



Success: "Having What You Need When You Need It"

On August 23 at 1:51 p.m. we had an earthquake here in Washington, D.C. and abroad. It was the largest that has occurred in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains since an 1897 quake. There were little tremors; however, the message was one loud and clear. When anyone shakes you, it's for the purpose of waking you up. It's apparent that many of us are sleep and need to be awakened. As my good friend Brian Eichelberger recently shared at our [house fellowship](#) - we are like Jonah, who was a prophet. As the church, we are "prophetic people" to our city and nation. However, we are in the bottom of the ship asleep. We are sleep in the SHIP! What ship you ask? How about **relationship**, **fellowship**, **companionship**, **stewardship**, **leadership**, **discipleship**, **sonship**, **rulership**, **friendship** and **worship**! How, with a storm on the rise, can God's people be asleep? Do you know who awoke Jonah? The captain woke Jonah and said, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and cry out to your god! Maybe He will listen to you and save us so that we will not die!" The world is asking the church to wake up and call on your God. We will perish if you do not awake. Since the body of Christ has not listened to the "cry" of the world, the Lord Himself will awaken His Church. The Lord, "whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I **shake** not only the earth, but also heaven." There is a whole lot of shaking going on; it's time to awaken and arise!

Yesterday, while with the family, one of my spiritual sons stated, "If we are looking for the will of God, the will of God will be made known through our obedience." Listen to this parable of two sons, "*But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I [go], sir,' but he did not go. **Which of the two did the will of [his] father?**' They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you."* Notice the question, which of the two did the will of his father? In this scripture, **the will of God is tied directly to obedience of the son.**

The Lord is not requiring that we be obedient to Him in some big way! It's the soul's tendency to always look for something big. Even Mary said, "My soul does magnify the Lord!" Our soul always has a tendency to amplify and expand things, and like Mary if we are magnifying the Lord in our soul this will yield great fruit. However, the flipside is we have to be careful not to allow our soul to magnify everything; especially in the area of obedience. We have to be careful not to despise the small detailed instructions from our Father. It's in the small things the Lord is requiring obedience. Our response to these small innuendos will determine what type of foundation we are building upon to weather the coming rain, flood and winds. **The Lord is not requiring a leap of faith, but a step of obedience.** This one step of obedience will produce the faith needed to carry out His perfect will.

One of the advantages of marrying a wife who can cook, and have by choice decided that her home is the centerpiece of the will of God, is having well-prepared meals. Most of my friends have commented that the majority of time they see me now, I'm out eating or fellowshiping. They wonder if I ever eat at home. When I hear this, I just smile and reminisce about the wonderful meals Rose has prepared for the children and me throughout our 23 years of marriage. Therefore, to show appreciation for her labor of love, I implemented the meals on wheels. If I am behind the wheel or driving the car, Rose will have the option of selecting the meal - this is our meals on wheels.

As long as Rose is in the home, we will never go hungry. Rose has the ability to prepare anything from scratch. I on the other hand, if it's not semi-processed or prepared food, my skills are limited in the kitchen. Rose has done a wonderful job teaching all our children how to cook. Even my two boys can throw down. I just wish I was present more during most of those cooking lessons; however, it's never too late to learn. If my children did not see the refrigerator full, they somehow thought we had a food shortage. Recently, in wake of hurricane Irene, a couple of days before the storm I shared with Rose how we better pick up anything we need in case we lose power for a couple of days. Rose always has a plan in case of an emergency, and has told me on more than one occasion, we will never have to be concerned about a meal, even when the refrigerator is empty. She knows how to use the resources we have for our needs. I define prosperity as "having what you need when you need it". As a matter of fact when we ask for anything we don't need, we are asking "amiss" - to use for our own lusts (James 4:3).

The lesson we have been sharing with our children is that during any crisis, it reveals to us if we have properly managed our resources. **In the midst of any disaster, it is important to look at what we have, not what we don't have.** Most people when they hear of hurricanes or anything beyond their control immediately begin to think of what they don't have. Yet, when we watch the example of our Lord; in the midst of any crisis, He always looked for and found what he needed from within His sphere of influence. Remember when the crowd of 5,000 came out to hear His teachings; afterwards they were too hungry to make the journey back home? How do you plan a meal for 5,000 people at the spare of the moment? I tell you there will have to be supernatural intervention; yet, it starts with resources among you, such as, five loaves and three fish. Even when his disciples offered to go and find food, to seek something they needed, our Lord revealed the answer to their need was among them.

A principle to consider when you are confronted with any catastrophe is to remember what you already have, and stop thinking about what you don't have, and, to stop looking for the answer outside of resources and relationships among you. I remember one of my favorite tunes was from singer Ron Kenley - "Give To The Lord" - the lyrics states, "GIVE AND IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU GOOD MEASURE PRESSED DOWN SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER GIVE AND IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU WHEN YOU GIVE, GIVE TO THE LORD". I love the song; it is fun, joyful and encouraging. However, it leaves off a very vital part to this scripture. The scripture reads, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, **shall men give into your bosom.**" Shall men give into your bosom is vital because this let us know that our receiving that which is shaken together and running over is directly tied to **relationships.**" You receive that which is pressed down, shaken together and running over from others. In other words, what we give and receive in is direct proportion to the relationship we receive and nurture.

Remember the story of Elijah and widow of Zarephath? After many days, the water dried up in Elijah's stream. And God told him to go find a widow in a place called Zarephath. Let me just say, when things begin to dry up, it's important that we are able to hear from God. What did the Lord tell the great man of God when things dried up for him - to go find a widow? Sure enough, when Elijah arrived, he found a woman gathering sticks. Elijah asked "would you bring me a drink of water?" She agreed. As she went for water, Elijah added, "And could you bring me a piece of bread also?" Notice how Elijah asked for things she had within her power to give. However, her response was "as sure as God lives, I have none. I have only a drop of oil and a handful of flour. Right now, I'm taking these sticks home to make a fire. I will cook that last bit of bread for myself and my son. Then we will eat it and die." You see the mindset of the orphan is I need the remains of what I have for me and mine. Yet, the word of the Lord from the prophet to the widow was, "Don't worry! Go and make your bread. But then bring it to me. After that you can make more for you and your son. For God has told me that your flour will not be used up, and your oil will not run dry. Not until the day that God sends rain to this land." This story has so many dimensions that show the love and compassion of the Lord, especially for the widows (those without a husband). However, it's the establishment and coming together of the relationships that allowed for the abundance of provision. Everything we need is within arm's reach; you just have to pray the Lord open your eyes.

So, pause and stop, and begin to see what you have. Stop and examine what resources you do have before thinking about what you don't have. Examine the relationships and those God has placed around you. Begin to embrace the Lord's purpose this season, and come out of the life of confusion and mixture. The Lord loves you, and would like to see you awaken to His purpose. It's time to fulfill your destiny.

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