

DECEMBER

FULFILLING YOUR DIVINE DESTINY

In Numbers 13-14 when Israel came to the border of Canaan but refused to enter in because of unbelief, two men emerged as powerful spiritual warriors. One was Joshua, the man who was destined to succeed Moses as the leader of God's people, Israel. The other was a young man named Caleb. When the other ten spies discouraged Israel from entering Canaan because of the powerful enemy forces that lived there, Joshua and Caleb tried to encourage the people to advance as God had instructed (Numbers 14:7-9).

As we have learned, their advice was to no avail. Israel turned back into the wilderness where they wandered for forty years until God raised up a new generation that obeyed Him and entered in to claim their inheritance. Only Joshua and Caleb were preserved by God and allowed to enter the Promised Land and fulfill their divine destinies.

As you have learned, the book of Joshua records the battles of Israel in securing their Promised Land. Then in Joshua chapters 22-23, Joshua gives final instructions and a challenge of faith to the nation of Israel prior to his death. He summarizes their wilderness journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, their regression to the desert for forty years, and their return to Canaan to claim their rightful inheritance. Then he reminded Israel:

And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you. (Joshua 23:3)

As we come to the final month of this year, we too can look back over the weeks and months and clearly see that the Lord, our God, has fought our battles for us. He has helped us through difficult times. He has given us safe passage through the storms of life. He has equipped us to fearlessly confront the enemy. He has comforted us in times of loneliness and bereavement. Like Israel, we can truly acknowledge...

...that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof. (Joshua 23:14)

You have made it through victoriously to the final month of another year. You may have had a difficult journey, but God was with you each step of the way.

During this final month of the year, you will learn how the new generation of Israelites fulfilled their divine destiny and, from their experiences, you will glean principles that will enable you to do likewise.

DECEMBER

Date	Reading
1	Faith That Acts
2	Take Diligent Heed
3	Living In The Land Of Promise
4	Living In The Land Of Promise (continued)
5	A Challenge To Commitment
6	You Are A Witness
7	Your Spiritual Inheritance
8	The God Of Circumstances
9	Focused On God
10	Facing A Monumental Task
11	One Step At A Time
12	Claiming Your Mountain
13	Knowing God's Will
14	Taking The Limits Off Of God
15	Developing Consistent Faith
16	Do Not Be Moved
17	Eyes For The Future
18	The Power Of His Presence
19	No Substitute For His Presence
20	The Manifested Presence
21	Walking Through Floods
22	Positioned For Victory
23	Manifested Through You
24	Right By Your Side
25	You Must Have It
26	A Revelation Of God
27	The Standard Of Evaluation
28	Keeping The Vision
29	Running The Race
30	The Spirit Of A Finisher
31	Not One Thing Has Failed

DECEMBER 1 FAITH THAT ACTS

Joshua was no stranger to the promises of God, nor was he a stranger to acting in faith. When Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan, Joshua was one of two who returned with a positive report of faith that Israel had the ability to possess the land. Joshua believed God's promises and held on to them for forty years through the wilderness wandering.

After the death of Moses, Joshua received a mandate from God to lead His people into their destiny. As we have learned through our meditations this year, faith is a fact, but faith is also an act. Joshua's victories in Canaan required more than just faith in the ability of God. They required faith that was demonstrated by doing what God had commanded.

-On the banks of Jordan, he commanded the people to advance into a flooded river.

-At Jericho, Joshua told the people to march around the city quietly once every day for six days, on the seventh day to march around it seven times, and then shout.

-After the military defeat at Ai, Joshua received orders to rid the camp of sin and then return to battle.

-In the battle with the five Canaanite kings, Joshua instructed God's people to put their feet upon the necks of the kings, symbolizing what God would do to all of their enemies.

-In every battle, Joshua was given instructions unique to that particular conflict--all of which he obeyed.

-Joshua divided the land of destiny exactly as God had instructed.

Continuously throughout the book of Joshua, the man of God is called upon to act in faith. It is not enough to know that God is able to do something. It is not enough to know that He is willing to do something. You must demonstrate your faith and act in obedience to His instructions.

God tells us to give and He will give back to us. He tells us to forgive and He will forgive us. He tells us in the heat of our battle, "Having done all to stand, stand therefore." He tells us "Submit yourselves unto God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." He commands us, "Launch out into the deep and trust Me." He tells us to "Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." He instructs us to cast our burden upon Him and call upon Him in the day of trouble and He will deliver us. He commissions us to go to all nations with the Gospel.

In order to secure your divine destiny you cannot just sit back and say, "Well, whatever happens, will happen." You need faith that will act in obedience to God's Word. In so doing, you will advance step-by-step each day to fulfill your purpose.

You will reach your destiny just as the new generation of Israel did--one step at a time.

DECEMBER 2 TAKE DILIGENT HEED

In Joshua 22 we learn that the major battles for their Promised Land finally concluded. In this chapter Joshua is giving instructions to the eastern tribes prior to them returning to their inheritance. Joshua said:

But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Joshua 22:5)

Here are the instructions the people of Israel were given:

- To love the Lord your God.
- To walk in all His ways.
- To keep His commandments.
- To cleave unto Him.
- To serve Him with all your heart and soul.

Let's look at each one:

-To love the Lord your God is the first and greatest commandment: *"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (Mark 12:29-30).*

-To walk in all His ways means to go the way God directs, not being led by your own ideas and ambitions.

-To keep His commandments means to obey God's Word.

-To cleave unto Him is to be cemented to Him in a union that can never be dissolved.

-To serve Him with all your heart and soul means to do so with your whole being. To the Jews, the word "soul" meant the longing, desiring, and striving part of their personality. The word "heart" referred to planning, understanding, judgment, and will.

Note that Joshua admonished them to "take diligent heed" to these things. That is because these are strategic commands that will keep you on course with destiny. Make these commands your statements of purpose.

DECEMBER 3 LIVING IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

Joshua chapters 23-24 record Joshua's final speech to Israel prior to his death. The major battles of Canaan had been won, Israel had rest from their enemies, and Joshua was old and "well-stricken in age."

In this powerful farewell message, Joshua encouraged the people to:

Look back. Joshua recalled God's faithfulness to His promises in helping Israel secure their Promised Land. He said "The Lord your God has fought for you...He has divided the land for an inheritance." Always remember to look back on how far God has brought you in terms of your destiny. Review the promises He has fulfilled in times past. Looking back to His faithfulness in the past provides faith for the future.

Look ahead. Joshua told the people that God would expel the remaining enemies from their territories. The major battles had been fought and won, but it was up to each tribe to secure their own inheritance. This is true in terms of your spiritual destiny. The major battles were fought and won by Jesus Christ who defeated the devil and secured your salvation, healing, deliverance, and destiny. Your mandate is to act in faith upon God's Word, claim His promises, and secure your spiritual inheritance. Joshua told the people, "You shall possess the land the Lord your God has promised unto you." You, too, shall secure your destiny--just as God has promised!

Look around. Joshua warned the people not to mix among the heathen nations around them or become part of their idolatrous life style. Instead, they were to cling to the Lord their God. The word "cling" denotes the intimacy of a marriage relationship. As you enter into your divine destiny, you must separate yourself from the world. Their standards are not your standards. Their idols of wealth, popularity, and standards of success are not to be your guidelines. You are to keep the commandments of God so that you are not turned aside by the things of the world. Look around and you will see what not to do!

Israel would face new challenges after Joshua's death, but God gave a tremendous promise to them stating "*One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, he it is that fights for you as He has promised*" (Joshua 23:10). The people of Israel were still surrounded by the enemy--as they are yet today--but they had the promise that God would fight for them and give them supernatural abilities to conquer the enemy.

As you contemplate your own destiny, take time today to look back, look ahead, and look around.

DECEMBER 4
LIVING IN THE LAND OF PROMISE
(continued)

We are meditating on Joshua's farewell speech to the children of Israel. Yesterday we learned how he encouraged them to **look back**, **look ahead**, and **look around**. Today he continues strategic instructions for living in the land of promise.

Look out. Joshua warned the people to refrain from forming ungodly alliances with unbelievers. He told them that if they were yoked together with them, then these people these would become snares and traps, scourges in their sides, and thorns in their eyes. Unfortunately, Israel's history reflects that they did not adhere to this warning.

Believers today are called to similar separation from the world: *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"* (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). You are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. You are to be separated, but not isolated because in order to minister to people in the world you must have contact with them. Separation is not the same as isolation.

Joshua also warned Israel to look out for the peril of prosperity, as one can be as easily defeated by prosperity as they are by difficult trials. He warned: *"Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage"* (Deuteronomy 8:11-14). When your destiny is being fulfilled and you are experiencing the good things He has provided, remember that it was God who brought you there.

Look up. Joshua reminded Israel of the faithfulness of God saying, *"... you know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof"* (Joshua 23:14). Joshua told the people to focus on God and His faithfulness. He had kept every promise--not one thing had failed. All had come to pass.

To summarize our meditations of the past two days: When you come into the fulfillment of God's promises and you are living out your destiny, be sure to look back, look ahead, look around, look out, and look up!

DECEMBER 5

A CHALLENGE TO COMMITMENT

Joshua's farewell continues in Joshua chapter 24 as he gathers all the tribes of Israel together, along with their heads, their judges, and their officers. When the people were assembled, Joshua reviewed the faithfulness of God from the time of Abraham, through the days of Moses, and throughout his own lifetime.

Joshua constantly emphasized how God had delivered the nation of Israel from evil, driven out the enemy, and given them their Promised Land. When you are living out your destiny, remember that you didn't get there by your own power. It was God working with you, in you, for you, and through you that made it possible.

Joshua reminded Israel that God had given them a land for which they did not labor, cities which they did not build, and crops which they had not planted. When you come into the fulfillment of your destiny, never forget that it is God who is the Source of these blessings. You did not get there through your own wisdom, talents, or abilities. You got there because of God!

Then Joshua challenged the people to make a new commitment to God (Joshua 24:14-24). He told them to put away the gods which their fathers served in Egypt and on the other side of Jordan.

Joshua told them, "Choose you this day whom you will serve, whether it be the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." Then Joshua declared, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" To live in the land of promise and fulfill your destiny, you will need that kind of commitment. You must make a once-and-for-all choice. Choose this day who you will serve!

Joshua warned the people that in their own strength, they would not be able to serve a holy and righteous God. The same is true for believers. We cannot serve God through self-effort. As long as we refuse to repent and continue to serve other "gods", we cannot walk in fellowship with Him.

Who you choose to serve affects not only your destiny, but that of your immediate family and future generations. Joshua declared that he and his house would serve the Lord, meaning both his immediate and future generations. Generations to come will be affected by your decision regarding God. If you do not choose to serve Him, then by default you are choosing to serve the enemy (Luke 16:13).

Joshua was asking the people to make a definitive decision for God. No more waffling. No more looking back to the past. God had brought them out of Egypt, performed great miracles, preserved them in the wilderness, and brought them into their Promised Land. The question now was: Would they make a total commitment to serve Him? And will you?

DECEMBER 6 YOU ARE A WITNESS

In Joshua 24:25-28, Joshua calls upon the people to confirm their covenant with God. Joshua recorded all the words in the book of the law of God. Then he took a great stone, and set it up under an oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. Then Joshua said:

Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. (Joshua 24:27)

The promises of God had been fulfilled and Israel had reached their divine destiny, but over the years as they lived out their destiny in their Promised Land Joshua knew that they would need a visible reminder of the commitment they had made to God. So he set up the stone as a witness.

We too have a stone memorial. It is the stone that was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus Christ when He arose from the dead securing our eternal salvation. Because that stone was supernaturally removed, we have a witness of His fulfilled promises.

We also have the witness that He appeared to many people after His resurrection. We have the witness of His Word being fulfilled in the Church through signs, wonders, and miracles. We have the witness of His supernatural work in our own lives.

In the closing verses of Joshua 24, it is noted that the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, were interred in the Promised Land. You will recall that prior to his death, Joseph had requested that when Israel left Egypt his bones would be carried to the Promised Land and be buried there (Genesis 50:25). All through the long years of slavery, those bones served as a witness that God's people would be delivered. All through the wilderness wandering and the subsequent military conquests of the land, Joseph's bones were a silent witness that the people would fulfill their destiny.

We have an even greater witness. We look back on an empty tomb that proclaims the same message: You will be delivered. You will be preserved in the wilderness. You will fulfill your divine destiny. You will reach your Promised Land!

Joshua told Israel, "You are witnesses." Jesus told His followers, "You are my witnesses." As a believer, you are a witness to a lost and dying world--that is your destiny.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

DECEMBER 7

YOUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

Throughout this year, you have learned from the experiences of the nation of Israel in preparation for accomplishing your own destiny. The following is a comparison of your spiritual inheritance to the inheritance of Israel.

-God promised Israel material blessings in an earthly location (Genesis 13:14-17). God promises believers spiritual blessings in heavenly places: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).*

-Israel's inheritance was promised long before it was received (Genesis 13:17). Your inheritance was promised before the creation of the world: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:3-4).*

-Joshua led Israel to receive their inheritance. Jesus leads believers to receive their inheritance: *"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (1 Corinthians 8:6).*

-Israel received their inheritance by grace and faith (Deuteronomy 9:1-5). Believers also receive their inheritance by grace and faith: *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:6-8).*

-Israel had to fight opposing foes in order to claim their inheritance (Deuteronomy 9:1-5). You must war against spiritual enemies to claim your inheritance (Ephesians 6:10-18).

-Israel's success in possessing Canaan confirmed to the heathen nations that the Lord was the one true God (Deuteronomy 28:10; Joshua 4:24.). Your possession of spiritual riches proves God's power to the nations also *"... to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:9-11).* When you minister deliverance, healing, etc., people are convinced of the reality of God.

-Like Israel, your spiritual inheritance is one of divine purpose and destiny. God has declared over you: *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11).* Your expected end is the fulfillment of your divine destiny.

DECEMBER 8 THE GOD OF CIRCUMSTANCES

God is a God of circumstances. That is good news because life is made up of circumstances. Many of the circumstances that you face are completely independent of who you are and whether or not you are serving God because "*...he maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust*" (Matthew 5:45). God sends His blessings upon all people, both good and evil. It is actually His goodness, not His wrath, that draws men to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Difficult circumstances of life are sometimes caused by others, happen because of our own actions, or results from events of life occurring around us. Some negative circumstances occur through no fault of our own, while others result because we are reaping bad seed we have sown in the past (Galatians 6:7).

Many of the circumstances that disrupt and disturb our lives continue because of lack of understanding of the true purpose of circumstances. Many who are experiencing challenging times are good Christian people who really love the Lord, and they do not understand why they are experiencing such difficulties.

Negative circumstances are like crushing burdens, and often appear to be beyond your ability to bear. In the natural realm, there often seems to be no answer. But you are not living in the natural realm. You are living in the realm of the supernatural. You are serving an Almighty God for whom nothing is impossible.

There is never a time when you do not have the ability to get an answer for your problems, because Jesus is the Answer to every circumstance of life. Not only is God in control of circumstances, He uses them to manifest His power and glory to the world.

When Lazarus was sick to the point of death, Mary and Martha sent for Jesus to come, but the Lord stayed where He was for two more days. By the time He arrived at Mary and Martha's house, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Because of this terrible tragedy, Jesus manifested His glory in a greater way. He had already performed many miracles of healing, but now He demonstrated God's authority over an even more adverse circumstance by raising the dead (John 11:43-44).

Jesus is the answer to every circumstance of your life and He uses your circumstances to manifest His power and glory in the midst of adverse situations. There is a purpose for every circumstance you experience. If there is a delay in your deliverance, it is because a greater manifestation of His power is going to be demonstrated. He is the God of the universe, meaning that He is also the God of circumstances.

DECEMBER 9 FOCUSED ON GOD

In the Old Testament, when God was preparing to lead His children out of Egypt, instead of their circumstances getting easier, they became more difficult. As we have learned, when God finally delivered Israel, He performed mighty miracles despite overwhelming odds. He delivered His people from the bondage of Egypt and preserved and protected them through the torturous years they spent in the wilderness:

And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: And He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. (Deuteronomy 26:8-9)

God could have chosen some other way to get Israel out of Egypt. He could have instantaneously transported three million people to the Promised Land, but instead He chose to deliver them through a series of miracles such as have never been duplicated.

It often has been said that “it is darkest just before the dawn.” Often when circumstances seem to be most difficult, the way is being paved for God to do such a great work of deliverance in your life that you will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was His power that saved you.

One purpose of circumstances is that God might prove His power and glory to a world that needs to see His majesty. Another purpose is that He might prove Himself to you in such a way that you will learn to trust Him with utter confidence despite the gravity of the circumstances around you.

God is sufficient for your circumstances. He will be faithful in every circumstance of your today and your tomorrows. You can be assured of this because He already has proved Himself faithful in the problems of yesterday. As a verse of the well-known hymn Amazing Grace says:

“Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
‘Tis grace that brought me safe thus far; And grace will lead me home.”

God uses every situation to demonstrate His power and glory and to prepare you to fulfill your destiny. Your circumstances actually work for you when you keep your focus on their eternal benefits:

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-5:1)

DECEMBER 10

FACING A MONUMENTAL TASK

Entering into the land of promise was a huge step of faith for Israel, as entering into your destiny will be for you.

Many years ago, a dear friend of mine had to make a huge step of faith in his ministry, a far greater challenge than he had ever taken before. At that time, God gave him the following prophetic words:

“Do not look to the bigness of your need. Look to the bigness of Your God. Your circumstances are hindrances to seeing My abilities! If you keep your eyes on your circumstances, the devil will use your circumstances to defeat you and accuse the Word of God—the written and the Living Word. Your victory is in keeping your eyes on the bigness of your God and His ability. He has promised to take you step by step by step--not all at once but step by step--And each step will be a miracle!” (Dr. Morris Cerullo)

These words were so impressed on his heart that he had them put on a plaque for friends and ministry co-workers. That plaque hangs on the wall of the room where this devotional guide is being edited right now.

Despite the problems you are facing today, do not look to the bigness of your need, but look to the bigness of your God. Satan brings negative situations into your life to try to get you to focus on these instead of Jesus. When you worry about your problems, you eventually develop spiritually blinding cataracts that can keep you from seeing the Word at work in your life. Do not look at your need. Do not look at your problem. Focus on God and the promises in His Word!

There are some people who seem determined to focus only on their problems. They have looked so long at their problems that their difficulties have become like mountains in their sight, blocking out everything else. They cannot talk about anything else and they do not think about anything else. It actually seems like they do not want to part with their problems because they hold on to them so tightly. It is almost impossible to get such people to turn their eyes on Jesus because they seemingly do not trust God enough to relinquish their troubles to Him.

It is time to change your focus! Your problems are hindrances to seeing God’s abilities. Look to the One who is above all, greater than all, and mighty enough to empower you to meet every situation that you confront. If you are facing a monumental task today, know that He will lead you each step of the way, and each step will be a miracle.

DECEMBER 11 ONE STEP AT A TIME

Repeatedly in your life and ministry--as you continue to fulfill your destiny--you will face monumental tasks. You will either look at these challenges and back away, or you will view them as opportunities for God to demonstrate His power.

Caleb viewed his mountain as an opportunity to gain territory for God. He had carried the promise in his heart for 40 years. When Israel finally entered their promised land, he declared...

Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God. And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God. And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said. And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. (Joshua 14:7-13)

The aged Caleb declared, "Give me this mountain!" So, you may ask, how does one conquer a mountain? One step at a time. Whether it is Mt. Everest, Pike's Peak, or Mt. Shasta--climbers conquer these challenges the same way. One step at a time.

How will you conquer your mountain of debt, your peak of pain, your challenge of negative circumstances? The same way. One step at a time. Mountain climbers have proper gear and training to reach the summit. Through the pages of this devotional guide, you have received training that has equipped you to conquer your mountain.

There is an old proverb that says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." You may have traveled a long time on the road you are presently on, but today God is giving you renewed strength to take another step. God wants you to face your mountain in His power and conquer it one step at a time.

DECEMBER 12

CLAIMING YOUR MOUNTAIN

The greatest power in all the world is not political power. It is not atomic power, military power, or economic power. The greatest power in all the world is the Word of God!

The Word of God, our Holy Bible, is only a part of God's revelation. The Apostle John tells us that the world could never contain all the books it would take to write down everything God has done through Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is not just another written document. It is the Living Word. We are talking about a living God, not just some words of a great leader who has passed on. We are talking about the One Who said, "Let there be light," and there was light; the One Who said, "Let the firmament appear," and it appeared. We are talking about the One Who took a little bit of dust and breathed into it the breath of life and created man in His own image. We are talking about Jesus Christ, who was resurrected from the dead. We are talking about Jehovah, the only true and living God!

You cannot separate God from His miracles, nor can you separate the God of miracles from His Word. God is His Word. Do not get entangled with the theologies of man concerning so-called revelations from God. Do not accept ideas that come from man and are not supported by the Word. Look to the Living Word—God Himself! If He said it, believe it. If He said do it, then do it!

If you believe in God, you believe in miracles. If you believe in Him, you believe all things are possible. The Bible is your guide, your secure resting place. It is the voice of God giving you direction for your life, your family, your business, and your ministry. It is the foundation that stands sure even though the heavens and the earth are shaken. It is the absolute authority in the midst of every circumstance, every problem, every distress, every sickness, and every need. It is infallible. It is unshakeable.

When you know that God's Word is the final word, you will not focus on your circumstances or listen to the negative words of others regarding your situation. You will rise up and begin to do exploits such as you have never experienced in your life.

What mountains are you facing today?

- A mountain of debt?
- A mountain of fear?
- A mountain of broken relationships?
- A mountain of sin and bondage?
- A mountain of sickness?

God's power is greater than your mountain. Like Caleb, it is time for you to rise up and declare, "Give me that mountain!"

DECEMBER 13 KNOWING GOD'S WILL

There is no way that you can have faith for miracles, deliverance, and victory over your circumstances if you do not believe it is God's will to provide these things. You will never fulfill your destiny in its entirety without this knowledge.

Jesus plainly declared what His purpose was in 1 John 3:8: *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* His purpose is also declared in Matthew 8:17 where it says, *"Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."*

It is God's will to save every person from sin: *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). God wants you to experience salvation, provision, health, and victory--and it is important to know that it is His will for you to have these blessings.

God wants you to be a good servant, doing His will from your heart (Ephesians 6:6). He wants you to be perfect and complete in God--this is His will (Colossian 4:12). It is His will that you to give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is His will that the works you do for Him silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Peter 2:15). God wants you to no longer live by the lusts of the flesh, but by the will of God (1 Peter 4:2).

You can never pray the prayer of faith until you know that what you are praying for is God's will. The prayer of faith must be tied to infallibility--something that cannot be questioned. You must know God's will in any given situation if you are to pray about it in faith. You can pray, believing that your request will be granted, when you know that what you are asking is tied to that which cannot be questioned.

The only thing in the world that is infallible, which cannot be questioned, is God's Word – not just His written Word, the Bible, but also the living Word as revealed in Jesus Christ. Everything that ever has been created was created by God's Word. God said "Let there be light" and there was light. He said, "Let the dry land appear" and it was so. He said, "Let the earth bring forth" and it did. When your requests are in harmony with God's Word, they are in harmony with His will and you can have unshakeable faith that what you ask will be done.

The Bible confirms that *"...the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever"* (1 John 2:17). How do you come to know God's will? By reading His Word. Every point mentioned in today's devotion came straight from the scriptures. What other truths about God's will are just waiting to be discovered in the Word of God?

DECEMBER 14 TAKING THE LIMITS OFF OF GOD

A powerful Scripture is found in the 13th chapter of the book of Hebrews, verses 5 and 6: *“For he (God) hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”*

When God says something, then you can say it also with absolute certainty. You can take this phrase--"we may boldly say"--and incorporate into it any promise of God.

- Let the weak say, “The Lord is the strength of my life.”
- Let the sick say, “With His stripes I am healed.”
- Let the troubled boldly say, “God is my refuge and strength, the present help in time of trouble.”
- Let the afflicted say, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers them out of them all.”
- Let those who are frightened declare with boldness, “God has not given me a spirit of fear.”

As you minister in the sphere of influence that is your divine destiny, boldly claim every promise of God, believing it and standing upon it in faith. His promises are the unshakeable, unchangeable, impregnable, infallible Word of the Living God!

In the scriptural record, every time God said something would happen, it did. What He declared could not be questioned because it was infallible. Out of nothing, God created everything that was created by the power of His infallible Word. Jesus Christ, who is the Living Word, spoke and it was done. He said "rise", and cripples walked. He said "come forth" and the dead were resurrected. He said "open your eyes", and the blind saw. He said "come out", and demons fled. This is the same power that Jesus delegated to you to fulfill your destiny.

Once you know that God is not only able but that He is also willing to fulfill His Word, you can go on to the next step: Let Him do it! Yield your will to Him and watch Him work in your circumstances. It is time for you to take the limits off of God! Jesus was limited in Nazareth because of the unbelief of the people and He did no mighty works there.

God's Word is truth because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). God's Word is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). It cannot and will not ever be changed: *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).*

You won't reach your divine destiny by standing on your own perception, wisdom, or understanding. You will reach it by standing on the promises of His Word. Receiving, believing, and acting upon the Word removes every limitation and opens the way for the supernatural manifestation of God in your life.

DECEMBER 15 DEVELOPING CONSISTENT FAITH

Some believers are up one day and down the next. Do you know why this happens? It is because we try to do spiritual things in our own natural strength.

We try to produce love. We try to produce joy. We try to produce peace. We think we must produce faith. We strive to reach our destiny. But you cannot produce love in yourself. You cannot produce joy. You cannot produce faith. And you cannot reach your destiny in your own strength.

How do you change from a roller-coaster up-and-down experience to a faith that never falters but always remains steady?

- Here comes a problem. It hits you, but you keep going on.
- Here comes someone who curses you, but you keep loving them.
- Here comes sorrow in your life, but your joy remains.
- Here comes an experience where you lose everything, but you remain faithful.

You must realize that you have nothing in yourself other than what you receive from above. It is not your joy, but it is Christ's joy which is being manifested in you. It is not your peace but it is Christ's peace. It is not your love; it is the love of God extended through you to others.

It is not your faith that produces the power needed to fulfill your destiny. If you cannot produce love, joy, or peace, why do you think that you can produce faith to achieve your destiny? The Bible says that the Lord Jesus is the Vine and you are a branch:

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5)

The branch cannot bear fruit in itself unless it abides in the vine. The life is in the vine. The Father is the Husbandman. He tends the vine and provides what it needs to flourish. The Father gives all that is needed to you through Jesus Christ. You are simply a branch and you bear the fruit. You do not produce it. You bear it.

When God's faith is being manifested in your life, it never changes or fluctuates. It is always there. The old roller coaster ride of faith is gone. Your faith is consistent because it is God's faith extended through the Vine (Jesus), to the branch (you), to produce the spiritual fruit of (love, joy, peace, faith, etc.). You will be able to live a consistent life because it is God's faith extended to you, flowing in you and through you from the true vine, Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER 16 DO NOT BE MOVED

The Apostle Paul said, "None of these things move me--whether I was naked or whether I was in peril, or whether I was shipwrecked or whether I was being beaten." ... *"none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself"* (Acts 20:24).

Paul declared, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"* (Romans 8:35). Paul also declared, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us afar more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (2 Corinthians 4:17). Paul could make these declarations because the faith within him was not his faith so it was not affected by the circumstances of life. It was the faith of God.

If God depended upon what you call "your faith" to fulfill your destiny, you would be in big trouble. He is not depending on who you are. He is not depending on your skills or abilities. He is seeing you as what you will become when you realize what you possess through Him. Faith is a gift of God and a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Its source is God.

You are not depending on your faith to reach your destiny and God is not depending on it either. He is depending on His faith flowing through you, His love flowing through you, His joy flowing through you, His peace flowing through you. It is not what you are, but what God can make of you by His grace. The faith to accomplish your destiny is not anything that can be worked up or called down—it must be His faith flowing through you as you undertake the task God has given you to do.

As your life becomes a channel through which God's faith can flow, He will produce the proof of His Word through you. God is still the same today; He never changes. *"For I am the Lord, I change not..."* (Malachi 3:6). The apostle declared, *"There is no shadow of turning with God"* (James 1:17).

The people of Israel did not conquer Jericho, Ai, or any other nation in Canaan through their own faith. They did it through the faith God had instilled within them. It was giant-conquering, mountain-moving, wall-smashing faith! It was God at work in them and through them.

Look at your hands. The task that was placed in the hands of the apostles was to share the Gospel to the nations. That same task has been placed in your hands. You will not accomplish this destiny through your natural abilities. You will do it the same way they did--through the faith of a miracle-working God working in and through you.

Look again at your hands. God is not depending on the physical strength of those hands. He is depending on His supernatural anointing flowing through those hands and your life to accomplish His work.

DECEMBER 17 EYES FOR THE FUTURE

Like Israel, you will come into your destiny through claiming and acting upon the promises of God. You can be assured that every promise God has made to you will come to pass. He has sworn by Himself and by His oath:

Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and with them in all disputes the oath taken for confirmation is final [ending strife]. Accordingly God also, in His desire to show more convincingly and beyond doubt to those who were to inherit the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose and plan, intervened [mediated] with an oath. This was so that, but two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which it is impossible for God every to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before us. (Hebrews 6:16-18, AMP)

God doesn't want the standard of how people make promises in the world to confirm His Word, so He goes beyond that. He shows us convincingly and beyond a shadow of a doubt that His promises will be fulfilled to those who put their trust in Him.

God has given you a vision. He has given you a plan for ministry. He has made promises to you. He has assured that you have a divine destiny.

Do not look to the greatness of the task before you, but look instead to the greatness of God. Be like the Patriarch Abraham who "...believed God even though such a promise just couldn't come to pass!" (Romans 4:18, TLB). God gave Abraham a promise and he believed for twenty-five long years for its fulfillment!

Do not look to your own abilities, education, or talents to fulfill your vision. Focus on Almighty God who has declared:

Behold, I will do a new thing ; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

Look to your Lord who has said:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21)

Do not look to the past. Look by eyes of faith into the future knowing that He who has promised is able to perform it. Every promise may not be manifested immediately, but it will be fulfilled. God promised Israel that He would give them the land of their destiny little by little, as they were increased and able to secure it (Exodus 23:30).

DECEMBER 18 THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

As you have learned in these devotions, God has provided you with powerful resources for spiritual battle. The Apostle Paul itemizes these in Ephesians 6:10-18: The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel, the sword of the Spirit, and prayer. These are tremendously powerful weapons for spiritual battle.

But God also wants you to have the ultimate weapon—a weapon so powerful that you will never experience another defeat in your life. He wants you to have the power of His Presence. When we speak of the Presence of God it includes:

- God's omnipresence, meaning that God is always present everywhere.
- God's indwelling Presence, meaning that when you accepted Jesus as Savior, the Holy Spirit came to live within you
- God's manifested Presence, when God reveals Himself in a given time and place in a way you can discern with your physical and spiritual senses.
- God's Shekinah Presence, which comes from the Hebrew word "shakan" and means to dwell continuously in a given location as He did in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

When God commissioned the Prophet Jeremiah, He warned him that the nation to which he was called would ultimately reject his prophetic ministry:

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Then said I, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child." But the LORD said unto me, "Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord...For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." (Jeremiah 1:5-8 and 18-19)

Jeremiah told God, "I'm not able to speak." God said, "You will not only be able to speak, but you will speak to whoever I send you—kings, princes, priests, and commoners. Even though they will fight against you, they will not prevail! Why? Because I am with you!" God told Jeremiah, "Speak the truth! Don't compromise! It doesn't matter if the whole country turns against you. My Presence is with you, so just go ahead and do it!"

When God's Presence is with you, you will have no fear. You will not be intimidated. You will not be afraid of wicked governments. You won't be concerned if they say preaching the Gospel is against the law. You won't be concerned if they say you can't distribute religious material or convert people to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Presence of God is your secret weapon against intimidation! The Presence of God is your ultimate spiritual weapon.

DECEMBER 19
NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HIS PRESENCE

Moses was convinced that without God's presence in his life, he would be unable to fulfill his destiny. When God called him to lead His people to the border of the Promised Land, Moses prayed...

"See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people." And He said, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." And Moses said unto him, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." (Exodus 33:12-15)

Moses knew he must have the presence of God if he was to fulfill his divine mandate. Today, we have many successful programs, amazing technology, and so many religious traditions that we think we can do without the presence of God. Some even substitute a form of godliness that denies the power of God!

But we must have God's presence if we are to be effective. Why? So that people will be able to see that there is something different about us. This was the premise upon which Moses based his plea for God's presence:

"For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? Is it not in that thou goest with us? So shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." And the Lord said unto Moses, "I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name." (Exodus 33:16-17)

In essence, Moses said, "I'm not going to take a single step unless I know that you are with me." Moses knew what we must come to know. He knew that there was only one thing that set Israel apart. It wasn't their army, their wealth, or their religious or educational systems. There was only one thing that made them unique and that was the presence of the living God. God's favor--His manifested presence--surrounded them and served as a shield against the enemy (Psalm 5:12).

Have you ever wondered what would happen if your church or ministry was governed by the presence of God instead of a group of committee members sequestered in some room making rules and decisions?

Moses declared that Israel would be governed by one principle alone. They would operate on one principle--the presence of God! There was no substitute for God's presence.

DECEMBER 20 THE MANIFESTED PRESENCE

God wants His people to experience the manifested presence of God. God told Moses, "My Presence will go with you!" What a tremendous promise! My presence, the great I AM, the Creator of Heaven and earth, My presence--I am going with you!"

With a promise like that...

- ...You can face every army.
- ...You can face every enemy.
- ...You can face every attack...

...because God is going with you! His presence is your ultimate weapon. The enemy can stand up against advertising, organization, and denominationalism—but the enemy cannot conquer the manifested presence of God. The enemy can imitate many things, but he cannot imitate the presence of God. It is impossible!

God's presence was so evident in Abraham's life that even ungodly people like the heathen King Abimelech recognized it. In Genesis 21:22 the king declared, "*God is with thee in all that thou doest.*" This heathen king didn't know the God of Israel. He only knew there was something different about Abraham. It was because God's Presence rested upon Abraham and set him apart from others in his generation.

Prior to entering Canaan, God promised Joshua that no enemy would be able to stand against him. He gave Joshua an ultimate weapon that could not be defeated. God told Joshua:

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. (Joshua 1:5-6)

What was Joshua's ultimate weapon? It was the presence of God! The Lord told Joshua, "I am with you and no power of the enemy can stand against you when my presence is upon you! No enemy can harm you." The enemy cannot defeat the ultimate weapon of God's presence.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:11)

Acts 17:27 states that God is not far from any of us. His presence is never farther than your right hand (Psalm 16:8). Sometimes in the middle of severe trials like Job endured, you may lose the sense of His presence, (Job 3:8-9). But we live by faith, not feeling. His presence still abides: "*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me" (Psalm 139:7-11).*

DECEMBER 21 WALKING THROUGH FLOODS

When the presence of God is manifested in your life, you will not be afraid of what people say about you. You won't worry about what the world says. People won't be able to affect you, cut you down, or destroy you emotionally by their opinions, comments, or actions.

Many believers are burdened down by guilt and condemnation over the past. The presence of God breaks these yokes of guilt and condemnation because...

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

There is no condemnation when you are in Christ. It doesn't exist when the presence of God rests upon you, because if God does not condemn you, then no one else can either--no man, no woman, denomination, or any demon from Hell! There is no condemnation, no intimidation, no fear!

God has promised...

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:2)

When God's presence is with you, you may pass through deep waters, but you won't drown. You may be forced to walk into the fiery furnace, but you won't be burned. You may be thrown into a lion's den, but the animals will not harm you. They may prowl around, roar, and try to intimidate--but they can't harm you.

When God's presence is with you, like Elijah you will be able to face the false prophets of Baal and emerge victorious. You will be able to confront criticizing, backbiting, rebellious people. You will be able to courageously advance into enemy territory with authority because you know you cannot be defeated. God's presence will go with you...

- ...Into the prisons.
- ...Into the ghettos.
- ...Out to the gang turf.
- ...Into the drug dens.

You can march right in and rescue people from the very gates of Hell because you have the ultimate weapon: God's divine presence! With God's presence abiding in you, you can go through any flood, you can emerge unscathed from the fire, and you can endure any trial. You will not merely survive, you will come through victoriously because His presence is with you!

DECEMBER 22 POSITIONED FOR VICTORY

In times past, God manifested His presence:

- In creation: Psalms 19:1
- The earth: Isaiah 6:3
- In the heavens: Psalms 57:11
- In specific geographic locations: Ezekiel 3:23; 8:4
- In the tabernacle: Exodus 29:43
- In a cloud: Exodus 40:34
- In the temple: Ezekiel 43:5

But now God is manifesting His presence in His people:

*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
(1 Corinthians 3:16)*

The presence of God is not just coming on you. It is not just stirring around in you. It is not going to be manifested just once in awhile. It is going to flow, like a river--a bubbling spring--from your innermost being.

When this happens, it will bring about the greatest manifestation of the power of God that this world has ever seen! Jesus said: "...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

That stirring inside of you is not of its own making. That hunger, that divine dissatisfaction, that crying out from your innermost being is not something you have instigated. That longing cannot be satisfied with hobbies, entertainment, or possessions. God is powerfully moving within you and deep is calling unto deep. God is saying, "Now is the time I want to manifest Myself through you."

This Presence of God will take you to places you never thought you would go. His Presence says, "Follow me and I will guide you. I will preserve you. I will lead you into your destiny." When God speaks, you must rise up to respond in faith...

- Even when it doesn't make sense in the natural.
- Even when everyone is advising you be satisfied with the status quo.
- Even when the enemy looms on the horizon on your God-ordained path.

The presence of God removes all fear, intimidation, and all condemnation. His presence prepares you to impact the world. Through His presence, you are positioned for victory!

DECEMBER 23 MANIFESTED THROUGH YOU

There is a tremendous key God has given to enable us to experience the presence of God. It is found in the Old Testament account of King Asa who ruled Judah for forty-one years (1 Kings 15:9-10). The Bible records that...

...Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God: For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: And commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. (2 Chronicles 14:2-4)

At one point during his administration, a mighty army from Ethiopia rose up against King Asa:

And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. (2 Chronicles 14:9)

Can you imagine? A million-man army marching against the small troops of Judah. When Asa saw this great multitude advancing...

...Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, "Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee." (2 Chronicles 14:11)

The enemy was advancing. Asa could hear the sound of a million marching feet. In this time of desperation, Asa turned to God and cried "Help us, Oh Lord...for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude!"

Asa declared his total, utter dependence upon God. Without God's presence, he knew he was in trouble. But he also knew that with God's presence, no man could prevail against him because no man can prevail against God: *"So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled" (2 Chronicles 14:12).*

Asa led the armies of Judah to a great victory over Ethiopia's million-man army. Can you just imagine King Asa's puny little troops advancing against the multitude? Asa declared that there was only one way he was prepared to face the enemy and that was through the presence of God. The presence of God went out before Asa and his army and scattered the enemy before they even got to the battlefield.

You will face many spiritual enemies as you continue to fulfill your divine destiny. You must have His presence continually manifested in your life. As you allow His presence to be manifested in and through you, you won't have to worry about your enemies. They will scatter before you even arrive at the battlefield.

DECEMBER 24
RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE

You may not have a million men marching against you, but your battles are just as big. You may have a mountain of debt, an unsaved mate, an incurable illness, or unsaved and rebellious children. But the good news is that if you meet God's conditions, the power of God's presence will go ahead of you and scatter your enemy.

The condition for releasing this inner life-flow of God's presence is found in 2 Chronicles 15:1-2. As Asa was returning from battle, a prophet named Azariah came out to meet him:

And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, "Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." (2 Chronicles 15:1-2)

If you want to experience the manifestation of God's presence, you must seek Him. Azariah told Asa, "If you seek Him, He will be found. The Lord is with you, while you are with Him."

King David understood the importance of diligently seeking God for the manifestation of His presence. He declared:

I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. (Psalm 16:8)

Do you really comprehend the dynamic manifestation of power that will occur when you set God at your right hand? Not self. Not man. Not your board of directors. Set God at your right hand--seek Him and give Him priority in your life--and you will never be moved.

Seeking God is not going through the formality of pre-printed prayers or lighting a prayer candle. If you want the manifestation of God's glory, it is time to set yourself to seek God's face earnestly and continually.

When you have the presence of God with you and you confront the enemy, someone is going to back down--but it won't be you. You won't back down on your Christian confession. You won't back down in your convictions. You won't compromise. You won't let Satan control your life, your family, your ministry, or your destiny. You won't let down on your spiritual commitments.

It doesn't matter what the circumstances are, you will not be moved. Why? Because the manifested presence of Almighty God is with you--right by your side!

DECEMBER 25 YOU MUST HAVE IT

A sad chapter in the history of God's people is recorded in 1 Samuel chapter 4. Due to their sin, Israel had been defeated in battle, the Ark of God had been seized by the enemy, the sons of the High Priest were killed, and the Priest himself died from an accident resulting from the shock of these events. His daughter in law, who was pregnant, went into labor and just before her death by childbirth she named her son Ichabod, meaning "the glory of God is departed from Israel." Years later, in a humble stable in Bethlehem, another child would be born. This child would be named Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." God came to dwell within believers personally, and corporately in the Body of Christ, His Church.

When God birthed His Church through Jesus Christ, He didn't birth another club or organization. He didn't birth the Protestants or the Catholics or any other denomination. When God birthed the Church His intention was to generate a dynamic force, a supernatural power that would never experience any limits. God was literally making a deposit of Himself, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, into a corporate body.

In the beginning, God walked and talked with Adam at certain times of the day. In Old Testament times, God came upon the prophets and judges to manifest His power and then after the work was done His presence would lift. But when the Church was birthed, God came to indwell permanently in His Body through the gift of the Holy Spirit:

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 John 2:27)

Here is how the Amplified Version translates this verse:

But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides (permanently) in you. (1 John 2:27)

God's presence abides in you permanently. His anointing abides in you permanently. His presence is within you--and it is there to stay! When you battle sickness or disease in your body, you know His presence is there. When you face a financial crisis--you have a mountain of debt and it keeps piling up--God's presence is right at your side. When you are in danger, you do not fear because you know God's presence is there. When you are battle-fatigued, worn, and weary, you do not quit because you know God's presence is with you.

God's presence equips you, protects you, and provides guidance. His presence strengthens you and separates you from the world. It heals, renews, and cleanses you. It empowers your destiny. It is unlimited power. That is why you must have His presence.

DECEMBER 26 A REVELATION OF GOD

In answer to his heart's cry, Moses received confirmation of God's presence. God said: "*My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest*" (Exodus 33:14).

But God's presence wasn't enough to satisfy the desire of Moses' heart. He didn't stop there. Moses pressed on in and boldly asked, "...*I beseech thee, shew me thy glory*" (Exodus 33:18).

There is a difference between experiencing God's presence and witnessing the glory. Many people go their entire Christian lives without experiencing either of these. Moses wanted more than just God's presence and His guidance, provision, blessing, and power. This wasn't enough for him. He wanted a manifestation of God's glory. He knew there was another level of God's manifested presence and so he cried out, "Show me thy glory!"

And he [God] said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." And he said, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:19-23)

God told Moses to stand upon a rock in a place by Him and His glory would be revealed. Today we stand upon that Rock, Christ Jesus. He is the greatest revelation and manifestation of the glory of God that the world has ever seen! Only when we stand there--upon that Rock--will we receive a true revelation of God's glory.

When God's glory was revealed to Moses...

...The Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. (Exodus 34:5-8)

The manifestation of God's glory always results in a greater revelation of God Himself. God proclaimed His name to Moses, revealing the very essence of Who He was. Through Jesus Christ, God is revealing His manifested presence to you, the glory and the very essence of who He is.

DECEMBER 27 THE STANDARD OF EVALUATION

The tremendous flow of the presence of God will trigger an unprecedented spiritual harvest throughout the world. To prepare for this, God is raising up leaders--men and women of purpose--who will be able to work in cooperation together with Him to reap this great end-time harvest.

This world is crying out for leaders of integrity. History reveals that many forms of government which started with good intentions ultimately failed--and in most cases the failure was due to the moral downfall of leadership.

You can be the leader God is seeking! You are a steward set over many valuable resources which He has entrusted to you. The greatest resource with which you have been entrusted, of course, is the Gospel. But you are also responsible for other things--finances, material things, and spiritual gifts--which He has given you.

The test of any man, woman, or ministry is not spiritual gifts, power, or natural abilities which are evidenced. The standard of evaluation is spiritual fruit: *"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them..." (Matthew 7:20)*. Spiritual fruit--qualities of character and conduct--reveals what a person is really like inside (Luke 6:43-45).

Your reputation is how others perceive you to be. Your character is who you really are. In Revelation 3:1, Jesus spoke of a church that had the reputation that they lived, but in reality they were dead--that was their true character. It has been said that the true test of character is what you do when no one is watching.

The men and women God who will be placed on the cutting edge of this end-time spiritual harvest are those who will use every resource at their disposal to fulfill His plan. God is not looking for educated men and women with natural abilities, charisma, and great personalities. He is seeking those who will be faithful to accomplish His purposes: *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2)*.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus told a parable about servants whose master gave them resources called "talents" -- a New Testament term for money. Those who were good stewards and used their funds wisely were judged faithful and rewarded. Those who did not use their resources properly were held accountable.

The qualifications God seeks as He is raising up leaders to reap this end-time harvest are not natural abilities, education, or a great resume. He is more concerned with your anointing, character, and conduct. He requires that you are faithful. Faithful to your spouse. Faithful to God. A faithful servant. Faithful to your destiny. Christ-like character is God's standard of evaluation.

DECEMBER 28 KEEPING THE VISION

One day, while traveling down the Damascus Road, the Apostle Paul received a vision from God that changed his entire life—his purpose, his plans, his nature, even his name. In this vision, God told Paul...

...Rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee. To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Acts 26:16-18)

God gave Paul a vision of the multitudes of Gentile people. The term "Gentiles" refers to everyone who is not a Jew, so it means Paul was called to minister to nations of the world other than Israel.

When God gives you a vision, He also provides spiritual and practical strategies for fulfilling it. God gave Paul objectives—a detailed plan—for ministering to the nations. Paul was to...

- Open their spiritual eyes from darkness to light.
- Turn them from the power of Satan to God.
- Lead them to forgiveness of sins.
- Reveal their spiritual inheritance made possible by faith (Acts 26:16-18).

Paul's vision became the central focus of his life. It was the force that compelled him to endure hardship, persecution, discouragement, shipwreck, and physical abuse. It motivated his writing. It directed his travels. It dictated his life style.

Paul remained true to his God-given vision. Despite discouragement, rejection, and persecution, he never lost his focus. God raised him up to be one of the greatest leaders in New Testament times and his ministry is still impacting multitudes through the tremendous books he authored under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Near the end of his life, the Apostle Paul reflected back over his ministry and declared, *"I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision"* (Acts 26:19).

God is looking for men and women who will remain true to their vision. Abraham caught a vision and never looked back. Moses was able to lead Israel to the edge of their Promised Land because he had a vision. Joshua and Caleb held on to their visions for forty long years in the wilderness as their generation perished.

In order to fulfill God's will for your life, you must live out His will for each day. Then, at the end of your journey you will be able to look back over a lifetime of fulfilling God's plan. You, too, will be able to say "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

DECEMBER 29 RUNNING THE RACE

Paul compared fulfilling his destiny to running a race. He said, *"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain"* (1 Corinthians 9:14). Reaching your divine destiny is not a brief sprint. It is a lengthy, sometimes grueling race.

A tremendous true-life example is drawn from the 1954 British Empire Games held in Vancouver, British Columbia. The mile race that was held there is considered to be one of the greatest races of all time. It pitted the two fastest runners in the world against each other: Roger Bannister and John Landy.

From the start, the race was clearly between Bannister and Landy. Unlike most runners, Landy's method was to move to the head of the pack early and by the sheer power of his physique outlast the other runners who would reserve strength for a final thrust at the finish. Following his usual approach, Landy started fast.

Soon the other runners were dropping back, leaving Landy out in front with Bannister trailing him. Landy and Bannister were maintaining a blazing pace, one that would surely set a new world record. But who would get to the finish line first?

As the runners came to the final lap, Landy was in the lead ahead of Bannister, as he had been throughout the race. Ahead of him stretched the finish line. Somewhere behind him was Bannister. Suddenly, a deafening roar arose in the stands. Landy knew what it meant. Bannister was making a last desperate effort to catch him.

The finish line was getting closer and closer, and the roar of the crowd was growing louder and louder. Landy knew that Bannister was catching up, but where exactly was he? Just before crossing the finish line, Landy turned his head to the left so he could see where Bannister was. Seizing the opportunity, Bannister threw himself past Landy on his right side and beat him across the finish line. Looking back had cost Landy the race! This famous race, called the "miracle mile", is enshrined in stone in Vancouver. There are two runners, one turning his head to look back as the other thrusts himself toward the finish line.

As a runner in this race of life, you are to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and focused on your destiny. Do not be distracted by the roar of the crowd. Do not be distracted by other runners. Do not look back to the old life:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

DECEMBER 30 THE SPIRIT OF A FINISHER

Judas. Demas. Diotrophes. New Testament characters with one thing in common: They started to serve God, but did not finish well. They abandoned their faith and aborted their spiritual destinies.

Then there are also men who failed at some point, but still finished well: Moses, David, Jonah, Peter, and John Mark.

The difference between those who fulfilled their divine destinies and those who did not was perseverance. Those who succeeded set their hearts and minds to finish their course, no matter what the cost. They begin with the end in mind. They refused to give up. If they fell down, they got back up again.

The story is told of a 19th century violinist named Nicolo Paganini. He was playing before a packed house, when one of his violin strings snapped. He continued to play, improvising beautifully. A second string broke. Then a third. Three limp strings dangled from the violin, but the master performer completed the difficult composition on one remaining string. The audience jumped to their feet filling the hall with shouts of "Bravo, Bravo". This is the kind of perseverance you will need in order to fulfill your destiny.

Another example is a man named Abraham who had quite a record of failure: At age 22 he failed in business. He ran for the position of United States legislator at age 23 and was defeated. He failed again in business at age 24. He had a nervous breakdown at age 27. He ran for speaker of the house at age 29 and was defeated. Subsequent defeats followed as he ran for elector and congress--three times--the senate twice, and vice president. But at age 51, Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States and fulfilled his divine destiny. He led the nation States through one of the darkest periods of its history.

Then there was the minister whose journal recorded his repeated failures:

- Preached at St. Anne's asked never to return.
- Preached at St John's--deacons said get out and stay out.
- Preached at St Jude's--can't go back there either.
- Preached by the highway and was kicked off the street.
- Preached in a meadow and was chased out because someone turned a bull loose during the service.
- Sunday night I preached in a pasture and 10,000 people came to hear me.

That man was John Wesley, who became one of the most revered ministers of all times.

To fulfill your divine destiny, you must determine you will never give up..."*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 1:6). You must develop within you the spirit of a finisher!

DECEMBER 31
NOT ONE THING HAS FAILED

During this past year you have followed in the footsteps of God's people, Israel, as they journeyed to their Promised Land. You have studied many spiritual lessons along the way, learning from both their failures and successes. In today's meditation, we look at Joshua's last words to God's people. Joshua said:

And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof. (Joshua 23:14)

In crossing a trackless desert, Israel came to know God as their protector and guide. They came to know Him as their provider, as they wandered for forty years without their shoes and clothing wearing out. They came to know Him as their deliverer in battles, and they came to know Him as the God Who heals. It is our prayer that during your spiritual journey of this past year that you too, have come to know God in each of these dimensions.

The Prophet Isaiah declared that the plans of God will not fail:

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. (Isaiah 42:4)

This prophecy means that the Lord will not fail nor be discouraged until He establishes justice in the earth. Jesus did not fail at the cross or become discouraged on His way there. He set His face like a flint to reach that heaven-set goal of becoming the supreme sacrifice for sin. He was not discouraged when others misunderstood Him, mocked, persecuted, forsook, and denied Him. He pressed on until His destiny was fulfilled until He was able to declare from the cross, "It is finished!" Today He continues to be faithful as your intercessor in the throne room of God.

As you labor to fulfill your destiny, do not become discouraged if the journey seems long and arduous. When the time is right, Jesus will appear in the clouds of glory to catch His people up to the heavens and He will begin the judgment which will bring justice on the world. Draw strength and determination from the God who cannot fail. March forward to even greater victories during the coming year. Moving forward under the mandate of God to fulfill your divine destiny, allow nothing in heaven or on earth--not even the forces of Hell--to hinder you.

As you look back over this past year, make this final declaration of praise to God:

"Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto His people...according to all that He promised: there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised"
(1 Kings 8:56).

CONCLUSION AND COMMENCEMENT

You have been on a journey of divine destiny. Along the way, you have had to deal with some strong negatives--disobedience, your tongue, and the appeals of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

You also learned the positive strategies of developing a vision for destiny and following the pathway that leads to it--even if it sometimes winds through the desert. You studied about reprogramming your mind and heart and disarming deception.

You received power to produce the proof that God is still a miracle-working God who can save, heal, and deliver. You discovered how to go beyond the point of blessing in your spiritual life and enter into the realm of power. You received strategies to conduct victorious spiritual warfare and learned how to access the divine provision necessary to fulfill your destiny.

You are at the conclusion of another year, but your journey of destiny has not concluded. Achieving the purpose for which you were created is a life-long quest that includes worshipping God, walking with God, and working for God. Like graduation day at an educational institution, this final day of the year is not the conclusion of your journey, but a commencement of it.

Through the pages of this guide, you are well on your way to destiny. Regardless of the obstacles you may face in the future, remember God's promise:

*God said, "My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."
(Exodus 33:14, MSG)*

As Israel was admonished to never forget what God has done in the past, so should you remember:

*Their strength and weapons were not what won the land and gave them victory! You loved them and fought with your powerful arm and your shining glory.
(Psalm 44:3, CEV)*

As the sun sets on the final day of this year, take time to meditate on the following scriptures regarding destiny from the Passion Translation of the Bible.

*For the Lord has a hidden storehouse of wisdom made accessible to His godly lovers. He becomes your personal bodyguard as you follow His ways, protecting and guarding you as you choose what is right. Then you will discover all that is just, proper, and fair. and be empowered to make the right decisions as you walk into your destiny.
(Proverbs 2:7-9, TPT)*

For God sees everything you do and his eyes are wide open as he observes every single habit you have. Beware that your sins don't overtake you and the scars of your own conscience become the ropes that tie you up. Those who choose wickedness die for lack of self-control for their foolish ways lead them astray, carrying them away as hostages-- kidnapped captives robbed of destiny. (Proverbs 5:21-23, TPT)

Set your gaze on the path before you, with fixed purpose, looking straight ahead. Ignore life's distractions. Watch where you're going! Stick to the path of truth and the road will be safe and smooth before you. Don't allow yourself to be sidetracked for even a moment, or take the detour that leads to darkness. (Proverbs 4:23-27, TPT)

As you continue your journey to destiny, you can be assured that:

... He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you. (Philippians 1:6, AMP)

You will fulfill your divine destiny. You will complete your spiritual journey victoriously. Have a safe trip and we'll see you there!