

POSITIONED TO RECEIVE

WILLIS 5/3/09

Acts 2:1-13

It was Bishop Long who said to us at Family Camp 01 “**You are somewhere between prophesy and destiny...closer to destiny...**” On one level we are and forever will be somewhere between prophesy and destiny (that is the nature of the advancing Kingdom)

- **The hope is tapping into the capacity to receive so it is always a new destiny we are standing before.** Becoming people of destiny is directly tied to our capacity to receive from God.
- I have entitled what I want to share today, “Positioned to Receive.”

I love the way Holy Spirit carries us along and leads us into all truth as the scriptures say. For several months I have had 3 primary issues on my heart that I was asking the Lord for an opportunity to speak to.

- **The 3 were sonship, ownership and a greater capacity to receive from God.**
- As you know, I sensed a leading from the Lord to follow Jesus in His post Resurrection experiences. As I did, I had no idea that these 3 would all be addressed...the first 2 in His 40 days of teaching and the 3rd as the fruit of what took place.
- *Sonship*, Jesus addressed when He spoke of The Promise of the Father. *Ownership*, He addressed when He empowered the disciples to be witnesses. Now we will see *the capacity to receive from God* (or not receive) in those who mocked what they saw taking place.

Acts 2:1-13

So the picture Luke paints for us here is one of two groups. The first is devout men filled with miraculous amazement, perplexity and wonder who said, “What does this mean?” The second is devout men who were mocking saying, “These men are drunk with wine.”

- It’s not like these in v.13 were raging heathen who you would expect as much...v.5 tells us “These were devout men...” so both groups were devout. **Apparently though devout the mocking group was hindered in their ability to receive.**
- Rather than making them desperate, their inability to receive turned then cynical so they mocked what they saw in defense of their inability.
- For many, pride and judgment become strongholds that block their ability to receive the fullness of all God has.

- The Lord spoke to me just this past week saying “your judgment about certain people being so quirky is the same attitude that would keep you from receiving the treasure in the field because it is buried midst the dirt. (Treasures in the K are surrounded in dirt)

Recently I have been wrestling with the level of our capacity to receive. What do you do when you have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness but can receive very little?

Positionally we have everything we need pertaining to life yet practically we often live in need.

- So how do we bridge supply and need then learn to live in that posture of reception?

Our ability to receive from God is tied directly to our capacity to receive. Spiritual reception is what the Bible refers to as “deep calling unto deep.” When God communes He communes with the spirit of man so our spirit man must be tuned in for us to receive.

- As we tune in by growing our spirit man we enlarge our capacity to receive. **When Omnipotent desires to commune with puny, puny must enlarge their capacity to receive at the level Omnipotent desires to give.**
- So we see then progressive capacities of reception. Different people carry different capacities to receive. The Bible says some are 30-fold, some 60 and some 100. What I am wrestling with is how do you grow to a 100 fold if you are only a 30?

Mk 4:13-20 Jesus explains 4 different conditions and 4 different results.

1. **Warfare Steals Reception v.15** This is why we must become vigilant in prayer and take our stand to possess what is already ours. We are not warring for what isn't ours. We war to appropriate what Jesus has already given yet we have not had the capacity to receive.
2. **Lack of Rooting Forfeits Reception v.17** Being rooted in truth and rooted in your people increases your capacity to receive. The deeper your root the more you are able to receive from every joint that supplies as Paul says in Ep4:16. No root cuts off our capacity to receive.
3. **Worries of this World Choke Reception v.19** Reception requires focus. Deep calling unto deep requires the focus to go deep. Distractions, conflicts, selfish ambition, protected idols...all work to slowly and subtly choke out ones capacity to receive.
4. **Good Soil Multiplies Reception 30, 60, 100-Fold v.20** Please note good soil is the only condition that bears fruit. The first 3 resulted in no capacity to receive or maintain what was once received. Only good soil has the capacity to receive and even then not all receive 100 fold.
 - If we are a 30 fold we must never become satisfied with less than a 30% return on our labor. A 60% return is awesome but still not enough if the Lord is offering 100%.

How do we increase our capacity to receive from a 30 fold return to a 100 fold return?

- We must first deal with the thieves of reception we just mentioned. We must overcome warfare, get rooted in truth, get rooted in our people and eliminate the worries of this world like mammon and all desires that compete with Kingdom pursuit.

1. As we grow our spirit man our capacity to receive is increased: Lk 2:40 Becoming strong in spirit increases our discernment and our spiritual sensitivity to tune in and receive. Receiving from God requires the grace capacity to tune into the spiritual realm.

- To do so we must activate our spiritual receivers. Our receivers are activated through the Word, fasting and prayer, worship, obedience, leaning in, taking risks, receiving communion...All of which increase expectation. Expectation is the doorway to reception.

2. As we ask in faith our capacity to receive is increased. Jm 1:6 It is not selfish to ask for and expect a 100 fold return...it is faithfulness. So to ask in faith is to ask with an expectation to receive. The parable of the Talents shows God expects a return on His investment.

- Being that God is a lavish God, a 100 fold return brings Him the greatest pleasure. Consequently we must come before Him with a 100 fold expectation. We must never satisfy ourselves with a 30 fold return when a 100 fold was offered.
- **Don't be satisfied with a touch from God when you can receive an encounter. Don't get satisfied with a visitation when you can have a habitation.** Strike those arrows on the ground and keep striking them until you have exhausted all the Lord intends to give.
- An expectation to receive all God has is what keeps us positioned to receive.

3. As we ask with proper motives our capacity to receive is increased: Jm 4:3 Personal ambition shuts the door to capacity. When our motive to receive from God is our own selfish ambition we can be sure His supply will be cut off.

- Often it appears people receive even in the midst of ambition, greed and carnality, but I would suggest if we ask with the wrong motives what appears to be spiritual reception may in fact be soulish expression.
- **When our motives to receive are centered in the person of Christ and the advancing of His Kingdom our capacity to receive is increased.**

So in summary our ability to receive from God has to do with our capacity to receive. Capacity has to do with the building of our spirit man and the posturing of our heart. Humility and expectation are the primary keys that position the heart to receive.

Is 66:1-2

So I want to invite us all on a journey together. It is the journey from 30 fold receivers to 100 fold. It is the journey from those who receive the portion to those who possess the whole.