



bloodline network newsletter

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YOUR MEASURE OF RULE

We bask in breathtaking joy as we move in and out of the cloud of His glory ... sitting at His feet we hear profound words of hope and peace ... stretching forth our hands we grasp hold of His purpose ... and in the dimness a new order begins to emerge as we walk into His marvelous light! Boundless are the testimonies we have of what God is doing in us, through us and for us ... yet, as awesome as these experiences are, we must remember the mandate specifically spoken to this generation directing us to *go on to perfection*.

Everyone aspires to ascend in their gifting for ministry but most underestimate the significance of developing their measure of rule. This is not for a selected few. God wants to guide us into fulfilling our destiny. It is *here a little, there a little... line upon line ... precept must be upon precept* that God changes the course of our life and we become the ministry of saints walking in the finished structure of foundational truth. We are in a transition of 'becoming' and we thank Him for what we have—but we will not stop here! We will not be full, or satisfied or saturated until we obtain *all* that God determined for us and attain to the full measure of the stature of the man God sees we can be! We hunger after God—deeply immersed in a baptism of submission and desire. We are not afraid to pray for God to use us, mold us and break through us ... and we pray this prayer for our ministry sons likewise because it positions us for kingdom possibility!

Establishing the order of the House and securing the foundation is paramount for our generation! If we are the royal priesthood, then we have a function in building and maintaining the foundation. This is *going on to perfection*—becoming mature, complete and whole in His purpose.

Numerous scriptural accounts exemplify the role of fathers in training sons to fulfill purpose—such as illustrated in the parents of Samson. Not only does God perform the miraculous by birthing a deliverer from a barren womb, but He also speaks His plan for

the child's future purpose—including explicit directions for his mother's diet because Samson must be dedicated a Nazirite from the womb.

Samson's mother told his father Manoah what the Man of God said and he is completely agreeable. But because Manoah has the heart of a true father, he also prays, *"O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."* God honored his prayer and appeared again because Manoah longed to know God's purpose for his son in order to prepare him to fulfill it. His questions are, *"What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"* This should be the longing of every ministry father. Manoah desires to know how to prepare him to succeed in the calling God put on Samson's life.

It was not enough that they witnessed a supernatural experience and actually talked to the Angel of the LORD, but they also see Him ascend into heaven on the flame of their sacrifice! They are consumed with a hunger to understand the full measure—the height, depth, width and length of it ... the full measure of Samson's rule and work. They are pregnant with destiny!

Samson's purpose was to *begin* to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. God did not plan for Samson to do it all himself, but rather only a portion in the beginning process of deliverance. The whole weight of this deliverance would not be on the shoulders of just one man—regardless of his great physical strength! (It would not be until the days of King David that complete deliverance is achieved.) We likewise are wise not to measure the success of our ministry by what we alone can or cannot accomplish but by what we shoulder together in the Body of Christ. God connects the generations to fulfill His purpose collectively as the Body of Christ.

Samson thought that 'who he was' was because of 'what he did.' He thought he was strong because he never cut his hair, yet when the Spirit of God departed from him—so did his great strength. Samson learned that his strength was a divine gift and calls *to the LORD, saying, "O LORD GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes."* Samson finally understood that God was the only source of his strength and His Might was awesome as reflected in the testimony ... *so the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.*

Samson's parents feared death after seeing the Angel of God. Manoah said to his wife, *"We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"* His fear robbed them of a son until he remembered that God had a purpose for visiting them. God showed them not only what He would do but also what they should do. God did not hide what he was doing from Samson's parents because He wanted them to teach and prepare their son to fulfill his destiny.

Like Manoah, we need to know what we have in God and understand the importance of applying spiritual truth. If we learn to put together the measure of the gift with the measure of the rule, we will establish God's purpose for our life! Our gifting is totally of

God—it is how He works in and through us to accomplish His will. Yet our measure of authority is a reward that is gained only through our submission to authority. If we are responsible to do what we know to do and submit to the vision of the House, then we grow in our measure of rule. God calls us and empowers us with gifting but our submission and obedience determines the measure of our rule in the House.

If we do not come under authority, we have no rule. Obedience and submission establish our rule. Fear will not establish our measure of rule. The things we are going through are not things to devastate us but rather to hone the measure of our rule so the gift that is in us can come into its full power and authority. The real call to ministry is that we survived the process, the trials and unstable situations in our life. Process gives us a measure of rule. We are processed into a place of perfection and completion so that what God meant us to be—we are.

The greatest objective for ministry is to know what God is saying. Everything else becomes a result of that one issue. Manoah sought God to discover his son's ministry. Likewise, this will be our desire if we have a father's heart. Manoah desperately wanted to know the measure of his son's rule and the measure of his work. We do not read of the Angel of the Lord defining the detailed events of Samson's life but rather the necessity of obedience and continuance. Therefore if we are seeking more of God's strength to fulfill our purpose, we will not find it by seeking more gifting, but by coveting the domain-gifting that God places on us as our authority to lead and accomplish mighty feats of strength in Him.

Gifts and rewards are not the same. Our measure of rule is not our gift but rather the reward of our continuance—the process that defines our measure of rule so that the gift that is in us can come into its full power and authority. If we are not established in His will and purpose (the vision of the House) then there is nothing to be walking on to perfection in—no election in ministry

Our measure of rule (authority) is not a gift but a reward. God says He is *a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*. Rewards are gained by process. We do not have authority because we have a gift—that is why people can have gifts and absolutely no authority and others have powerful authority and very little gifting. There are some mighty men and women of God who do not have nearly the gifting of others yet because of their persistence and faithfulness in process they have a tremendous weight of authority

The gifts and the callings of God are not the same and together they are irrevocable. If our gifts and callings are separated from each other they can be retracted. But if we entwine our gifting and calling together, it will never be withdrawn because we are processed into a place of perfection, maturity and completion so that we are what God meant for us to be.

Misused gifting can destroy and damage people yet those with a measure of rule will tell people not to look at their gifting except to witness God. Paul didn't want to be a

'somebody' because of his gifting because he knew it was never what he did but the Christ in him. *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.* Jesus demonstrated that authority and power were the result of the depth of His submission.

Our prayers should be to know the measure of our rule (authority) and our work, which is how we function in our purpose through use of our gifting. We seriously need to know our identity and purpose so we are not shaken by the events and situations in our life—forever questioning why things are happening instead of rising above the crisis.

In conclusion, the measure of our rule is the authority we carry. God gives us gifts and abilities and expects us to be responsible in fulfilling our purpose. Can you see how fear can rob you of any reward in your life?

A measure of rule is established as we learn submission, accountability and responsibility in times of trial and conflict. As we learn to be responsible for all things in our charge, we grow in authority. Authority is not a gift but rather the reward of being responsible for what we are called to do. We continued on through the hardships and situations of our life because we were submitted to fulfilling God's will. We were faithful in a few things and He makes us ruler over many things and we grow in authority—our portion of ministry and measure of rule.

May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened so that you likewise know what is the measure of your 'rule' and comprehend the working of His mighty power through your gifting and ability as He 'works' out His purpose to perfection ... *that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man ... that you may be filled with the fullness of God.*