

Journey to the Promise: Propelled by Purpose

Dr. John Carmichael

[Deu 1:6 NASB95] 6 "The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain.

[Deu 2:3 NASB95] 3 'You have circled this mountain long enough. [Now] turn north,

- Change creates anxiety. Every leader (family, organization, ministry) needs to know that about those who follow you.
- Israel had camped at Horeb (Mt. Sinai), the place where they encountered God's glory, received His Law, and experienced His covenant.
- But even a good place can become a stuck place if you stay too long.
- God was not angry at their devotion — He was concerned about their destiny.
- Sometimes in life, in ministry, and in our walk with God, we camp too long around something that was only meant to be temporary.
- Some people stuck in the past things God did in their lives. Past revelations. Past ways of doing things. Never pressing in for new things that God wants to do in their lives. Not pressing into the Word for new revelation from the Scriptures.
- God is calling His people out of stuck places and into new assignments! Although sometimes external, it is always internal.
- Sometimes you don't need a new job, a new church, a new house... you will always need a fresh vision/anointing/revelation with the one God gave you. Don't get it twisted.

What do we need to know about being propelled by purpose?

Here are three vital truths about being propelled by purpose.

I. God's Presence Prepares Us — But His Purpose Propels Us

- a. [Exo 19:1-2 NASB95] 1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain.
- b. Sinai was a place of encounter, instruction, and transformation.
- c. But the encounter was meant to launch them forward, not chain them in place.
- d. Sometimes what starts as an encounter becomes an excuse for delay.
- e. You were saved not to just be saved, but for a purpose. [Eph 2:8-10 NASB95] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
- f. God's presence is foundational, but His purpose is forward!

II. Familiarity Can Breed Stagnation

- a. [Isa 43:18-19 NASB95] 18 "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. 19 "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.
- b. They were familiar with the mountain. They knew the surroundings, the routines.
- c. But God does not camp in yesterday's victories or yesterday's revelations.
- d. [Phl 3:13-14 NASB95] 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of [it] yet; but one thing [I do:] forgetting what [lies] behind and reaching forward to what [lies]

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ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- e. Comfort can quietly turn into complacency.
- f. "The greatest enemy of your next move is your last success."

III. The Journey Ahead Demands Obedience Now

- a. [Heb 11:8 NASB95] 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- b. God said in Deuteronomy 2:3, "Now turn north."
- c. No explanation, no detailed map — just go.
- d. [Act 20:24 NASB95] 24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.
- e. Faith is not built by seeing the full blueprint — it's built by obeying the next instruction.
- f. When we delay obedience, we delay destiny.

- **Horeb was the place of revelation, but Canaan was the place of realization.**
- **You were made for the promised land, not the campground!**
- **It's time to step out in faith, shake off fear, and move toward the promises of God. God may call you to stand but never to stagnate.**
- **"Father, in the mighty name of Jesus, Lord, today we declare by faith: the old has passed away, and the new has come! Father, we break off every spirit of delay, distraction, discouragement, and defeat in the name of Jesus! Holy Spirit, guide our steps, order our path, open doors that no man can shut. Let us hear Your voice saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' Lord, we receive courage to step into the unknown, with faith to seize every promise, and with endurance to finish the race strong. We declare: we will move forward, we will conquer, and we will testify of Your goodness! We give You the glory in advance for the miracles, the promotions, the breakthroughs, and the new levels that are coming!"**