

## **You've Got To Turn Your Hellish Opposition Into Heavenly Opportunity!**

Illus: One day, a donkey fell into a pit. The animal cried and whined for hours while his owner tried to figure out what to do. Finally, the farmer decided that since the animal was old, and the pit needed to be covered up anyway, he'd just bury the old donkey right there. He got a shovel and started throwing it in on the donkey a shovel load at a time. The donkey kept up its wailing, but then fell silent. What the farmer didn't see, as he busily worked, was that every time he threw another shovel load of dirt on the donkey, he would just shake it off and step up on it. After an hour of furious shoveling, the farmer paused to rest. To his amazement, he saw his old donkey jump out of the pit and trot away!

Tell your neighbor..."You've got to turn your hellish opposition into heavenly opportunity!"

Opposition is defined as:

1. The action of opposing, resisting, or combating.
2. Antagonism or hostility.
3. A force, such as friction, that operates opposite the direction of motion of a body and tends to prevent or slow down the body's motion.

Psalms 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Anxious thoughts = Divided mind, double mindedness

James 1:2-8

2. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
3. because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
4. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
5. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
6. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
7. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;
8. he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

## Why Does God Allow Opposition?

God uses opposition to prepare us to fulfill our life's purpose!

To make us single-minded so we can as the Apostle Paul says in...

Philippians 3:14... "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Opposition from the outside can bring unity on the inside!

Illus: Country under attack

If there is no common enemy, people start fighting with each other!

Listen, the most dangerous call for a police officer is a domestic violence call...

Because when that police officer starts to deal with one of the spouses, the other will many times attack the police officer!

Two siblings could be fighting, but if you do something to hurt one of them...

You're probably now gonna have both of them wanting to fight you!

When the Church is not being opposed,

When we don't recognize who the true enemy is...

The members start fighting each other!

Judges 3:1-2

1. These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan

2. (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):

When your left brain and right brain don't have a common enemy, they start fighting each other!

You become double-minded!

That's why the enemy's strategy is just to leave you alone for a while!

He's hoping that you will forget that he's even there!

That's why Paul said, "we are not ignorant of the enemy's strategies".

So opposition can actually help you overcome double-mindedness!

Remember this... There are no shortcuts! God always uses Process!

Opposition can actually work for you in the process.

Working with opposition is a key factor in turning our potential into something actual!

Opposition usually brings frustration...

But God likes frustrated people!

Why? Because they care about something!

We need to remember though, that these people have a distinct responsibility to the Holy Spirit to use their frustration for the right purpose!

Frustration is when Heaven is trying to download something into the Earth.

Remember: Opposition is allowed in order to provoke us to prayer and intercession!

The Holy Spirit will direct our frustration while dealing with opposition into meaningful prayer...

Which then becomes passion for the purposes of the Kingdom of God!

This passion then releases the POWER of God to the PEOPLE of God!

But the other side of frustration is this:

If people misuse or misdirect their frustration when they face opposition,

It will be used to sow discord, strife & division instead of solutions!

These people become a source of dissent and division rather than a force for God!

NOTE: Opposition will reveal our true heart and release an impartation that is either negative and destructive;

Or positive and empowering!

I've said it before...When we are "squeezed" whatever is inside will come out!

People will leave their thoughts unguarded many times, especially when they are experiencing frustration because of opposition!

When we allow our thoughts to run unguarded, our flesh usually ignores God's purposes!

Which makes us act... Ignorant!

By reigning in our thoughts, we reject the potential for divisiveness to occur!

There is a law called Cause and Effect...

God is the cause of righteous frustration - the effect depends on your response to it!

Tell your neighbor..."You've got to turn your hellish opposition into heavenly opportunity!"

3 steps turning your hellish opposition into heavenly opportunity!"

**Step One: Understand that opposition is allowed to cause us to have an encounter with God!**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER?

1. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO DRAW US INTO INTIMACY WITH THE LORD:

Paul's prayer in Philippians 3:10, "That I might know Him more..."

The most important reason for a God encounter is intimacy - friendship with Him.

2. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO REVEAL THE FATHER'S LOVE TO US:

Song of Solomon/Songs 2:4 - "He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love."

Romans 5:5 - "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."

The second reason for a God encounter is so God can love on us.

### 3. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO TRANSFORM OUR CHARACTER:

Genesis 32:24-28

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

Jacob (supplanter = holds on to overcome),

Israel = contends with God to not let go of Him until God's blessing was manifested in his life

Saul knocked of his high horse (Acts 9).

People are transformed when they encounter God – they are changed from the inside out!

### 4. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO REFRESH OR ENCOURAGE US:

Acts 3:19-20

19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus."

During Elijah's time of frustration, God revealed Himself to him in a new way.

### 5. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO GIVE US DIRECTION OR CALLING:

Exodus 3 tells us about Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush where he received his calling.

God was calling Moses to do something great for Him

## 6. THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER IS TO GIVE US PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL HEALING:

Matthew 9:20-21 -Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

After people encounter the Lord, they are saved, delivered and healed - transformed!

### **Step Two: understand that opposition should cause us to “stand in the gap and intercede” for others:**

When we have a true encounter with God, it will cause us to start loving people the way He does!

You can't help but be concerned when you see others struggling because we become less and less self centered!

The effect of that is an impartation of the Holy Spirit that empowers us and inspires others!

### **Step Three: Understand that we arrive at a place of being a good and faithful (trustworthy) servant after passing the test of selflessness!**

Step three can only happen when we succeed at steps 1 & 2!

Conclusion:

There is Fruit produced from handling opposition rightly:

1. Prayer that produces results!
2. An understanding of the heart of God!
3. An alignment of our desires with God's desires!
4. The birthing of Holy Passion for the release of an impartation of the power of God to the people of God!
5. Patience – the ability to wait with peace for God to work His plan.

Listen, here's a principle that I've shared before that applies perfectly right here...

We need to always remember that the God, who will not explain Himself before an event, will reveal His purposes AFTER we have trusted.

He may not always speak initially, but He always speaks eventually!

The way we respond to God and His plan is our proving or testing ground!

It is the place between promise and fulfillment!

The purpose of the opposition is to test us to see whether we can inhabit the place that God wants to give us!

Judges 3:1-4

1. These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan
2. (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):
3. the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath.
4. They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses.

EXAMPLE: Adam was given the Garden of Eden to determine if he would be able to rule the earth – he failed!

Success in the arena of dealing with opposition reveals a lot of things about a person:

They have genuine "substance" in their relationship with God!

They understand, at least in part, some of the ways that God works

They do not strive or promote themselves!

They have caught a glimpse into the heart of God & the joy He finds in His creation!

They have positioned themselves to see much "potential" become much "fulfillment"!

Their frustration in the opposition has been redeemed and has made way for an ongoing flow of God's power in their life!

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