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Perseverance

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# Keeping encouraged

One year for me is like nothing, I am always surprised by how fast the years go by. I asked Ed Silvoso are you thinking about retiring? He said: No! Why would you say that? I was wondering, because my team asked me when I am retiring all the time.

How do you keep encouraged? By keeping the greatest challenge in front of me instead of behind me. There are such beautiful things going on! God is moving powerfully!

# Expanding your tent

Isaiah 44 word

Capacity is so important! The days ahead have to be exciting for you!

3 big things, bigger than we have ever been. It touches your inadequacy buttons. As God expands our matron, with it comes more criticism. Like Jesus said: Well you will receive a hundred times more in this life and tribulation.

The greater your sphere of influence the more pushback there is to your message. We’re planting a church now with Joaquin Evans. Everyone in Texas is excited to plant. I hope it stays that way, because typically you're excited when the small guys come to town, not so much when the big guy comes to town.

# Am I ready?

Have you grown your capacity? What is ahead of you? My inside world I found me asking myself: “Am I up for the task? Do I have what it takes?”

The evaluation can be dangerous, but also helpful! Am I ready? You want to build a tower completely; did I count the cost? Do I have what it takes?

We are in a world where we have to ask: are we up to the task? Where something was black and white 20 years ago, now it is harder. Am I ready for the days ahead? They're going to be awesome and turbulent! If you're a great white water rafting it is going to be exuberating.

I really want us to prepare for the days ahead!

# High school and boot camp

Now between high school and boot camp there used to be a draft. They ended it the month before of high school. I would've been a Canadian! You have to have a different attitude when you go into boot camp, than when you came into high school!

You got off the boot camp bus, in high school you didn't want to take classes and you just took a day off. There is something about the culture of high school that gives you lot of grace to behave less than stellar. If you are in the army when you get off that boot camp bus ready for boot camp you need to have a totally different attitude to even survive!

In America, the typical experience is the sergeant screaming at you, shaving you bold and all the same uniform. In High school you're trying to be cool, there ain’t no cool in the army! In order to make that transition from high school to the service have to have a huge shift in the 200-mile bus ride. Something has to dramatically change!

Because if you have the same attitude you’re not going to last long! I am not saying the days ahead are bad, but they are different!

# Make your own fire

To succeed here is different than the military. (not survive but thrive) You have to shift the way you think! I wasn't talking about your attitude from bad to good, but from lots of things being done for you to start your own fire! You're about to be a 100% responsible for the Kingdom in and around you!

You may go places that pour water on your fire and gasoline on your fears, I am asking you are you up to the task? I am going to tell you: you are up to the task! But from here to there you need a shift of thinking! Do those things and you are not a victim! You're trained and equipped to do it yourself!

You’re not going someplace to go to Bethel some place, but to take the Kingdom in there!

# You are not a victim!

Alumni will be better and better, but you can’t live on that! Bethel is not going to create a place where you're going to live now. For Gideon and the Lord. Paul wanted to go someplace without a foundation! You can’t find a church like this, because you're supposed to plant one! Or a Kingdom Business or serve someone!

Whatever you do, you're not a victim! I am not a victim, if I am feeling powerless it is not true! I may not even feel like I have everything, but I do! That is the truth!

Any day you think something different don’t find somebody who will whine with you, but find someone who says that is a bad idea! If I go into Dann Farelly’s office he would nod his head and say dude you're better than that.

What we don’t need is somebody who will whine with us! We need people in our life that will say: hey! You're not a victim! You ever threw a pity party and nobody came? Not even the Holy Ghost!

I am not even going to try to be original anymore!

# Feedback about strengths and weaknesses

Do a 360 and ask the team around you what you’ve done. I will never forget, told people about the book and benefiting from what your strengths and weaknesses are. So, I said why don’t we start with me? For the next 7 weeks, we will take one person to lunch and share with that person what their weaknesses and strengths are.

I told myself I can’t even think about one weakness. They kept on telling me about my fraud character and how I affect other people. It was brutal! I went home that night in a real late meeting, Kathy was already in bed. I needed to talk to somebody, especially my life mate. Kathy woke up and I said: I was with my team today and they said that I wasn't aware of what people say. She rolls over and says: honey I’ve been telling you that for 20 years!

It was dark in the room, she rolled over and not even 3 minutes later she was seeping again. Wake up, I have some things to say to you too! You didn't wash the dishes yesterday and it broke my heart! ;p

We need people who will actually tell us the truth. That will tell us the truth and not that victim thing. Honey you're bigger than that! Those times and places we find encouragement, but also people that tell us! Come on baby, you didn't go to BSSM to think like that!

# Perseverance

On May 12 1780 John Adams wrote a letter to his beloved letter to his wife Abigail (<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/04-03-02-0258>)

I must study Politicks and War that my sons may have liberty to study Mathematicks and Philosophy. My sons ought to study Mathematicks and Philosophy, Geography, natural History, Naval Architecture, navigation, Commerce and Agriculture, in order to give their Children a right to study Painting, Poetry, Musick, Architecture, Statuary, Tapestry and Porcelaine

Romans 15:4-6 (ESV) For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance (perseverance) and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Most cultivated qualities

The two most cultivated qualities are:

1. Encouragement

Find a Barnabas and a Mordechai! Find somebody that can take a hold of you and do the same for somebody else!

2. Perseverance

They are the gut of ministry, the I don’t give up! Living Friday, but Sunday is coming! In order to have a resurrection you’ve got to have a Good Friday. You need to know that whatever you're working on, is coming!

Hope feels, faith see and love never fails! I don’t know how, but I am rooted in hope that it will work out! A hope: “that says something good is about to happen!” When your gut, unction and sense tell you that you know that you know, but have no evidence it will work out. That thing is so huge!

You have to cultivate that thing inside of you, I can fall back into victim mentality to see how a lot of people feel in the world, but it is a terrible place to build a house! Build hope, all things work together for good! If it is not good it is not the end!

# Something good

The worst thing I went through in my life was my sons divorce. It was devastating! The women that was divorcing him I was the only father she knew. She brought the man to see if we could approve of him. If I could've found that chapter 8 years ago in the book I would not have been on the couch! Is that the final solution? No! But sometimes life has turns like that and you don’t get to choose between good and great! You don’t have those options, bad and worse!

You have to push through, He is the Author and Perfector of my faith! He has the book of life! It is not one book, it includes all of our stories! He is writing the book of my life, when I am going through a hard time, that is not the last chapter! He told me! We win!

I have to push through the chapters! When I am going through those times I need to know that I can push through this. I hoped that I could see 8 years ago something good could come out of this!

# Focused passion

I love the way Jesus talks, because I believe I talk like Jesus. Not always, but sometimes! Jesus is always loving, but brutal as well!

No one putting their hand to the plow, you're plowing with oxen. You want the rows to be straight, you can’t look back because you can tell overtime you looked back. Being on the straight narrow, you don’t look back! Don’t live in regret, like the Israelites He came to kill us! Some of it is the old man thing, no we’re moving forward! We might be going over some rocky territory right now, but let’s stay focused. It is a focused passion, learn after a while of ridging it up. You can fix it later, keep going straight!

Luke 11:9 (ESV) And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

You’re not learning anything new. Ask is perpetual you keep on knocking, seeking and asking! I knocked three times! That is an old song!

# Pushing through!

Luke 18:1-8 (ESV) And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

If a wicked judge does this, then certainly a Righteous Judge will! Faith is related to I don’t quit! Sometimes you win, because you just refuse to lose! I remembered a time in my first months of business. His accountant said: you’re the only one that doesn't know you're broke!

I can’t quit this business! God wasn't trying to make money, but made me a man! I wish God would tell me the first month. His idea of that process was teaching him! I learned how to grow in capacity. My days looked like this: the payroll days, Thursday night I would start walking the days, $15.000 payroll, $10.000 in the bank account. How are we going to do it? I would walk the front room floor, it happened for 9 years! I wanted to be in the ministry and You said that I was in this for the ministry! God would say: just trust Me!

# Stay in it until you have to get out!

9 years of this! It is so alarming the rate people jump out of things! Get a life dude! Stay there until you’re not supposed to! Ever noticed they didn't go from Egypt to the Promised Land? I am not preaching to you, but with you! I remind myself multiple times a month: you have issues and issues! Where am I going? You don’t have to know, just know the next step!

I still have days where I don’t know what to do!

God never talks like a comforting Dad to me, Vallotton shut up! Angel, break his leg and show him what real pain is :p I’ve never met gentle Jesus when I am in a victim mode. I have met him when I am broken many times! When I am feeling sorry for myself I never get a pat on the back, usually a slap in the face :p “Thank you, that felt so good!”

# Iconium

Acts 14:1-7 (ESV) Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So, they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the gospel.

I can’t leave now; the situation is too bad! Most of us would be like I can’t be here, shake off the dust. I have to stay here. There is something about remembering what had happened in earlier generations. There is this growing generational blessing if we each take the land of our forefathers and grow it instead of stripping all the land and hoping the next generation can do it by themselves.

# Solomon and David

Solomon took what David won. He was a great, but also the worst king that ever lived. He had a father that was amazing, but the last half of his life he exchanged his life with God from women. He kept peace by marrying foreign women, made covenants with foreign kings! David extended the borders through war! Solomon was supposed to create peace, because of his name. But the way he did it was not the peace of God, but of man. Because he would marry their gods.

He forgot what his father left him.

# Christmas

Make a list for Christmas, they give it to Kathy. I don’t shop. 6 months ago, they asked us if we brought our own bags. Kathy ran back to get something else. We buy gifts for the kids, that year we had a great contract and we wanted to really bless the kids. I would like to buy them everything on their lists!

She bought all these gifts, took a month to do all the shipping. We had a ridiculous amount of gifts. Thousands on Christmas. Christmas came, we told the story that went very fast, it took 2 and a half hours to open all the gifts. At the end, I see this kid in the corner and he is crying, his mom is scolding him. He had to go to the room, what was that about? Mom missed one of his gifts on his list, we’re talking a list of 9 things. Kathy overhears the conversation and says what is wrong? Kathy forgot the one thing, I ordered it on Amazon! I was pissed, he just had to grow up, I am thinking Danny Silk. Don’t ruin Christmas!

That night I cried myself to sleep, I said to myself I am raising spoiled brats. I want to leave them inheritance, but I leave them to spoiled entitled brats. This will not happen to my legacy! 6 months passed, 8 months passed. I did not forget that! As we came close to Christmas I did not want to do that again.

Give them all one gift then we’re going to have them buy gifts for poor kids. They'll enjoy that! They'll remember that! Christ Overstreet, I need 3 families with smaller kids without a Christmas. Give me 3 of the worst cases you have!

11 kids and they knew something for the kids. The kids go out, not super excited about it. Their grandpa has a different plan. They made noises, I said this is what we’re doing! 3 cars we roll up in this apartment, not the ghetto of LA, but not a place where you want to live. People smoking dope on the stairs, walking on it and assemble on the doorsteps. We open the doors somebody in the bathrobe, smoke rolls out of the door. 7 little kids sleeping in the mattresses. They take the gifts like starving children and my grandkids are all looking through this doorway, where they are opening one gift.

By the house we got to house number 3 it was a solemn Christmas. It was quiet in the car, not a lot of talking. Sometimes we have been given so much it is never enough. We forget what the people who went before us have sacrificed to get here!

# Entitlement

A young man wrote me a message and he said I felt that I need to go on a mission trip. I am angry because people didn't give me money to go on a mission trip.

We are not beggars! Not somebody owes me something! We are Kingdom people! Sometimes we live in abundance, sometimes we ask, ask, ask, ask and ask. That I grew up in blessing doesn't mean I deserve it!

I have a vision to give my family a certain amount of money, but I am not funding brats!

Donald Trump received a few million dollars from his parents. We all know it is not that much, took that and made a few billion. His kids now are in his companies. I don't know him, but I am looking at what his kids are doing. His kids are working in his businesses. That part is Kingdom! How does a guy who is a billionaire doesn't raise up spoiled brats?

That is what we’re trying to do with you! God wants to give you the Kingdom once you realize you don’t deserve it!

Don’t be entitled to anything! If you can leave here with an inheritance and try to grow Daddy’s crop, my job is to extend the farm! If I leave with that mentality it doesn't matter where I go! I will pull every rock out of the ground until I make a farm out of it! Nobody owes me fertile ground! When I return, will I find faith on the earth?