

You Can't Keep A Captive's Lifestyle When You Have A Deliverer's Destiny!

You will be either a captive or deliverer!

Isaiah 49:1-6

1 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name.

2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

4 But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

5 And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

I. YOU HAVE A PURPOSE!

Isaiah 49:1 - Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name.

Psalms 139:15-16

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

II. YOU CANNOT FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE WITHOUT PREPARATION!

God calls us, mentions us by name, but in order to use us he has to tame our fleshly or carnal nature!

Jeremiah 1:11-12 - The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

The 5 part matrix of Preparation:

1. Prepared with the WORD –

Isaiah 49:2a - He made my mouth like a sharpened sword

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isaiah 50:4 - The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Proverbs 18:20-21 - From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

God prepares us through the study, meditation and application of His word learned through life experiences...

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

2. Prepared with FAITH –

Isaiah 49:2b - in the shadow of his hand he hid me –

This is the place of being hidden in God.

Rom. 10:17 - Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word (a word, a Rhema) of Christ.

The Word helps you find or discover the faith that was deposited within you in seed form when you got born again,

Rom. 12:3 tells us that God has given us a measure of faith, but that faith is grown as you test and try that Word in your life!

Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

3. Prepared with CHARACTER –

Isaiah 49:2c - made me into a polished arrow –

NASV - He has also made me a select arrow

KJV - made me a polished shaft

A crooked shaft misses its target so it needs to be straight to fly truly to its target!

“Polish” means to clarify, examine, to purge so as to brighten –
During Isaiah’s time preparing an arrow was a detailed process:

1. Shearing – Pull off the leaves and small branches

“Prepare” actually means “Cutting something away from something before using it”.

This represents Sanctification to us.

2. Straightening - Put the wood in a frame which would stretch it and slowly straighten it.

This represents the Lord Shaping us.

3. Softening - Pour oil on the shaft to soften it.

This represents The Lord Saturating us with His anointing to love.

4. Sanding - Finally sand it and coat it again with oil.

This represents us being Smoothed... It's a refining time before being used with full potential.

Proverbs 17:3 - The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Deuteronomy 8:2 - Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
2. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
3. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4. Prepared with TIMING –

Isaiah 49:2d - and concealed me in his quiver. –

Galatians 4:4 - But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

Understand that God has a perfect timing for our lives and a good thing at the wrong time is not a good thing at all!

5. Prepared with GRACE –

Isaiah 49:4 - But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

1 Peter 5:5-6

5. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
6. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

2 Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

God's Grace is His empowerment!

A.J. Gordon - "It costs much to obtain the power of the Spirit. It costs self-surrender and humiliation and the yielding up of the most precious things to God. It costs the perseverance of long waiting and the faith of strong trust. But when we are really in that power we shall find this difference, that whereas before it was hard for us to do the easiest things, now it is easy for us to do the hardest things."

III. YOUR PREPARATION ALLOWS YOU TO PENETRATE THE WORLD WITH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL!

Isaiah 49:6 - he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

The arrow needs an archer to release it so that it can hit its target!

Ps. 7:10-13 - My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.

This is the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ is through His Church!

That ultimate target is Salvation to the ends of the earth...

The spreading of the knowledge of God's glory over the whole Earth!

Isaiah 49:7-9

7. This is what the LORD says-- the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel-- to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

8. This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to

be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,

9. to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'
"They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.