

Positioning Yourself for Blessing

In order to experience the supernatural life in Christ Jesus, you need to correctly **position** yourself. You must position yourself to receive the full benefits of God's wonderful promises. But in what way or manner do you correctly position yourself with God? The first thing is to position yourself to **hear** from Him.

Whatever your situation, you cannot be free from fear or anxiety unless you **hear** from God. **Romans 10:17** says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Notice, no hearing no faith! What's more, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (**Hebrews 11:6**). When you position yourself to **hear** from God you also position yourself to build faith, and this is pleasing to God. Hearing from God is essential to your success and wellbeing! It makes way for God's blessing.

Every time you position yourself correctly – God responds. God is a God of intimate relationships. He wants to converse with us – one on one. Conversation is a blessing that He pours out. So to **hear** God, we must position ourselves for "conversation." In doing that, we need to position ourselves to hear and react to God, rather than telling Him when to meet with us. No wonder we feel powerless! I would highly recommend that you do not schedule a "quiet time." We're not trying to put God into our schedules. We're trying to make God's schedule ours. If you're just starting out listening to God you must discipline yourself to listen to the "still small voice" inside you – the Holy Spirit. God does not yell at you. In **1 Kings 19**, the Lord was not to be found in any great and spectacular manifestations, but in a 'gentle whisper'.

Remember, you need to be able to clearly hear that "gentle whisper." Your goal is to **hear** the gentle whisper in a crowd, above your worries, and in spite of the enemy's accusations. You need to train yourself to **hear** God at any moment. So instead of scheduling a quiet time, you need to practice becoming still and doing what He says - whenever He says it. The question is, *How badly do you need direction? How tired are you of being conquered rather than conquering?* Well, your faith demands action. The best way to start is by studying His word. Why? Because you must first become very familiar with His voice, if you are going to recognise it. Especially in the midst of a crisis!

A lady was having a party and wanted to serve mushrooms, but was a little uncertain about the mushrooms, so she fed some to the dog. He ate them and everything seemed all right, so the mushrooms were prepared and served. During the party the maid hurried to the hostess and said, "The dog is dead." The guests rushed to the hospital and had their stomachs pumped. After the confusion was over, the maid said, "That car sure made a real mess of the dog." So often we don't really hear what is said.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt got tired of smiling that big smile and saying the usual things at all those White House receptions. So, one evening he decided to find out whether anybody was paying attention to what he was saying. As each person came up to him with extended hand, he flashed that big smile and said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." People would automatically respond with comments such as "How lovely!" or "Just continue with your great work!" Nobody listened to what he was saying, except one foreign diplomat. When the president said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning," The diplomat

responded softly, "I'm sure she had it coming to her."

Note, just having the ability to **hear** doesn't guarantee an accurate reception of a message. Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." After listening restlessly to a long and tedious sermon, a 6-year-old boy asked his father what the preacher did the rest of the week. "Oh, he's a very busy man," the father replied. "He takes care of church business, visits the sick, ministers to the poor, etc. And then he has to have time to rest up. Talking in public isn't an easy job, you know." The boy thought about that, then said, "Well, listening ain't easy, either."

The trouble with "hearing" is that often what we believe and feel comfortable with affects how we hear. We endeavour to interpret everything we hear in the light of what we already know. This kind of hearing rejects what is not consistent with what you already believe. Such hearing is dangerous when you are trying to position yourself correctly with God. It is little wonder that Jesus warns us to take heed as to how we hear. How we hear is identified in **Romans 10:17**, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word (*"rhema"*) of God." "Rhema" is the revealed word - a word that God has brought to light, which is specifically directed at you. And this word will always line up with the words He has already written (by His Spirit) in the Bible. For that reason, your "hearing" has to be measured against the Holy Scriptures. Quite simply, how you start off **hearing** is to study the Word and then let God breath life on a verse (a word) He has for you.

So the first thing you must do is to position yourself to **hear** from God, the next is to position yourself to **receive** from God. In order to receive anything from God you must place yourself in a position to **receive** from Him. A good example of this is found in **Luke 19:1-10**, where we read about a man by the name of Zacchaeus. In verse 3 we notice that Zacchaeus sought to **see** Jesus (to see who He was). Zacchaeus was a rich man who had heard about the Lord. People were lined up along the road to see Jesus as he passed by. Zacchaeus being short could not find a place where he could see so he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree. This man was rich and probably wore fine clothes, but he did not care if he messed up his £1000 suit. A sycamore tree has bark that will leave a white powdery substance on your clothes. It is hard to climb because the bark is also slippery and the branches are far apart because of its size. Nevertheless, Zacchaeus had to **see** who Jesus was. The Lord had never met the man, yet when He passed under the tree He looked up and called him by his name, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down for today I must visit your house."

When Jesus called Zacchaeus by name he quickly got his attention. So Zacchaeus climbed down out of that tree as fast as he could and received Jesus into his home joyfully. Now observe what Zacchaeus said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." This was not a faith statement of what he intended to do. He actually did it right there and then! He said, "Look Lord! Here and now I give..." Talk is cheap but actions will bring abundant blessings to your households. Notice, Zacchaeus called Jesus LORD. He came to see a man but found the Lord. Zacchaeus passed the test that the rich young ruler failed. He made Jesus Lord over His wealth. And in doing so He positioned himself correctly to receive salvation and more! You too must put yourself in a position to **see** the Lord and for Him to **see** you. For when you see the Lord you are close enough to receive a blessing! How do you do this? You **see** Jesus in the Word of God – He is the Living Word!

To recap, we must position ourselves to **hear** from God, and position ourselves to **receive** from God. Consequently, we position ourselves for a **blessing** and we become **blessed**. Blessing! For many, no other word is more confusing. What is a blessing? What does it mean to be blessed? How do we receive a blessing? Its so simple, I'm often amazed that most of people don't get it. It comes down to one simple, very sound principle: "**Position yourself for blessing, and you will be blessed.**"

A little research will quickly reveal that this whole idea of blessing has its roots in ancient beginnings — in Judaism. The concept of blessing appears first in the pages of the Old Testament. There, **blessing** is closely linked with thanksgiving. Blessing was received only when someone had something worthy of giving thanks for. Gifts were "blessed" as a way of giving thanks for them. God was blessed because He was to be appreciated and is worthy of thanks. People became a blessing to others when they provided some material or spiritual graces worthy of thanks. To be "blessed" means that something to be thankful for has already been received. This is why we must first be positioned to **hear** and then positioned to **receive**, so that we can be **blessed**.

To be **blessed** means to be in a happy, healthy state of body, mind and spirit. A blessing is desirable, something we all should want and need. Blessing is favourable, to our credit, a hope for wholeness, and an expression of thanks. So we bless food before a meal as a way of giving thanks. We bless the Communion bread and wine in an act of great thanksgiving for all our gifts and favours at the Eucharist (the Greek word for "thanksgiving"). We bless gifts we have received, thanking God for His generosity. Pastors bless congregations as a show of desiring and hoping for only the best gifts for them.

How do we become **blessed**? It's fairly simple. "*Position yourself for blessing, and you will be blessed.*" It's not that you need to wait for God to decide to bless you. God wants to bless you right now! God will bless you now, if you position yourself for blessing. Many of you are not blessed simply because you haven't positioned yourselves for a blessing. I'm not sure I know of one example of someone who has made an effort to position themselves in that way who reported that they have not been blessed. "*Position yourself for blessing, and you will be blessed.*" Not "maybe" you'll be blessed. Not, "You'll be blessed if God happens to feel like it today." **Position yourself for blessing and you WILL be blessed.**

Have you positioned yourself for blessing today? Don't knock it until you've tried it. It's guaranteed! How many things these days come with a guarantee signed by God. Maybe your positioning in one area will bring blessing in another. That often happens. Position yourself for blessing, and you will be **blessed** – spiritual blessing, physical blessing, moral blessing, financial blessing. However, when we don't **bless** God (with "thanksgiving"); by acknowledging that everything we have in all those areas is an amazing gift of grace, He doesn't bless us. It shouldn't surprise us – but it does! Blessing is not magic ... It's not chance ... It's not a throw of the dice or a spin of the wheel. If there's an area of your life in which you are not being **blessed**, could it be that you haven't positioned yourself for blessing? It's often that straight forward.

With this in mind, remember to (a) position yourself to **hear** from God, then (b) position yourself to **receive** from God, and consequently you will be correctly positioned for a wonderful **blessing**. And when you are

positioned for blessing – you WILL be blessed! But don't forget, whenever you are **blessed**, to bless God with **thanksgiving**!