcends seasons, yet it may outwork itself differently depending upon seasons and contexts.

The problem is that many people get hung up on one expression of their purpose or define their purpose too narrowly and make it relevant to only particular seasons. Which leads to lies like:

“I am too” for God’s purpose.

Too:

- Old
- Young
- Black
- White
- Poor
- Inexperienced
- Unknown
- Uneducated
- Educated
- And so forth.

Let’s look at a few examples:

Jeremiah

Jer 1:4-8 (NKJV) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: [5] "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." [6] Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." [7] But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. [8] Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.

Purpose doesn’t begin when we believe we are mature enough.

- God called Jeremiah from the womb. When he was a youth God already wanted to use Him to speak.
- Many believe that most of the disciples (except Peter) were in their teens or early twenties when God called them.

It doesn't begin when we have enough time or are young enough or whatever enough. Each of us are here with purpose. God used Anna, an old woman to recognize Jesus in the temple. He used young men, boys, women, God has a purpose for you as long as you are still here on earth! It's important to recognise and understand seasons though.

Moses

*Exo 2:11-15 (NKJV) Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. [12] **So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.** [13] And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" [14] Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" [15] When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.*

- Somewhere deep in Moses, God had wired him to be a deliverer for his people.
- Moses believed he was old enough and could go ahead and do this thing in his heart. He was wrong. He did it the wrong way and at the wrong time.
- Sometimes we need to pause and allow God to prepare us for His purpose and trust Him for wisdom regarding His timing.

There is a season for preparation. There is a season for manifestation.

Jer 1:17 (NKJV) "Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them.

The preparation must come before the fulfilment of purpose.

- What is your purpose?
- What season are you in?
- What should you be doing now?

Are you experiencing unseen challenges and setbacks in your season of manifestation?

John the Baptist in prison

Mat 11:1-14 (NKJV) Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. [2] And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples [3] and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" [4] Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: [5] The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. [6] And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." [7] As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [8] But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9] But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. [10] For this is he of whom it is written: 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' [11] "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12] And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. [13] For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. [14] And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.

- This is the John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus.
- This is the John the Baptist who recognised Jesus and baptised Him in water.

Luk 1:13-17 (AMP) But the angel said to him, Do not be afraid, Zachariah, because your petition was heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you must

call his name John [God is favourable]. [14] And you shall have joy and exultant delight, and many will rejoice over his birth, [15] For he will be great and distinguished in the sight of the Lord. And he must drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit even in and from his mother's womb. [Num 6:3] [16] And he will turn back and cause to return many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, [17] And he will [himself] go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn back the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient and incredulous and unpersuadable to the wisdom of the upright [which is the knowledge and holy love of the will of God]—in order to make ready for the Lord a people [perfectly] prepared [in spirit, adjusted and disposed and placed in the right moral state]. [Isa 40:3; Mal 4:5-6]

- Did John the Baptist fulfil these things? Yes
- Did he fulfil his purpose? Yes
- Did it end the way he thought it would? No
- Did he become disillusioned? Yes.
- Did Jesus rescue him from his difficult prison situation because of who he was or that he had been obedient or that he was in God's will? No

Being in our purpose does not protect us from difficulties and hardships. Even and especially in these we need to continue to trust God and enquire of God. BUT, we must remember that positioning ourselves in God's purpose protects us from making grave life errors.

What I do know is that often God uses what we see as injustices and detours for his purposes:

Paul and Silas in prison

- They have been about their purpose, preaching, praying and so forth.
- A girl possessed with a spirit of divination has followed them for days.
- They delivered her of her demon and her masters got them thrown into prison for the deliverance (the demon brought them profit).
- Were they about their purpose? Yes.
- Had they done anything wrong? No
- They were praising at midnight. All the prisoners were freed:

Act 16:26 (NKJV) Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

- The jailer and his household were subsequently saved and baptised.
- Sometimes we judge a matter too soon. Or become disillusioned too soon.
- We must continue in God's purpose regardless.

Are you in a season of preparation?

- Like David in the wilderness taking care of the sheep?
- Or like David serving the current King Saul even though he has been called to be King.
- Or like Moses in the desert being prepared to deliver and lead God's people?
- Or like Joseph in the dungeon, being prepared to rule and save multitudes of people including his brothers who had sold him into captivity.

Are you in a season of fulfilling your purpose?

- Like David ruling as king?
- Have you become complacent? Are you stepping out of your purpose?

Have you become disillusioned in your season of purpose?

- Like John the Baptist in prison?
- Maybe it doesn't look like what you thought it would
- Maybe it hasn't turned out the way you think it should have
- Maybe it's taking longer than you imagined?

Remember our starting point, David's turning point:

*2Sa 11:1-5 (NKJV) It happened **in the spring** of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained at Jerusalem.***

- What is your purpose?
- What season are you in?

Altar call:

- Those who need clarity on their purpose
- Those who need clarity on the season they are in and the current expression of their purpose, preparation or other
- Those who have grown battle weary and/or disillusioned and want to commit to return to the place of obedience and purpose and trust God no matter what.