

BRING IT ON

A NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES

WINNING ABILITY(Week 2)

WELCOME: What skills are you most proud of, and why?

WORSHIP: Sing “*Open Up Our Eyes*” by Elevation Worship

WORD:

Read **1 Samuel 16:13-23**.

When David was anointed to be king, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him (v.13), but interestingly, David went back to being a shepherd. He did not step into a great assignment right away, God was still developing David, who at this point would have been in his teens. It was in the hidden valleys of David’s shepherding job that God developed what David needed to become a mighty worshipper, warrior and leader.

- Do you sometimes feel like you’re overlooked, under-valued and invisible?
- Do you sometimes feel like your life is a routine and no breakthroughs?
- Do you want your life to amount to something?

Like David, God is developing you for something significant, but you need to be faithful to Him in the hidden valleys of your life. As God gives you skills and spiritual gifts that you need to develop faithfully, to equip you for the bigger opportunities He is preparing for you, He also develops in you the kind of audacity that leads to victory. Let’s learn from the experiences of Saul and David.

1. THE DIFFERENCE YOUR ANOINTING MAKES (Verses 13-15).

In verses 13-14, we see the great exchange. The Spirit of God filled David, but the Spirit flowed out of Saul. In this instance, we see the difference between being filled and empty. When we are filled, we are able to perform our assignments and calling in God’s power with great joy and excitement; it feels like you never want to stop doing what God has called you to do, even when you’re tired physically. But when we operate in a vacuum, we can perform out of our own strength but we feel drained, used up and meaningless.

- Why do you think did the Holy Spirit leave Saul?
- The way the Holy Spirit fills people in the Old Testament is different from how we fills in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was given selectively and temporarily to fill certain individuals for special ministries and calling. It was not for all nor was it permanent.
- In the New Testament times (which is our time) when the Spirit comes to indwell all believers permanently. Read John 14:16. In the NT, the Holy Spirit dwells in us when we receive Christ; but we can experience more of His power when we allow Him to take control of our lives (Galatians 5:16-26). The Spirit works mightily in people who yield to His will and are obedient to His word, the fruit of the Spirit becomes evident in their life.
- Begin each day by asking God to take control of your life and allow you to bear His fruit.
- Yield to the Spirit. He gives you audacity in living out your faith and sharing God’s love with others.
- When we don’t yield to the Spirit, other spiritual forces may take control of our life. Read 1 Samuel 16:15. Why do you think did God allow a tormenting spirit to come to Saul?
- Based on this word, what do you think is the reason why many people live in fear and depression?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:7 (and memorize it in your spare time).
- The anointing of the Spirit makes the difference in one’s life.

2. THE DILIGENCE YOUR ANOINTING DEVELOPS (1 Corinthians 15:10).

We all have skills and abilities that God has deposited and developed in us, even before we became believers. Long before David received his anointing, God already deposited in him seeds that would produce abilities that he will need for a lifetime of service to his God. When the anointing of God came upon David, his skills and abilities began to have a bigger and better purpose, and God placed David in situations where those seeds could develop and reach its maximum potential. All of a sudden, David's singing audience was no longer just his sheep, he became a musician to the king; his fighting abilities that developed while protecting his flock was to be used to protect an entire nation; his shepherding experience developed his leadership. In God, nothing is wasted. God can use all of our experiences and situations to develop in us the person He always knew we could be. Here are some key factors to our development:

Diligence. David's abilities and audacity were developed over time with diligence.

- What is diligence? Why is it important not just to serve God, but to serve God with diligence?
- What abilities has God deposited in you that need to develop more? How are you using these abilities in His church?
- Are there skills you want to develop which you could use for God's glory?

Excellence. David spent a lot of time developing the seed God deposited in him even after his anointing. God deserves all praise and the highest honor. When He calls us to do something or use our skills for Him, our response should always be YES, with great desire to do it well (Colossians 3:23-24, Ecclesiastes 9:10).

- When we are committed to excellence and work diligently to develop the deposit God has placed in us, we're able to offer our lives back to God as the fullest expression of the person God created us to be.
- What are you good at? What are you doing to develop that gift?
- How can you find ways to serve God with what you're good at?

Uniqueness. It was David's uniqueness that made him effective. The same will be true of you, if you develop your skills with diligence and aim for godly excellence. It's not your skills that make you unique, it is the person God created you to be.

- Your contribution to the body of Christ (the Church) is something you alone can give.
- Be a gift to the church by serving well.
- Discover, develop and use what you have been given (Matthew 25:29-30).

3. THE DIRECTION YOUR ANOINTING TAKES YOU TO (Verses 15-23).

Even though it took some time for David to become king, the Lord opened different doors of opportunity that showed the world his present and future significance. When we embrace every experience God wants or allows us to bring us through, we discover whom God is developing us to be and what He has called us to do. God arranges every situation to serve His purpose in the world. He takes everything we have been through and every lesson we learned, and He pairs it with our faithfulness in serving God, and He uses it all for your good and for His glory.

- From shepherding out in the field, David finds himself in the palace of the king he will eventually replace.
- David became a worship leader and minister in the court to comfort Saul in his torment.
- Are there people in your life who need your comfort and ministry? How can you take advantage of their situation and bring them to a relationship with Jesus?
- God stacked David's experiences, good and bad, over his abilities, to become a much better leader for Israel. He was faithful in the little things while God prepared the big opportunities.
- Sometimes, the promotion in life you long for takes a lot longer than you expect because God is making you into a better person than you are now.

WORKS:

- What areas of the Christian life do you want to grow faithful in (worship, tithing, sharing the gospel, prayer, etc)?
- Continue to pray for our church's goal (**Each 1 Reach 2 in 12 Months**). Pray for your commitment to reach people for Jesus this year with greater passion. Remember, you are doing this for the Lord and not for man.
- Find ways where you can serve God more faithfully using the skills you have.

winter baptism bash

JANUARY 29 1:00PM, Microtel Inn Pool