

# VISION FORWARD



## LEARNING THE POSSIBLE

Today we are all consumed with finding our purpose or discovering our destiny. But how we all go about doing that varies.

Saul had been appointed by God to be the first king of Israel. And as King his primary responsibility was to listen to God and walk in obedience to Him. If Saul ever doubted what was in God's heart, it was for his kingdom to be established forever (1 Samuel 13:13).

God's heart for you is the same: to establish your life forever. But because God wants you to have a full and abundant life, He knows you need to build it on a solid and firm foundation. Saul wasn't willing to do that.

Saul wanted control. When he didn't wait for the prophet Samuel as God had commanded him, he panicked and "forced himself," (1 Samuel 13:12) or took hold of himself and his circumstances, to do what God had commanded Samuel to do. Here is a very important lesson for us both as disciples and as Elim Grace. We cannot take hold of ourselves or of our circumstances to accomplish God's will. God's will is done in God's way and in God's time.

So God announced to Saul He would search for a new king (1 Samuel 13:14). God found that in David, "a man after my own heart". Yet God says he has found a new "man," not a new "king". Why? Because God seeks hearts, He looks on the heart *first*.

Before we are called to be "king" or whatever it might be God is calling us to (husband/wife, father/mother, employee/employer, student/teacher, etc.),

we are called to be a man or a woman after God's own heart.

So was in the end David, not Saul, who "served the purpose of God in his own generation" (Acts 13:36). But notice David served *God's* purpose, not his own. We discover our purpose or destiny in life only when we discover God's purpose and destiny for our lives. God calls us to Himself and then to the life He calls us to live.

Still, there are many good things that we could accomplish on our own in our own kingdom. But what God seeks to accomplish only He can do and only He can do through humble committed and submitted hearts. Such men and women are not concerned with building their own kingdom. They are concerned with *God* building *His* kingdom.

So it was with that in mind that Jesus announced "all things are possible". What did he mean? He did not mean that all things are possible within the kingdom of man. Some things are possible, yes, but there will always be a measure of frustration and breakdown. Rather, He meant that all things are possible within the kingdom of God.

We are born into the kingdom of man, but we are born *again* into the kingdom of God. Whatever is needed and wanted there is possible, because God lives there, dwells there, and rules there.

Within God's kingdom, God provides for and protects His people. He leads and He guides. He corrects and He convicts. He loves and He forgives. He heals and He restores. He reconciles and delivers. He saves and He rescues. He is the beginning and the end, the promise and the fulfillment, the source and the River of Life. Nothing is impossible; everything is possible.

We are both recipients of and participants in the kingdom of God come to earth. We must first, then, see by the Spirit what God wants to do in our midst, in our lives.

When with the eyes of man things looked impossible, Elisha prayed for his servant to see. "He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the

mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2 Kings 6:17) And he saw.

If at times we feel despondent or hopeless, afraid or confused, we can rest assured that God is working all around us.

Second, we must operate by the Spirit in the ways and resources belonging to the kingdom. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." ( 1 Corinthians 15:50) We cannot operate within the kingdom of God in our own human effort or wisdom. The Spirit empowers us with the strength and wisdom of Christ, an effort or energy that works in us and through us by grace.

The task of learning to see and to operate is simpler than we might imagine. Spiritual disciplines are the practices or habits by which the Spirit brings us into conformity to the life of the kingdom. In this way the possible becomes possible for us.

So learning to pray is learning the possible. Learning to read and meditate on Scripture is learning the possible. Learning to be together with other believers as the Body of Christ is learning the possible. Learning to worship is learning the possible. Learning to fast at different times, in different ways, from different things is learning the possible. In these and other ways we learn to live the life of the kingdom, we learn to live within the Kingdom.

The proclamation made to the earliest disciples that the kingdom had come was good news. But it was astounding news because it had come in the True and Greater David, the person making that proclamation. It had come in Jesus Christ. In Jesus every desire in the heart of God was finding its fulfillment on earth. In Jesus every desire in the heart of man could now find its heavenly fulfillment. Nothing is impossible for God.

Are you discouraged? Are you depressed? The possible awaits. Are you hurt? Is your marriage failing? The possible awaits. Are you sick? Are you tired? The possible awaits. Are you broken? Are you lost? The possible waits. The possible awaits because Jesus is Savior and King.

## OUR JULY PRAYER TARGETS

Our three prayer targets for July are:

- 1) **Pray against familiarity (pray for a growing knowledge of Jesus Christ)** — It's so easy to become familiar with things. We come to see less and less the value or worth in what belongs or has been given to us. This can occur in our spiritual lives, too. Let's pray for a renewed thankfulness and appreciation of heart for God's salvation, for Jesus, for the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, for our church, for our church ministries (leaders and volunteers), for one another, for the Scriptures, for prayer, etc.
- 2) **Pray for a freedom in worship** — everyone must learn to worship. Whether singing out loud, clapping, or raising hands, it's something we all must step into. And the Holy Spirit *will* lead us to step into it as our knowledge of and love for Jesus grows. Worship is natural to a disciple's heart. But the *actions* of our worship must be learned. When you jump into a cold pool, eventually the waters get warm. So in our worship, let's pray for the courage to jump in, knowing that the cold waters of our worship will become warmer.
- 3) **Pray for an increase in the prophetic** — We believe in, value, and seek the prophetic gift in our times of worship together. God still speaks today to his people to encourage, exhort, and challenge us. He speaks to remind us that He knows us and loves us, to reveal to us that He hears our desires and is leading our lives. The prophetic can also convince those who don't know God to say "surely God is among you" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

As we suggested for our June prayer targets, if praying is new or hard for you, try this: take out your phone, set a 5 minute timer, and pray everyday. You won't have to worry about the time and you might discover that those 5 minutes are soon not long enough.

## HAVE YOU JOINED OUR ELIM GRACE FACEBOOK GROUP?

At Elim Grace, we believe the church isn't a building — it's a people.

We're a community of people just like you meeting each week to worship, learn, serve, and pray together. But one hour for a Saturday or Sunday service isn't enough. We believe the other 167 hours of our week are just as important. So Elim Grace Church Online is a place where we can continue to meet, talk, and pray together.

Why we have our Facebook group:

*Our mission is "together, to know Jesus and to make Him known". We're followers of Jesus and we seek to lead others to become fully devoted followers. We know that God created us to live life not alone, but together in community. Facebook is a great place to meet people and learn more about God.*

*We believe in starting right where you are. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to have all the right answers. You are welcome here.*

If you're not on Facebook, we also have a Youtube channel where we are posting our Facebook Live videos and other short videos. Our goal is to provide content that helps you where you're at in life. All these videos (and many blog posts) are also found on our website under "content that helps".

## OUR NEXT FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT

Our next Facebook Live event is going to be in August. In that event Pastor Jonathan will be answering questions you may have about God and life. While there won't be time to answer all of them, a team will select the most applicable or frequently asked questions. I won't know the questions beforehand, so it will be live and spontaneous!

Do you have a question you'd like to ask? Send it to Joe Grasso at [friendlyneighborhoodapprentice@gmail.com](mailto:friendlyneighborhoodapprentice@gmail.com)