

Men of the Moment

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I want to share a testimony and a message about the incredible journey we embark on when we walk with God. This journey is filled with unexpected lessons, profound growth, and a deepening relationship with our Creator. Let us explore how setting a goal with God's guidance can lead to immeasurable growth and blessings.

When you start a journey with God, He does marvelous and amazing things in your life. You learn things you never thought you would learn, and you experience things you never thought you would experience. This is why we must value His favor, His blessing, and our relationship with Him more than anything else. God knew beforehand the journey we would have to take. So, when we asked for His favor, everything will be provided and taken care of—not just financially but also in terms of knowledge and fitness.

With God's favor and grace, anything is possible. We must all agree that the Word of the Lord is today. Let our hearts be open, free from preconceived ideas, allowing the Word of God to penetrate through all mental, cultural, and social barriers. May the Word of God break through and penetrate our hearts so we can receive the message He has for us. We will all grow and become stronger and better.

We must highly value the family unit and marriage, and this means we must value our wives for who they are, not just what they do for us. Because we must value them, so that value can come back to us. The scriptural way to say this is that God told us to love them as Christ loves the Church, presenting them without spot, blemish, or wrinkle, in glorious splendor. They become our glory because God made them in His image.

We will touch on three broad topics: identity, assignment, and personal growth. Identity in Christ is paramount. Our assignment is God-given, and we must seek it in Him. Personal growth is the greatest gift we can give ourselves and others. If we don't grow, neither will those around us. Growth isn't just about adapting to change; it's about spiritual development and maturity.

1 John 5:4-5, For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is our identity: we are children of God who overcome the world through our faith. If we believe in Jesus, we must keep His commandments and love His people.

In Judges 13, we read about Samson, a man of immense strength and divine assignment. The angel of the Lord appeared to Samson's mother, instructing her about Samson's Nazarite vow even before his birth. This highlights identity, assignment, and personal growth. Manoah, Samson's father, prayed to God for guidance, showing the importance of seeking God in our journey.

As we walk with God, embracing our identity in Him, fulfilling our divine assignments, and committing to personal growth, we experience His favor and blessings in unimaginable ways. Let us open our hearts to His Word, grow together, and become the spiritual beings God has called us to be.

Manoah's prayer is a testament to his faith and acceptance of God's will. He didn't pray, "If you're real and if this is going to happen, then come." Instead, he said, "I accept who You are because of my wife telling me, I accept who you are. I accept the assignment. I accept the personal growth that's going to happen here. I'm asking You to teach me how." This shows us that Manoah already had a personal relationship with God before the Angel of the Lord appeared to his wife. This teaches us that faith isn't about seeing to believe; it's about believing to see.

God chose to reveal His message through Manoah's wife. Men, this shows us the significance of our wives' spiritual walks. We should honor the spiritual women in our lives, whether we are married or not. This respect sets the foundation for a healthy spiritual relationship in the future.

If we look at spiritual women like Pastor Sharon and others, and fail to honor them, we risk missing out on God's messages. Our relationship with our wives or future wives for the younger men will reflect this dishonor. Following Manoah's example, we need to recognize the spiritual authority and wisdom in the women around us.

When Manoah asked the Angel of the Lord, "What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?" he sought clarity on identity, assignment, and personal growth. If parents today would seek God about their children's lives, asking for their rule of life and work, we would see a transformation. We wouldn't turn to societal norms or external expectations but to God's plan.

The Angel instructed Manoah and his wife on how to raise Samson, emphasizing obedience to God's commands. This shows that when we give space to our loved ones to follow God, our relationships flourish. Manoah's response, honoring the angel's presence with an offering, underscores the importance of respect and reverence for God's guidance.

Manoah and his wife only fully realized the magnitude of their encounter with the angel of the Lord after He ascended in the flames of their offering. Often, we understand the full scope of God's plans only in hindsight. This doesn't make the experiences any less authentic but shows God's faithfulness and the profound impact of obedience and faith.

Men, what do we want for each other? We should pray that the Spirit of the Lord would be upon each of us, moving through us. Our identity is wrapped up in Christ. When our identity is in Him, we have no issues with manhood or with women, because we see through the lens of a whole, godly man.

Our assignment comes from our identity in Him, not from the world. The world values belonging over becoming, but in Christ, we belong to Him and become what He has designed us to be. We must choose to belong to Christ, not the world, and let our identity, assignment, and personal growth be rooted in Him.

Manoah's story teaches us to embrace our identity in Christ, accept our God-given assignments, and pursue personal growth. This journey isn't just about individual progress but about honoring God and fulfilling His purpose in our lives. Let's commit to seeking God's direction, respecting the spiritual women in our lives, and growing together as a community of faith.