

WEEK THIRTY-THREE



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you will see that God
required you only to
produce a return on what
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expect anything from what
you didn't have.

~Kevin Zadai

God Sometimes Starts Small

*His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have
been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many
things. Enter into the joy of your lord."*

—Matthew 25:21

DISCUSSION:

Today we will discuss the fact that God doesn't always start big. Sometimes He may start with something small and expand it into something big. That is what He did personally for Kathi and me.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SMALLNESS TO GREATNESS

There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?

—John 6:9

John 6:5–14 gives an account where Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes. When Jesus tested the disciples and asked where they would get food to feed them, in verse 9, Andrew mentions the boy with the five barley loaves and the two fish. Jesus used what the boy gave, which seemed so small in the face of an impossible situation, as the catalyst to feed the whole crowd (John 6:5–14). He took that small lunch and multiplied it into something extraordinary.

Let's look at King David's story (1 Samuel 16:1–17:58). His father, Jesse, sent him to deliver meals to his brothers, and he was supposed to come right home afterward. Previously Samuel had anointed David as king, but his time had not come yet; however, the small task of food delivery was a catalyst. When he brought the meals to the brothers, he inquired about the boisterous Philistine who was profaning the armies of God—Israel. This turned into a standoff, where David ended up killing the giant. David had a small beginning; scholars state that it took 17 years from the time he was anointed until he became king.

So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

—1 Samuel 3:19

Samuel is another example of a small beginning that God significantly increased. When he was a child, Samuel's mother gave him to Eli to be trained in the temple of the Lord throughout his youth. He started to hear God calling him there and was prepared behind the scenes without yet being exposed to the world. 1 Samuel 3:19 says that none of his words fell to the ground, meaning everything he prophesied came to pass. In addition to being a prophet, Samuel became a priest who could perform the sacrifice. When Saul was king, he was not permitted to do the sacrifice (1 Samuel 13:1–15). In Gilgal, he refused to wait for Samuel and intruded on the priest's office by sacrificing, resulting in the loss of his kingdom. Samuel was one of the greatest prophets who ever lived, yet he started small and hidden from the world.

- **Discuss how God often starts small in a person's life, then increases them. How does this impact your perspective of His process?**

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

I want to talk to you about the small things that may now be happening in your life. David probably didn't understand all that took place in his youth and may have had many questions, but look at what eventually happened to him. The boy who gave his lunch to Jesus wasn't originally planning to share as it was just enough for one person. When you reach Heaven, you will see that God required you only to produce a return on what you were given; He did not expect anything from what you didn't have.

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

—2 Timothy 1:6

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

—1 Timothy 1:18

Your whole life down here is a journey of discovery where you're finding out what God placed inside of you.

- On this journey, you are seeing, knowing, and learning about your own heart while also discovering your pathway of destiny.
- Once you understand who you are and your gifts, you must fan them into flame, as Paul instructed Timothy.
- Paul had imparted gifts to Timothy by laying hands on him and prophesying, yet it was up to Timothy to fan those gifts into flame and wage war with those prophecies.
- At that time, Timothy's prophetic words hadn't come to pass yet, but Paul essentially said, "You don't need another word."

- Today, many believers seek another prophetic word; however, as Paul said, you should take the words you already received and wage war with them. Most people have been given enough words.
- It's the same way with the gifts of the Spirit. Paul expressed that Timothy didn't need hands laid on him again; he just needed to fan the flame. He must have had just had hot coals or smoking embers, but was supposed to be on fire.
- Paul didn't come to him and say, "I'm going to have to lay hands on you again," or "I need to deliver some more words to you because the ones that I gave you didn't come to pass yet." He told Timothy to be accountable and take responsibility for what you have been given, even if it seemed small.

YOUR REWARD IS BASED ON WHAT YOU WERE GIVEN

Most people want the manifestation, but they don't want the responsibility. Many are just waiting for God to move, yet that is not how it works in the Bible. God starts by entrusting us with something small; then, He wants us to produce fruit. The path that you're on and your gifts are the seed of your future; they are the absolute potential in you, whether it be a word or a gift that must come forth. You must do two things: Fan your gifts into flame and wage war with the words you have been given. If you look at both entries where Paul gives these instructions, he's talking to Timothy, his disciple. Paul fathered, mentored, and prepared him for ministry. That is what's happening with you and others all over the world. You are being prepared for what God's called you to do. He has given you the gifts and everything you need for this (2 Peter 1:3).

You saw who you created me to be before I became me! Before I'd ever seen the light of day, the number of days you planned for me were already recorded in your book.

—Psalm 139:16 TPT

Most people still don't know what their destinies and gifts are. When I was in Heaven, I saw that my assignment was to let the Holy Spirit show me what was inside of me. I was instructed to remember the words spoken over me and wage war with them against the enemy. Also, I realized I was supposed to blow on those coals of the gifts inside me and make them flames. So there are gifts inside you and words spoken over you, which is your destiny. According to Psalms 139:16, each one of your days was written by God in a book before one of them came to pass. So there is a potential fire in you. Whether it's a fire or just coals, it's in you right now.

The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

—Zephaniah 3:17

There are words that have been spoken over you—whether they are prophetic words or songs of deliverance that the Lord has sung over you, as described in Zephaniah 3:17. Do you really need more words? Maybe you think you do, but what have you done with the words already spoken over you? If you don't know of any, just grab one out of Scripture and speak it out. Wage war right now against the enemy, saying, "Listen, this is what the Lord says about me." For example, Romans 8:31 declares, "If God is for me, who can be against me?" Start waging war with those words that you've already received. The Bible is full of them. Study 1 Timothy 1:18 and 2

Timothy 1:6 and make yourself accountable. Realize that your reward in Heaven is based on what you were given, not on what you weren't given.

INVEST IN YOUR GIFTS

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

—Matthew 25:29 NLT

You are not supposed to look at your neighbor and judge yourself by what others are doing or what they have. Never allow yourself to be negatively provoked to jealousy. Just ask the Lord, "What am I supposed to be doing? What talents have You given Me that you expect a return from?" Don't be like the one in the parable who just hid their talent in the ground and didn't give anything in return back to the master (Matthew 25:14–30). Take what was given to you and start to invest your life in it.

Shortly after I came back from Heaven, I met Kathi. Of the 29 years I worked with Southwest Airlines, Kathi and I were married for 24 of them. At the time of this writing, we celebrated 30 years of marriage. For 24 years, she watched me study all the time. I exhausted many subjects, made notes and binders, and was consumed with it. For years, I did word studies on different topics. Do you know how much recognition I got for it? Zero. I was never asked to preach and didn't have any kind of opportunity. I just studied, studied, studied.

Eventually, at one church, I was asked to teach a Sunday school class that started at 8:30 in the morning before the first service. It was just adults. As you can imagine,

it's difficult for anybody to show up early for anything, especially those with jobs and a family. So it's a big deal for adults to show up for a Sunday school class and then sit through an entire service. Sometimes these people would sit through two church services, which meant that they were at church from around 8:00 AM to 1:30 in the afternoon on Sundays. Since I was given this class, I took my binders of all these subjects and started teaching from them. In a short time, it got to where people stood out in the hallway because there was no more room to sit and listen. It grew to become the largest class with the greatest response. Soon afterward, I was asked to teach at a Bible school with well-known people who had been in the ministry for a long time. My class grew so much that they asked me to return and teach another. None of those pastors and leaders knew I'd been to Heaven then; however, my gift made room for me.

I encourage you to study to show yourself approved (2 Timothy 2:15). Prepare yourself, knowing that God will not waste anything you do. You will produce a crop using the gifts that God's given you. It comes by meditating and studying the word of God. I believe that you will be effective in the area of deliverance and will produce fruit. You will have a return on what God has done in your life.

It is crucial to realize that God starts you out small and desires for you to sow into your future. You can do this by studying and being faithful after you find out what God has called you to do, which He'll show you through the Word. I believe there will be a turnaround in your life and that when you get to Heaven, you will see the fruit you produced as you fulfilled your destiny. You'll become much more productive because you have heard the truth.

PRAYER:

Thank You, Father, for helping us all to produce fruit in keeping with repentance. I'm thankful that we don't have to wait till we get to Heaven to see what we could have done, Lord. I declare that all of the Warrior Fellowships will prosper, and each individual will thrive in what you have written about them. Thank You that it will all come to pass. In the name of Jesus, I believe that everyone will produce much more fruit than they were going to because they've heard this message. Help them to understand that You, Lord, are waiting to see what they will do with what You've given them. I believe that You will help everyone and every fellowship produce that fruit. Thank You, Lord, for prospering and supernaturally helping them financially. Thank You, Lord, for healing everyone that's encountering disease. I break the power of the enemy and the attack in their bodies. I command every evil spirit to desist in their maneuvers against them, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

- 1. What does it mean to wage war with the prophecy given to you, according to 1 Timothy 1:18?**

- 2. According to 2 Timothy 1:6, what are we to do with the gifts that God has given to us?**

- 3. Many people seek ministers to give them another prophetic word. Why is this dangerous? According to this study, what can you do if you feel like you need a word from God?**

- 4. Psalm 139:16 says that God has written a book about each of our destinies. What is our responsibility concerning the fulfillment of our books?**

- 5. According to this study, how can you invest in your future and produce a great crop?**
