

Voice of Triumph



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"The fear of the Lord [reverence] is the instruction of wisdom: and before honour is humility." Proverbs 15:33

TIMING PRIORITY

To have the root of PRIORITY position yourself as a **timer**. Being a timer always defines proper timing for perfect beauty. You shave off waste, spoil, and consumable. 1) The law of excluded alternative is, "doing one thing means you are not doing something else." Some things in life are so invaluable that it should purposefully remain unshared to preserve its beauty. This is one key to honoring both intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships. In the past century, transportation has progressively changed from walking to flying. Having many conveniences redeems the time needed to get things done so we will have more time to spend with God. The way you and I seek God won't ever change. You can easily put things in the place of developing intimate fellowship with God, but you cannot ever replace him with even good Samaritan or ministry works. 2) Refuse accepting guilt from honoring yourself with planned recovery time. Mark 2:27 declares, Sabbath or "weekly rest day" was made for man. Measure your own treasure to give and receive from yourself daily. You can actually reject a gift from self: you can stand yourself up after scheduling time for yourself. Unfortunately, ashes can invade your territory if you neglect frequent beauty treatments. 3) Prioritization helps you process things according to sequence and importance. Before excess is overflow. Before overflow, fullness. Before fullness, wholeness. Before wholeness, balance. Before balance, order. Before order, chaos. Perchance, fullness preceded wholeness. With a bottomless cup, your contents will be lost. Consider these four things to keep first things first. **Plan before you build**. Planning anticipates your moves in advance. I want to share a principle I learned: "The more you plan, the more time you will have free." Out of an eight-hour workday if you spent the first hour *planning*, you will have six hours to *process* your plan, and one hour to *play*. Increasing your planning time to two hours, you have four hours to process, and two hours to play. Planning therefore redeems the time. **Customize your plans**. Personalization gives you what you desire when you desire it. "Prepare your work outside, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build and establish your home," Proverbs 24:27. Identify your best time of day to work and keep it free of interruptions. Some prefer to work on one task at a time, while others, prefer to multitask. Horses are fast-paced; mules, slow-paced. **Build what you customized**. You can maintain rhythm even if your emotions are not present to support momentum. The love of God obliges you to see your project from start to finish. Its qualities guide, gauge, guard, and govern focus even when subject to faint or failure. Agape love takes you beyond feelings: It is timeless. **Develop a life path even if you don't see any footprints**. Define the sequence of events that must happen to make the whole plan work correctly. It becomes the lifeline of a project so you won't deviate from the plan. "Spend bulk of time on critical inch, instead of what's convenient." Richard Carlson, Ph.D.

RESPONDING HUMILITY

To have the fruit of HUMILITY position yourself as a **responder**. Humility helps you to bend without breaking: after earning a reputation for greatness, you gladly serve what first seems insignificant. Your willingness to submit to the mission illustrates continued value. Will you yield to a simple act of service? It displays courageous strength, not cowardly weakness: "the meek shall inherit the earth". Understanding humility separates your "who" from your "do". It addresses who you really are by challenging what you are willing to do. When you know who you are, what you do will never be factored in as a reason why you don't have to a task. The result: you can serve anyone, anywhere, anytime, in any way. You can only be humiliated if you do **not** know who you are: your hidden agenda for self-promotion makes demands. "Humble yourselves in the sight of God, and he shall lift you up," James 4:10. As a son or daughter of God, you inherit the kingdom of God (KOG). As a servant, you serve the KOG's expansion on earth. Before your day of honor, God often hides you from those around you until the day he promotes you before the eyes of your enemies and persecutors. Like Joseph, you may be a KOG undercover agent. Exalted to the palace from the prison because he served well along the way. If your current assignment seems degrading, it is your opportunity to bring that task up the level of beauty needed. Humility is not humiliation. There is distinction between the two. Learn to use humility to face humiliation. Humility shows your immediate compliance to a valid request. God never asks you to do anything illegal, unethical, or immoral. His command never accompanies compromise, if it does than every order has an option. Abandon yourself to his will without counting costs. Chosen for promotion, you are indeed on God's honor roll.

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Thought for Transformation

See the value in others so you can respond to serve them instead of reacting to not being served. Overlooked coal is a diamond unseen. I remember someone saying she did not chose the smallest item because it did not stand out. We lose opportunities because we may not look past the packaging. Grasping at reward, we may tend to reach for the largest item, thinking, big is better. The best things often come in small packages. Do not despise the day of small beginnings. Maturity of character is God's qualifier for lifetime promotion. Jesus prepared 30 years for a 3-year ministry. By choice, he humbled himself to obey the dictates of the cross. Moses prepared 80 years for a 40-year ministry. He chose to suffer pain with the children of God rather than enjoy seasonal pleasures of sin. The secret: remaining teachable. They shadowed God who showed them footprints. Fully covered, God took them under his wings. The Lord's gentleness made them great. Commit the pride of life under the blood of Jesus so you can receive God's full honors. Promotion does not have to be short-lived. Read this observation by August B. Bland. What is tasteless, colorless, and sizeless yet it is the hardest thing to swallow? The answer: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall," Proverbs 16:18.