

Welcome – Live stream –

SLIDE -I am excited to bring you the word this morning. I want to start with a question for you: Have you ever been in the middle of a situation, and had the realization that God was orchestrating the events.

This happens a lot more than people realize. You might be frustrated that you got a flat tire, but that delayed you a few minutes so that you would not be in a car wreck. Maybe you just happened to be in the right place at the right time and you heard someone talking about a problem that you can solve.

Today we are going to be talking about GPS : Gods Positioning System.

SLIDE Psalm 37:23 New King James Version (NKJV)

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

God positions us a lot more that we realize, and we need to be intentional about noticing it.

SLIDE God positions through leading -

You might be saying Doug can we unpack that a little bit, how does God lead? I am going to break this down into three areas, it is not limited to these three areas, but this is a great launching point.

Unction and Feeling – Dreams - Challenges – Words

Sometimes we use christianese words and unction is one of those words.

If you have ever heard someone say I felt the unction of the Lord, maybe you understood what it implied, but you thought, what does that mean?

SLIDE Websters Definition of unction

1 : the act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing

2 : something used for anointing

SLIDE Acts 10:38 is a great example of this, it says:

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit

and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

SLIDE I like to look at the unction of the lord or the anointing as Gods presence and ability in your life to empower you to do something.

God orchestrated our steps last weekend through an unction of the Lord and it was pretty awesome.

It was Tax Free Weekend, for those of you who went shopping, I am glad to see that you survived... it was like hunger games

We were in ATX visiting Family, shopping for clothes, and having a blast. As I was getting dressed yesterday morning, I felt the Holy Spirit speak to my heart to wear my "I serve a miracle working God" shirt. As I put the shirt on, I felt the Lord speak to my heart that a minister would comment on my shirt and I was supposed to share a word with them, "trust the transition."

We go about our 11 hour day of shopping and we were exhausted, I was ready to go home and sack out. We had one more store we were supposed to go to, Kohl's. Jessica was pulling it up on GPS and asking me which one to go to. I am not from ATX, so I told her to just pick one. (little did we know it was across town, and there was actually a Kohl's a couple of blocks from where we were at.)

At this point I felt about as spiritual as a sack of potatoes, I just wanted to get in and out quick. As we stood in line, the woman at the register said "oooooooooh let me see your shirt!" I walked over to her and said, "when people mention my shirt, I like to ask them if there is anything I can pray with them about, but before I do, I have to ask, are you a minister?"

The woman let out a little gasp, she was shocked! She started trying to cram about a 15 minute conversation into 30 seconds. I stopped her and said before you tell me anything, I want you to know that God wanted me to share something with you.... "Trust the Transition." The look on her face was worth a million bucks, she had heard from God.

Keep in mind, I am aware of the fact she that is working the register, I am trying not to get her in trouble. At that moment she no longer cared, she decided we were going to have some church in the checkout

line of Kohl's. She had a mini-praise break. This other woman walks up to us and says "MMMMMMmmmmmmmmmm I can see the Glory of the Lord on yall!!!" I prayed with them and Jesus was lifted up. No one standing in line seemed to care. It was awesome.

God's greatest motivation is love. This woman was at a season of her life where she felt led to transition into ministry and she was taking classes to become a chaplain. Whenever you are in the middle of a transition, it is natural to question if it is the right move. God loves her so much that he orchestrated another person's steps to share that encouragement with her. The way that word was phrased was meaningful to her, the timing of the word was meaningful to her. It was a Holy Ghost recon moment in her life.

I felt unspiritual and exhausted from 10 hours of shopping. The truth of the matter is that we have a whole lot less to do with it that we like to admit. If God can speak through a donkey, he can speak through you. We just simply need to be willing to listen and step out of the boat. When you feel the still small voice leading you, be sure to follow.

As followers of Christ, we have got to Trust God's Positioning System.

It is easy to trust God when his anointing / unction is leading you into a wonderful situation.

Sometimes **SLIDE** God positions us through challenges

Let me rock your theology a little bit:

SLIDE Luke 4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

SLIDE Some people misunderstand this verse. They say Doug, in the Lord's prayer Jesus prays lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into temptation? The answer is No!

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, for a season of fasting and prayer.

It is very important to understand this:

When you follow the unction of the Lord, it does not exempt you from temptation of testing.

God sometimes positions us using challenges uncomfortable situations. If Jesus was not exempt from temptations and trials, what makes you think we will be.

If you were told becoming a Christian means you will never face a difficulty, you are on a collision course for your faith. Becoming a Christian does not mean that you will never face a difficulty, it means you will never face it alone.

I usually clearly define my points, but they all bleed together, so I will be bouncing back and forth between Dreams and Challenges, because they work hand in hand.

This is a great place to talk about the next topic. Someone who was refined by difficult situations.

SLIDE God Positions through Dreams

Lets talk about Joseph for a moment, in Genesis 31 God gives Joseph a dream that he would rise from among his brothers and be a ruler.

God will often birth a dream in your heart, but sometimes when you share that dream with the wrong people they will hate you for it.

Josephs brothers sold him into slavery. But he held onto the dream in his heart.

He was falsely accused and thrown into prison and he still held on to the dream in his heart.

God gave him wisdom to interpret others dreams – and he was forgotten.

Jacob faced so many challenges that he is one of my heroes of the faith. Every time he was tested, he moved to the next level.

But lets get real, that was not comfortable

He was forgotten and left in prison and it was the darkest moment in his life, but church hear my voice. In the middle of the darkest moment

of his life, in the middle of the greatest test of his faith... That is the moment that God brought his dream to pass!

God fulfilled his dream, and brought promotion.

But it was only after YEARS of difficulty and testing. That is not a word that people usually want to hear, but when you are in the middle of a storm, it is sometimes the word you need to hear.

SLIDE James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

CHALLENGES SLIDE There is something about facing challenges that produces a spiritual toughness. I have seen this verse in action in peoples lives, in the cycle of discipleship.

When someone is saved, they are spiritually dead, when they are born again, that is a perfect term for it because they are a spiritual baby. Just like children grow up, so a new believer spiritually grows.

If they never face a challenge their growth is stunted and they stay a spiritual child. Children are typically ware of their own needs and do not give much thought to the needs of others.

In the spiritual sense, if someone remains a spiritual child, they are a self centered chritian, they don't know how to feed themselves, if they stub their toe they run home crying, thinking they will die from a stubbed toe,

But as they grow and they stub their toe throughout the years, they realize the stubbed toe is not going to kill them, that although it hurts for a moment, they will persevere.

I have stubbed my toe so many times that I expect to stub my toe once in a while. I am not surprised when I stub my toe.

Whenever I face a challenge, or a trial, I am not surprised. It has happened so many times, I have become accustomed to it.

I have stubbed my toe so many times, my toe has gotten pretty tough.

That is why it is so tragic when young Christian leaders and thought leaders stub their toe. There is such a lack of maturity that when they stub their toe, or face a challenge or a crisis of faith, they abandon their savior.

the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

If you fail the test, don't worry, you will probably get to take it again.

So God positions through Unction & feelings, Dreams, Challenges, he also positions through Words:

Lets look at the spiritual gifts:

SLIDE 1 Cor 12: 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, SLIDE 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

SLIDE Lets talk about the different types of Words

Word of Prophecy: This type of word speaks to a persons future, or current situation, it typically brings some direction

Word of Knowledge:

This type of word is probably my favorite. It is where God speaks something to your heart that only he knows. I have seen people who have had very specific words of knowledge regarding physical ailments, words regarding situations. It lets you know God is aware of a situation

Word of Wisdom:

This is self explanatory as well, sometimes the Lord gives you a wisdom regarding a situation.

Maybe you have a word on how someone can relate to a wayward child.

I have had a word of wisdom operate in my personal business on many occasions.

One time I was witnessing to people in a drug house, I felt the Lord speak a word of wisdom to my heart about some basic needs that they had.

Many times in worship someone will come forward with an exhortation that is a word of wisdom.

The beautiful thing about GPS, is when you find out that you are lost, you hear it say rerouting.