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BEING PROMOTED BY GOD

Greetings in Jesus!

We live in a society where people demand their rights to all kinds of privileges and government-paid subsidies. They want what they want, and they want it now. Repeatedly there are those who claim they are entitled to certain benefits because of their race, heritage, lifestyles, or social inequities.

But so much of this kind of attitude is really nothing more than selfish pride. What we see fits perfectly with what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1-2, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.”

Sadly, this mind-set has also crept into the church. I have encountered so many Christians who expect God to use them mightily simply because *they* believe they are ready for His use. When things don't happen the way they want, they get frustrated, disillusioned, and sometimes angry. Quite often, the object of their displeasure is their church and pastor.

The result: they leave their church because “the pastor doesn't appreciate me or my calling,” “the pastor is holding me back in my ministry,” “I'm going no where in this church,” and so on. In some cases, these concerns may be valid. But in a church where the pastor truly seeks God, he will only use people to the extent God tells him. Trust me, one of the more difficult aspects of pastoring is dealing with people who believe they are ready to step into ministry while God is saying, “not yet.”

As I look back on my own life, I can see that I “thought more highly of myself than I ought” when it came to ministry. When I started pastoring my first church, I was not truly ready to pastor according to the pattern in scripture. Even though I was not haughty with pride, I still thought I was ready. The real problem was that I did not understand things from scripture as I do now. What I thought was a mighty promotion from God was more along the lines of a promotion from man and the denomination of which I was a part.

You see, God will promote us in ministry as soon as He can. He *needs* us fulfilling the ministry calling He has designed for our lives so His works and will can be fulfilled in this world. But He will not move us forward before we are ready. This is where the problem arises: so many compare themselves to a standard *they* have established and believe they are ready for ministry. But God will *never* compromise His standards to accommodate our self-perception.

The *only* way we will *ever* be promoted *by God* is if we apply what He has outlined in His word concerning spiritual growth and maturity. We can do a lot of very good things and get involved in various forms of ministering to the point that man will promote us within his religious

systems. But what we should seek more than anything is to grow in God's sight and be promoted in ministry by Him.

These are all things God began to speak to me about last month as I was praying before a Wednesday night service. In fact, I wasn't even thinking about these issues when He began to speak. For the remainder of this letter I will share with you what He said. For the sake of teaching and to have a point of reference I have called this word from Him, "Kingdom Service and Promotion."

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"My potential in Christians is beyond all comprehension. People want a structure and order when it comes to serving Me. This is a reasonable thing to ask and desire because there is structure and order in all I do. But the order I establish is based on spiritual principles, not the things of the world. However, most of My children are seeking an order which is natural and makes sense to the mind of the world. This is why so much of the religious structure developed by man cannot truly enable or equip you to serve Me.

"The structure and order of My calling on your life is based on the way I operate in the spirit. Spiritual order does not always parallel the order of things you see in the world. What you are to accomplish for Me is all relative to Kingdom purpose. This is why you must develop a Kingdom mindset in order to truly do My will.

"Man's religion has taken My church and 'normalized' it according to the pattern of worldly things. My church has been turned into a republic, into a democracy; but the order and structure of My Kingdom is defined by its name: a Kingdom with a King. In worldly terms, you call this a monarchy; but in reality, it is a Theocracy wherein your King is the eternal King of the ages.

"Although you have an eternal will and retain the ability to choose whatever you desire, in My Kingdom this is not so. In My Kingdom, you do not have the right to do whatever you choose; you have the will to make such choices, but you do not have the right. You see, when the King rules, He determines your rights. The Kingdom *cannot* succeed if the citizens of the Kingdom demand the right to determine order and exercise their will to accomplish that order.

"The plans for My Kingdom were in place from before the foundation of the world. The establishment of My Kingdom became a reality for mankind the moment My Son completed His work on earth. The principles of success in My Kingdom are in operation even at this moment. These principles will never change. I love you and honor what I gave you: the free will to choose your destiny; but operation in My Kingdom is based solely on what I have established in the spirit.

"So many of My children have followed after the pattern of the world, for in the world people demand their rights, and demand to be treated in a certain way, and demand the freedom to do as they please. But in My Kingdom this does not work. You can demand all you want, but I will not change. You can set up your own

form of churches and say they are based on My Word, but I will not change. You can establish your own patterns of religion and call them anointed, but I will not change. You can create your own system of teaching spiritual babies and training them for service unto Me and call it all the pathway of truth, but I will not change.

“I have said in My Word to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Do you think I would have said that if I am not prepared to do it Myself? Do you think I would have said that and not given to you the way in which you are to train children?

“You are thinking in human terms and about human children. But I am thinking about spiritual children. It is My responsibility to train up My children; but most of those who are to instruct My children how to be taught of Me are doing just the opposite: they are instructing them how to be trained and taught of man.

“The Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers I use to the fullest are those who have grown and matured in Me. They are continually taught by Me. They are submitted fully to their King and do not allow man to rule their lives and callings. For you see, in man’s system, you must bow the knee to what he has created and established.

“Those I use to the fullest are those who do not demand their rights, but seek only to do the will of their King. They understand they are sent forth to do the work of their King. They realize their own limitations, but see the limitless potential I afford in them; for have I not said that you can do all things through Christ, your King, who will strengthen you with His anointing?

“The order and structure of My Kingdom must be established in you, for I have said that the Kingdom of God is within you. Spiritual maturity translates into promotion in My Kingdom. But again, the order and structure of man which makes so much sense to the mind of the world cannot produce this maturity and promotion.

“In the church that man has created, you must ‘accomplish’ to be promoted. You must develop fleshly talent and ability to be promoted. You must earn your degrees in their system to be promoted. You must have numbers and statistics to be promoted. You must work hard and impress people to be promoted. Your potential for success and promotion is all based on what you can do.

“In My Kingdom, you must submit to be promoted. You must do those things which will cause you to grow in My eyes, regardless of whether man notices. I do not reward based on what you do, the way man rewards; I reward based on how much you conform to My Son and accomplish His works through fulfilling His will.

“This is why there is so much strife over praying in the Spirit, private worship, meditation and confession of My Word, and fasting. While these things are a part of Kingdom structure and order, they make no sense to the minds of those serving man’s church. Most Christians simply cannot fathom that such things can result in

great promotion in My Kingdom and a place of honor and reward before Me. A person committed to these things does not get the attention of man, but will greatly capture My attention.

“Spiritual maturity produces responsibility in My Kingdom. Those who are negligent in their responsibilities, disregard their commitments and break their word are not as mature in My sight as they may be in the sight of man. Conforming to the image of My Son means conforming to the order and structure of My Word.

“I told you earlier that My potential in Christians is beyond all comprehension. I speak as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I speak as God. You have the potential to demonstrate a Christ-like anointing. As Kingdom citizens I desire to pour Kingdom power through you. I desire to release Kingdom anointing into you. I desire you to be a reflection of your King. To do this, you must understand that you do not have ‘rights,’ as the world calls it, in My Kingdom. But you do have privileges and you do have an inheritance. Remember what John the Baptist said, ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’ As you decrease, you are less and less concerned about your ‘rights’ and more consumed by My life in you. You will no longer see it as an infringement of your ‘rights’ to yield your entire life and everything about you to Me.

“The world will take away. Man’s church will take away. I will only cause you to increase, but that increase will be in Me. I am not a tyrant and I am not a dictator. I only have your best interests in My heart and mind. My Son, your King, knows how to govern your life with the love and mercy that led Him to the cross for you.

“I tell you this night to reorder your world and way of thinking. Only submit in a godly fashion to those Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers who refuse to compromise My Word and Kingdom principles for the structure and order of man’s church; for these leaders will not seek to control your life, but they will earnestly seek to be helpers of your joy and lead you to My throne. These leaders will not teach you to compromise for the kingdom of man but will demand spiritual excellence and truth.

“I am waiting to release into you the greatest level of My presence and glory you have ever experienced. Do not try to define it. Do not try to explain it. Just apply what you know and adhere to Kingdom principles and you will go beyond anything and everything your mind has ever conceived about Me.”

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After the Lord spoke this word to me, it caused me to re-examine my own feelings both about what I feel I deserve from God and what He deserves of me. If I truly see myself as a citizen of God’s Kingdom with Jesus as my King, then His desires must govern my entire life. I am to serve Him, not the whims and wishes of a religious organization. As a pastor, I am to stay where He wants me and not take a new church just because the pay and benefits are better, or I want to move to another climate, or because church headquarters want to transfer me. Also, my time is not my own; it belongs to my King.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "...ye are not your own...For ye are bought with a price..." My spiritual life and eternal destiny have been purchased by the blood of Jesus. When it comes to rights, He has every right to expect me to be obedient to His will. As He said above, He is not a tyrant or a dictator; He will rule our lives with a love and compassion which goes beyond the comprehension of our human minds.

One of the greatest concerns many Christians seem to face is whether or not they can achieve what God wants of them. I can assure you, He will never require more of you than you are able to accomplish. He does not expect all Christians to pray, worship and meditate in His Word the same number of hours every day; neither does He expect all Christians to fast the same way or length of time. He "customizes" His expectations for each of His children according to what He knows they are able to do.

As the Apostle Paul said, we CAN do all things through Christ which strengthens us. We can turn from all forms of man's religious designs to embrace only what God has established. We can give Him all the time He desires of us. We can accomplish every task He sets before us. Jesus said, "With God, all things are possible." In ourselves we are limited, but in Christ we can accomplish what man says is impossible. God has sown His life and nature in us; we must never sell ourselves short in what we can do as His children!

In His Abundant Grace,



P.S. - This month I am offering a CD of a sermon that will help you understand more about how to serve and minister for God at your present level of spiritual development in Him. To receive a copy of this sermon, "Operating in Your Anointing," complete and mail the form below.

Don't forget that our 2017 Prayer and Power Conference will be held Sunday, April 23 through Friday, April 28. For hotel information, visit our website, www.jmmgrace.com.

_____ Please send me a CD of the sermon, "Operating in Your Anointing".

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