

2017 theme:

"THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE" Pro 12:24

- BE OBIDIENT – DO NOT DOUBT (Part 1)
- BE RIGHTEOUS (Part 2)
- BE TRUTHFUL (Part 3)
- SEEK AND FIND KNOWLEDGE (Part 4)
- DEMONSTRATE WORKS (Part 5)
- RELATE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT(Part 6)
- DO NOT BREATHE ANXIETY (PART 7)
- SOW A SEED OF THANKSGIVING (PART 8)
- BE STEADFAST (PART 9)
- GIVE - THERE IS POWER IN GIVING (PART 10)
- PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAILS MUCH (PART 11)
- THE DILIGENT'S EYE MUST BE OPEN (PART 12)
- GOD'S GLORY RAINS ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM (PART 13)
- STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH (PART 14)
- CLEAN YOUR HOUSE (PART 15)
- SUMMARY: 16 KEY TOOLS FOR AN EFFECTIVE TOOL BOX (PART 16)
- TAKE CHARGE (PART 17)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS (PART 18)

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- **TEXT: Proverbs 13:12**

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” (NIV)

“Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.” (MSG)

As we wait for God to bless our hands, let us lay our hands on the plow - demonstrating our preparedness for the planting of seeds for success and growth.

I saw this principle shape the destiny of a brother who was believing God to start a financial institution. He had a property he had bought long ago for residential purpose. As he believed God to fulfil his promise in his life, he decided he would ‘place his hand on a plow’ in this property.

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• So he picked a room in the property, got a table and a chair and started going there as an office.

At the beginning, all he could do there in a day was read his bible and pray. Some days his wife, who was also spirit filled, would go with him to pray and anoint the place. Gradually, the central bank of the nation granted him the long awaited operating license. Today that property has become the head office of the financial institution he had believed God for.

Brethren, once we take this small step and stay loyal, faithful to God, and keep exercising that gift or talent he has given us, there will be a day when victory will come. We will arise, to be in a position of influence where God would use us in a mighty way – not for our glory, but for His glory.

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• Often times, our response to waiting for God's break through is to sit and whine or at best put our hands on the plow and complain, when it seems like God is delaying to show up.

Brethren, neither of these is a good response.

As we wait for God we must exercise patience.

Bible says ...2 Peter 3:8-9

"⁸⁻⁹ Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself **on account of you**, holding back the End because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change." (MSG).

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- How long, therefore, He takes with each person depends on where He is taking the person from and where He is taking the person to!

In Psalm 40:1-3, David said: "I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord."

For David, God took him from the pit of destruction and took him to the top of a rock (figuratively). Only God knows the time it requires to do that.

The whole duty of man as God goes through this process with us is to FEAR God and KEEP HIS COMMAND.

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It is dangerous to compare yourself with someone else. You do know where God is taking the person from and where He is taking the person to.

Remember that "God is always fair." (Heb. 10).

Taking Small steps by putting our hands on the plow helps us avoid unnecessary wait due to fear to start.

In Exodus 14:15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward.

Taking small steps also allows us to deal with obstacles one at a time:

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● In Exodus 14, God said to Moses as they approached the red sea;

16 "As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land."

If they were not moving forward, this obstacle would not have been removed.

In Exodus 17:¹all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. **2**Therefore the people quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." (They were in the camp standing still)

3the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses **(they did not realize that God had positioned a solution ahead of them. They just needed to continue**

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- their journey a little while so they can see the solution)

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do to this people? **5** Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Pass before** the people (**move ahead**) and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (God prepares solutions to every problem we encounter **ONCE WE ARE IN THE LORD.**

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In I Samuel 17, Saul and his army camped but victory came only when David moved forward. David confidence was only in what He had seen God do and He was confident that God would do it again. He did not know how but as he moved forward with the much weapon He had always had (his staff), God gave him wisdom

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone;

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In conclusion, as we look up to God to make our hands rule, let us take the required small steps

We must take these steps in righteousness

Proverbs 13:12 says “a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”

But **Proverbs 11:30** says “the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life”

It means that our desire can ONLY be fulfilled if we are righteous.

God Bless You!

2017 PRAYER POINTS

1. **Prayer over the message of today**
2. **“Lord, please extend your love to all nations through prayers offered on this alter (Psalm 117)**

Let our prayers be acceptable unto you.

3. **Prayer for Leadership of Nations ...**

- a. Be anointed leaders of honour like Cyrus (**Isa 45:1, Rm 9:21**)
- b. Give them spirit of humility in leadership and wisdom to lead well
- c. Any leader that fails to obey God's Word, should be replaced

4. **Troubles/Wars in nations.**

5. **Leave no room for diseases; cleanse our land**

6. **Missions/Ministries & Missionaries/Ministers**

7. **Marriages, Children & families**

8. **Members of the fellowship – grace to be diligent**

9 **Needs in fellowship**

