

Getting into God's Playbook

Knowing and Discovering Your Position in God

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

I. Introductory Remarks.

John 12:26 *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*

In sports, in order to be an effective player that makes lots of plays, it's important to know your position and how to position yourself to make the plays.

In Christ we have all been given positions, ministries, gifts and talents that make up our calling in God. We all have a destiny to fulfill.

According to John 12:26, God expects us to be in position, so that we can handle the ball when it is given to us.

I believe God has a playbook and desires to write plays that are according our, gifts, talents, personalities and calling in God.

The question is: Do you desire to get off the bench and play or are you willing to sit on the bench and watch everyone else have all the fun. It's up to you.

II. Discovering and Finding Our Position in God.

1. Know Who You Are in Christ.

It's important to know who we are in Christ. We have been given the mind of Christ and have been made partakers of His divine nature.

2 Peter 1:3-4 *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Just as an athlete has to know what he is capable of before making great plays, we must know what we are capable of in Christ.

In 1 Samuel 14 there's the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer that won a great victory for the nation of Israel. In the beginning of the story Jonathan steps

in faith based on what He knew His God was capable of. This helped him to know his position and what he could accomplish from that position.

We are told in Scripture that we are:

- More than conquerors in Him – *Romans 8:37*
- He always leads us in triumph – *2 Corinthians 2:14*
- We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us – *Phil. 4:13*

This is our position in Christ from which we operate. What can you do for God based on that? The playing field is wide open.

2. We Must Know God's Purpose & Will in the World Today.

2 Timothy 1:9 *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

In other words, we must know the game plan and what the endgame is. Whatever our position is, it will center on God's purpose and His game plan. Therefore it is important to know His game plan. So let's take a moment to look at His overall game plan.

- Jesus said, He was going to build a church of which the gates or the authority of Hell could not prevail against – His authority and rule will be established in the Church – *Matthew 16:18*.
- The earth shall be filled with His glory through His body – What is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe – *Ephesians 1:17-23*.
- Christ shall be manifested through His body as the church comes into the fullness of the stature of Jesus Christ. We are all being changed and conformed into His image – *2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Ephesians 4:13*.
- The Gospel shall be preached to all nations as a witness – *Matthew 24:14*.
- His truth shall be established in the church, which is the pillar and ground of all truth – *1 Timothy 3:15*.
- He shall have a great army that shall go forth reclaiming and restoring all that was lost in the fall – *Joel 2:2-11*.
- His kingdom and will shall be established on earth as it is in Heaven – *Matthew – Matthew 6:10*.

3. Let God's Purpose and Perspective Fill your Heart.

Ephesians 1:17-19 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

God's desire for each one of us is that they eyes of our understanding would be opened so that we can see the hope of our calling. Everything about our hope and calling is related in some way to His purpose and will in the earth today.

In the same way a football player needs to spend time getting to know the game plan, so that he can execute the plays correctly, we must spend time getting to know God and his game plan so that we are perfectly positioned for the plays as they present themselves to us.

Daniel 11:32b the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

When young David took on Goliath it was because he saw things through God's perspective. He said, "Who is this Philistine that he should defile the armies of God."

4. Have a Heart of Faith and Expectancy.

Jesus constantly encouraged His disciples to have faith and to believe all things were possible to those who believe in the midst of difficulties.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

We should expect God to move supernaturally in our lives. It takes faith, expectancy and commitment to be continually used by God supernaturally.

When football players are lined up on the scrimmage line they are not standing there with their arms folded waiting for something to happen. They are hunched down in an aggressive position acutely aware of every move going on around them waiting in expectancy to execute the play.

Illustration of a friend: He is constantly being used by God in divine appointments. He has been used by God to speak personal words of encouragement to at least four presidents, plus enumerable pro athletes and members of congress.

- Years ago, I read a book by him my wife was proofing for him.
- I was amazed at the number of divine appointments with key leaders and pro sports athletes that he encountered
- I wondered, “Why does he encounter so many divine appointments while most of us encounter so few?”
- The Lord spoke to my heart that he expects them and positions himself in a way that he responds when they come to him.
- The Lord knows that he is positioned and ready to respond so He continually sets them up for him.

Are you positioned to respond to the Divine appointments God wants to bring your way? Or are you standing around with your head in the clouds and arms folded waiting and wondering if God will ever use you?

5. Don't Allow the Wounds & Disappointments of Life to Take You Out of the Game.

Most athletes will get hurt and injured at one time or another if they are in the game continuously play after play. A good athlete will go through rehabilitation and physical therapy and get back in the game ASAP.

- It's hard to go through life and ministry without getting banged up from time to time.
- The trials of life have a way of stealing our passion and joy from us. When we lose our passion, we also lose our sense of purpose and destiny.
- We begin to care less about finishing the race as an overcome and are no longer positioned for God to move in our lives the way he desires to.
- We have a tendency to settle into a place of mere existence as Christians rather than walking in the overcoming mentality and attitude that God has ordained for us. We must fight.

Paul said, *“That I might finish the race.”* He got banged up a lot – probably more than any of us will ever begin to experience, yet he continued in the race without

losing his perspective and passion.

What is your perspective? Does your perspective allow you to continue to move forward in God's purpose and destiny for your life when the circumstances of life are raging against you?

Peters example: Peter had a good reason to wallow and sulk in his misery and defeat – He denied the Lord three times, while the Lord looked right at him.

After denying the Lord, he went out and wept bitterly. He was severely wounded in his spirit.

Yet we see Peter as the one who came forth in a powerful way filled with vision and purpose making one play after another.

He was continually perfectly positioned when divine appointments came his way.

- He was the one God used to usher in the birth of the New Testament Church – He preached the first sermon that netted over 3,000 converts.
- He powerfully stood up to the religious leaders in the midst of persecution and mockery.
- He was delivered by angels from prison.
- People were healed by coming into contact with his very shadow.
- He was the first of the disciples to raise someone from the dead.
- He was used to bring the Gentile believers into the church.
- He was crucified upside down for his testimony of faith to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He finished his course with faith and passion even though he blew big time on occasions.

Personal Testimony: Early in my ministry I was being promoted by my pastor to be his number two man.

- Another person came into the body with more charisma than me.
- I was told I was out and he was in.
- I could have gotten offended, discouraged and disillusioned but decided not to.

- I continued to serve with the same passion and zeal I had before being told.
- Within a few months I was the Sr. Pastor of that church.
- What would have happened if I would have decided to get offended and leave or just go through the motions?
- I would have taken myself out of position and would not have pastored for over 12 years.

Have you allowed your wounds and disappointments to take you out of the game?

Hebrews 12:12-13 *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

God is wanting to do great things in our lives, so let's put on the armor of light and be about our Father's business. He wants to use us and bless us more than we can comprehend or imagine.