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USE IT OR LOSE IT

SERMON RECAP

Walking in Alignment with God's Plan

Chapter 1: The Path of Obedience and Divine Purpose

Good morning. Praise God.

Let's take a moment to reflect—God always has a plan. A plan to take you from where you are to where you need to be. There is a specific place where you are assigned to be, where the blessing is. Your obedience aligns you with God's promise and provision. The Holy Spirit within us causes us to will and to do according to His purpose. Obedience is the key to positioning ourselves within the flow of God's blessings.

Why is it so important to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit? Because He is aligning us with the provision God has already prepared. Ephesians 2:10 in the Amplified Bible declares:

“For we are God's own handiwork, His workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus (born anew) that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us, taking paths which He prepared ahead of time, that we should walk in them—living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live.”

Use It or Lose It

The emphasis today is on a principle that applies not only to our spiritual walk but to every area of life: *use it or lose it*.

It is often said that once you learn how to ride a bike, you never forget. However, when it comes to spiritual gifts, if they remain dormant, their life and effectiveness diminish. While it is not impossible to revive them, it requires intense recommitment, faithfulness, and focus.

God has designed His gifts to be like rivers of living water—flowing continuously. When we suppress our gifts, we become stagnant, much like a body of water that is dammed up. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:15:

“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”

If we hide our gifts and calling, we stagnate. God intends for us to live in the overflow, allowing His Spirit to flow freely through us.

A New Creation in Christ

When we are born again, we are made new. Before salvation, we were separated from God, strangers to His covenant, lacking the Holy Spirit. But through Christ, we are recreated—a brand-new human species in Him. Our purpose is not something we must invent for ourselves. Rather, we are God's idea, created to fulfill His divine purpose.

Many people ask, *Why am I here? What is my purpose?* But the truth is, we were designed to fulfill *His* dream, not our own. The old life is often about survival—seeking to avoid trouble, living for personal comfort. But in Christ, we have a higher calling. We are set on a preordained path, one that is narrow yet filled with God's divine guidance.

Psalm 23 reminds us that even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we need not fear, for God is with us. Though the path may seem narrow, unseen forces—angels, divine guidance—are protecting and directing us toward His will.

The Role of the Holy Spirit

God has seen the entirety of our lives. He is the Alpha and Omega, and He knows why we are here. Moreover, He knows that we cannot fulfill His purpose alone. That is why He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Upon salvation, we receive the Holy Spirit, but it is through the baptism of the Holy Spirit that we are immersed in His power. However, the Holy Spirit is not a passive force; He is a helper, not a doer. We must embrace partnership with Him rather than treating Him as an occasional assistant.

Imagine a marriage where one spouse is ignored, only acknowledged when needed for a task. That would not be a partnership—it would be neglect. Sadly, this is often how we treat the Holy Spirit. Instead of engaging Him daily, we reach out only when we are desperate.

In Ephesians, Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is the seal of God, much like an engagement ring. He is the promise of our union with Christ. The Church is the bride of Christ, and the Holy Spirit is our engagement seal, preparing us for that divine relationship. Until we acknowledge His role and grant Him permission to live through us, we will not walk in the fullness of our calling.

Submission and Unity in Christ

Jesus is the head of the Church, but often, the body tries to dictate to the head rather than submitting. True unity in the Church is not about denominational alignment but about submission to Christ. When we are properly aligned with Jesus, we are naturally aligned with one another.

John 17 records Jesus' prayer that we would become one as He and the Father are one. The goal is not mere cooperation, but a deep, abiding union with God. If we do not cultivate this intimacy through prayer and obedience, we will struggle to be in the right place at the right time.

Faith and Commitment

Faith is not just a passive belief but an active confidence in God's character and ability. Many people say they believe in God's promises, but faith requires *commitment*. There is a difference between believing as a concept and *being persuaded* in such a way that it transforms our actions.

A husband does not enter marriage with half-hearted conviction; he is fully persuaded that his spouse is the one he is committing his life to. Likewise, faith requires full persuasion and commitment to God's promises. Mark 9:24 records the plea, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." This reveals the internal struggle—faith versus doubt. Faith is placing full confidence in God's ability and stepping forward in commitment.

When Jesus spoke about activating the miraculous, He said, "Have faith in God." Faith is about absolute trust in His ability to do what He said He would do. It is not enough to merely acknowledge His power; we must walk in it, using the gifts He has given us.

This is the beginning of a journey to deeper faith, obedience, and the active use of the gifts God has placed within us. As we continue, we will explore how to walk in the fullness of our calling, living in the flow of God's Spirit and purpose.

Chapter 2: The Power of Partnership with the Holy Spirit

When we place our faith in God and experience the transformative power of being born again, the Holy Spirit takes residence within us. His presence is not passive but an active force that flows into our commitment, empowering us beyond our natural capabilities. This divine empowerment enables us to accomplish what would otherwise be impossible on our own.

The Loss of the Holy Spirit

From the beginning, humanity has experienced the consequences of losing communion with the Holy Spirit. When Adam committed high treason against the government of God, he lost both the kingdom of God and its governor—the Holy Spirit. The same happened to King Saul when he disobeyed God; he was stripped of his kingship, his kingdom, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, Samson's strength was not in his hair itself but in his covenant with God. As long as he remained faithful, the Holy Spirit's anointing empowered him. However, when he revealed his secret to Delilah, breaking his vow, he lost the Holy Spirit's presence and his supernatural ability. This demonstrates that the anointing—the presence of the Holy Spirit—is vital for fulfilling God's purpose in our lives.

Use It or Lose It

To operate in the power of God, we must actively engage with the divine pathway He has set before us. As Jesus teaches in John 14, faith in God aligns us with His kingdom, ensuring that we lack nothing. The kingdom of God is fully resourced, but it requires our participation and agreement with His will.

Jesus emphasized this truth when He responded to Philip's request to see the Father:

"Have I been with you all this time, and you still don't know who I am?" (John 14:9, TPT).

This statement highlights a critical issue—many believers live unaware of the Holy Spirit's presence within them. Jesus was fully united with the Father, and everything He spoke and did flowed from that oneness. In the same way, the Holy Spirit lives within us, longing to manifest God's power through our lives. However, this can only happen when we walk in agreement with Him.

Walking in Agreement with the Holy Spirit

God does not want to work apart from us—He desires partnership. Just as a husband and wife must develop trust to build a strong relationship, we must cultivate our trust in the Holy Spirit. In marriage, trust leads to harmony, unity, and increased productivity. Likewise, when we trust the Holy Spirit, we experience supernatural empowerment and clarity of purpose.

Failure and past wounds often hinder our ability to fully embrace this partnership. Many people carry emotional baggage from previous failures into new opportunities, preventing them from moving forward. However, Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. To walk in step with the Holy Spirit, we must open our hearts and allow His resurrection power to bring healing and restoration.

The Kingdom of God Within Us

To experience the fullness of God's kingdom, we must make room for the Holy Spirit in our lives. Many believers live as if they lack divine resources simply because their mindset is not aligned with God's truth. Just as there was no room for Jesus at the inn when He was born, we must ask ourselves: have we made room for the Holy Spirit?

Jesus declared that those who follow Him in faith will do the same works He did—and even greater works (John 14:12). This is not because we are greater than Jesus but because He has given us His name and authority. Just as a spouse takes on their partner's name in marriage, we bear the name of Christ. Whatever we do in His name carries His authority and power.

The Responsibility of Carrying His Name

When we carry the name of Jesus, we also carry the responsibility that comes with it. In the world, when a married couple shares financial accounts, one spouse's debt becomes the responsibility of the other. Likewise, when we operate under Jesus' name, we are entrusted with the authority to act on His behalf. This means that our actions, words, and faith should reflect His kingdom.

Chapter 3: Faith, Agreement, and the Power of Unity in Christ

In the Christian walk, understanding the authority and power that comes with the name of Jesus is essential. This concept was expressed by Jesus, who made it clear that believers have access to the kingdom of God by faith in His name. Just like a debit card draws from an account, believers have access to God's resources through faith, but this requires a deep, personal relationship with Jesus.

The Importance of Agreement

The question of authority is addressed when we are in right relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus emphasized that the words He spoke were not His own, but those of the Father. This reveals the necessity of unity and agreement. For example, in marriage, true agreement and partnership can only be achieved when both individuals are aligned in their decisions. A decision made apart from a spouse, without consultation, reflects disunity. Jesus taught that in unity, power is released.

The Bible reinforces this idea in Matthew 18:19, where Jesus declares that if two people agree to ask for something in prayer, the Father will grant it. This unity allows for God's power to manifest, as seen in the miracles Jesus performed. Unity with God and with others—whether in marriage, ministry, or any other area—unlocks divine blessings and power, both in this life and the next.

Faith in the Name of Jesus

When the disciples asked Jesus how He performed miracles, He responded by saying, "Have faith in God." This statement highlights that faith in the name of Jesus is not about simply acknowledging His existence. It goes beyond belief in the abstract; it is about deep, committed faith in His power and authority. Jesus taught that faith, when rooted in His name and aligned with the Holy Spirit, is the key to unlocking the miraculous.

Unbelief, on the other hand, hinders the flow of God's power. Jesus acknowledged that there were times when miracles were not performed due to the unbelief of the people, such as in His hometown of Nazareth. Despite the signs and wonders He performed elsewhere, the people's lack of faith prevented Him from doing great works in their midst. The rejection of Jesus' true identity and purpose created a block in the flow of God's power.

The Intimate Relationship with God

Eternal life, as described in John 17:3, is not simply about living forever but about knowing and experiencing God. This intimate knowledge of God is akin to a marriage—one that is consummated and continually nurtured. Just as marriage deepens over time with love, trust, and commitment, so too should the believer's relationship with God. This intimacy is not just about understanding who God is but experiencing His presence and love.

In this relationship, as seen in 2 Peter 1:2-3, the believer is lavished with grace and peace, which flow from knowing God and Jesus Christ. This intimate knowledge results in the power of God's divine nature working within believers, enabling them to escape the corruption of the world. The key to this power lies in a deepening relationship with God, learning more of His nature, His promises, and His goodness.

Living in the Realm of the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17 reminds us that the kingdom of God is not about external rules and regulations but is found in the Holy Spirit. It is within the Holy Spirit that believers find righteousness, peace, and joy. The power of the Holy Spirit is vital for experiencing the fullness of God's kingdom. By walking in the Spirit, believers are able to align their lives with God's will and experience the miraculous.

Luke 12:28 also encourages believers to trust in God's provision and not be consumed by worry. Worry and fear are tools of the enemy that can disrupt the believer's relationship with God. Just as one would not invite a stranger into their home, believers are cautioned not to let worry into their lives. Worry brings doubt and fear, which erode faith. God has promised to provide for His people, and trusting in His provision is essential for a life of peace and joy.

Overcoming Fear and Doubt

Fear and doubt are antithetical to faith. While fear is based on false expectations, faith in God's promises brings hope and security. Jesus has not given us a spirit of fear but one of power, love, and self-control. The key to overcoming fear is recognizing its presence and choosing not to entertain it. As believers, it is essential to guard against the negativity that fear and doubt bring, keeping our minds fixed on God's truth.

As believers grow in their relationship with God, they begin to understand the difference between fear and faith. Fear offers false narratives about what might happen, while faith in God's word offers peace and trust in His control. It is through maintaining a strong, faith-filled mindset that believers can fully experience the power and love of God in their lives.

Chapter 4: Living Above Worry: Embracing Faith and the Kingdom of God

The journey of faith often involves embracing a new perspective on life's challenges, particularly when it comes to dealing with worry and personal needs. As Christians, it is essential to understand that God's faithfulness remains constant, even when we falter. This is highlighted in the discussion of God's unwavering commitment to His people, similar to the example of a long-standing relationship that continues despite challenges. The message is clear: God's love and faithfulness are always present, and we are called to seek that relationship with Him, trusting in His ability to heal and restore us.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Healing

When we experience brokenness, whether emotional or spiritual, it becomes difficult to be open to others and to God. The heart, full of protective walls, needs to be healed before it can give and receive love freely. This healing process is made possible through the transformative power of God's love, which brings wholeness to the brokenhearted. As we experience God's love, we begin to understand what real love is, and it is this very understanding that sets us free.

Focusing on God, Not on Worry

Luke 12 encourages believers not to worry about their lives, their needs, or their future. Worrying can cloud our ability to hear from the Holy Spirit and to be open to divine guidance. Instead, we are urged to focus on God's provision and promises. While worry might come from the fear of not having enough or not knowing what's next, God's word assures us that He knows our every need and will take care of us. As we shift our focus from our lack to God's abundant provision, we create space for God's direction in our lives.

Trusting in God's Provision: The Story of the Loaves and Fishes

The disciples' challenge of feeding 20,000 people with just a few loaves and fish serves as a reminder of God's miraculous ability to provide. In a world often obsessed with scarcity, God calls us to recognize that with His help, small things can multiply beyond our expectations. The Holy Spirit played a key role in the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes, demonstrating that divine power can transform what seems insignificant into something abundant. This same power is available to believers today as they seek to partner with the Holy Spirit in their own lives.

Meditation on God's Promises

For us to truly believe and receive the promises of God, we must meditate on them, not just as abstract concepts but as tangible truths. The promises are not fantasies or wishful thinking but real, accessible gifts from God. To fully experience these promises, we must develop a relationship with God, one where we come to understand that He wants to lavish His love upon us in abundance. It's through the Holy Spirit that we experience this cascading, overflowing love that fills our hearts and draws us closer to Him.

Storing Treasure in Heaven

Jesus speaks about storing treasures in heaven rather than on earth, emphasizing that what we invest in eternity is secure and cannot be taken away. By giving to those in need, we make deposits in our heavenly account, ensuring that our treasures are eternal. However, this principle goes beyond the act of giving. It's about aligning our hearts with the values of the Kingdom of God, recognizing that what we treasure reveals where our hearts are focused.

The Power of Partnership with the Holy Spirit

As believers, we are called to experience not just the knowledge of God's promises but the active, dynamic partnership with the Holy Spirit. This union is where the supernatural strength to live a victorious Christian life flows from. Ephesians 6:10 speaks of being infused with strength through our union with the Lord Jesus, standing victorious with His explosive power flowing in and through us. This is not a passive knowledge of God but an active, intimate relationship that empowers us to live out the reality of His promises.

The Armor of God and Spiritual Warfare

To stand firm against the accuser and the challenges of life, believers are called to put on the full armor of God. This spiritual armor, described in Ephesians 6, protects us from the schemes of the enemy and enables us to fight back with the power of God. The spiritual laws of the Kingdom of God, which govern both the natural and spiritual realms, provide the foundation for victorious living. When we align ourselves with these laws, we can access the fullness of God's promises, understanding that we are not striving to become righteous but have already been made righteous through Christ.

By embracing these truths and partnering with the Holy Spirit, we move beyond the worries of life and step into the abundant provision and power that God has already set aside for us. As we meditate on His promises, focus on His love, and put on His armor, we can face life's challenges with unwavering faith and confidence in God's faithfulness.

This segment continues to build on the foundation of a relationship with God, one where trust, faith, and partnership with the Holy Spirit play a crucial role in overcoming life's challenges and embracing the Kingdom of God.

Chapter 5: Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Protection Through Faith and the Power of God's Word

In the journey of faith, believers often encounter challenges and spiritual opposition. Understanding the spiritual laws that govern life can help us tap into the power available to us and overcome the obstacles that stand in our way. This section explores the tools provided by God, particularly the armor of God and the power of His Word, to confront spiritual opposition and live in the victory God has promised.

Redeemed from the Law: Embracing the Spiritual Laws of Life

The Apostle Paul often reminded believers that they are redeemed from the law of sin and death, including the Ten Commandments and other legalistic structures. Instead, we are now subject to a higher law—the law of the spirit of life. This law works consistently and reliably, bringing peace, faith, righteousness, forgiveness, and prosperity to those who align with it.

By understanding and embracing these laws, believers can live in harmony with God's will. When we tap into these divine principles, we position ourselves to receive God's blessings and manifest His promises in our lives.

Spiritual Armor: God's Provision for Protection

Ephesians 6 describes the spiritual armor that every believer must put on to stand firm against the forces of darkness. This armor is designed to protect us from spiritual attack and help us fight against the unseen forces that seek to harm us.

The armor includes:

- **The Belt of Truth:** This strengthens us to stand firm in the truth of God's Word.
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness:** This protects our hearts and ensures that we walk in purity.
- **The Shoes of Peace:** With these, we are always ready to share the good news of the gospel.
- **The Shield of Faith:** This wraparound shield extinguishes the fiery darts of doubt, fear, and anxiety.

- **The Helmet of Salvation:** This protects our minds, guarding us from the lies and confusion of the enemy.
- **The Sword of the Spirit:** This is the powerful, razor-sharp weapon of the Word of God, spoken out loud with faith and authority.

By wearing this spiritual armor, we equip ourselves to withstand the attacks of the enemy and stand victorious in God's purpose for our lives.

The Power of the Spoken Word

One of the most powerful tools a believer has is the ability to speak God's Word into their circumstances. In John 6:63, Jesus explains that the words He speaks are spirit and life. This means that when we speak God's Word, it carries divine power, capable of transforming our lives.

When facing financial difficulties or other challenges, instead of succumbing to worry or doubt, believers are called to declare God's promises over their situation. By speaking God's Word in faith, we align ourselves with His will and release the power of the Holy Spirit into our lives. As we declare, "My God meets all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus," we activate the provision and power of God to manifest in our lives.

Faith in the Name of Jesus

The name of Jesus is a powerful tool in spiritual warfare. Philippians 2:9-11 declares that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess His Lordship. By using the name of Jesus in prayer and declaration, we position ourselves to tap into the authority and power He provides.

When we speak the Word of God, especially in alignment with the authority of Jesus' name, we release supernatural intervention in our lives. This principle is foundational for living out God's plan and fulfilling His purpose on earth. It's not by our might or power but by the Holy Spirit that we see God's kingdom advance.

Aligning with God's Plan

As believers, our lives are meant to align with God's preordained purpose for us. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do. When we live in harmony with God's purpose and speak His Word in faith, we align ourselves with His divine plan for our lives.

In this context, nothing in life changes without the power of God's Word. From the creation of the world to the transformation of our circumstances, God's spoken Word is the foundation of all creation. As we speak God's Word, we release His creative power into our lives, transforming every area in alignment with His will.

Overcoming Doubt and Fear

It's common to face doubt, fear, and worry, especially when circumstances seem bleak. However, by speaking God's promises over our lives, we can preach ourselves out of uncertainty and into faith. The words we speak have the power to shift our perspective and align our hearts with God's truth. When facing challenges, believers are called to speak words of faith and victory rather than words of fear or defeat.

This is the essence of walking by faith—not allowing the circumstances around us to dictate our mindset but instead standing firm in God's promises. The more we speak God's Word, the more we activate His power in our lives.

Vulnerability and Trust in God's Love

True faith involves vulnerability—trusting God even when we don't understand the path ahead. God's love is unconditional and unchanging, and He desires for us to receive that love fully. As believers, we are called to open ourselves to God's tender love, trusting that He will guide us and provide for us in every situation.

Just as a parent disciplines their child out of love, God corrects us for our own good. His love is always present, and He will never lead us astray. Trusting God's love and accepting His correction allows us to grow in faith and receive His blessings.

As we continue exploring the power of God's Word and the spiritual tools available to us, we gain deeper insight into how to walk victoriously in faith. With the armor of God, the spoken Word, and a heart full of trust in God's love, we are equipped to face any challenge and fulfill His purpose for our lives.

Chapter 6: The Power of Faith and Spiritual Armor

Introduction: The Importance of Overcoming the Accuser

In our spiritual journey, we are often confronted with obstacles that prevent us from fully embracing God's promises. These obstacles are not just physical challenges but also spiritual ones, often embodied in the form of the accuser. The accuser, a figure of spiritual opposition, aims to rob us of our inheritance and peace. Yet, the Scriptures remind us that it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom and all its blessings, which we must actively claim. The accuser blocks us from enjoying these blessings, but through faith and spiritual alignment, we can overcome these forces.

Understanding the Laws of the Spirit

To navigate through spiritual opposition, we must understand the laws of the spirit. Just as there are laws that govern the natural world, there are spiritual laws that shape our lives. The law of faith, righteousness, forgiveness, giving, and receiving work consistently, like a set of dependable principles. These laws, when adhered to, guarantee spiritual success. Our task is to align ourselves with these laws, knowing that when we operate within them, they will manifest in our lives.

Supernatural Union with the Holy Spirit

Victory over spiritual battles doesn't come through human effort alone but by forming a union with the Holy Spirit. Our "hand-to-hand combat" is not against people but against the spiritual forces of darkness, which hold the world in bondage. The enemy's tactics are insidious, but God's provision of armor ensures that we remain protected as we confront these forces. We must wear the armor of God, which includes truth, holiness, faith, salvation, and the Word of God, to withstand spiritual attacks.

The Armor of God: A Spiritual Defense

The armor of God is designed to protect us from the fiery darts of the enemy. The belt of truth strengthens us, while the breastplate of righteousness shields our hearts. Our readiness to share peace equips us to stand firm. Faith becomes a shield that extinguishes all attacks, and salvation

guards our minds from destructive thoughts. The sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—is our offensive weapon. This razor-sharp weapon of truth empowers us to speak life, resist lies, and declare God's promises over our circumstances.

Speaking the Word of God

The power of speaking God's Word cannot be overstated. John 6:63 highlights that the words of Jesus, spoken through the Holy Spirit, are life-giving and transformative. We must speak these words, not merely think them, because spoken words have the power to shift realities. When faced with challenges, like financial struggles or uncertainty, we must choose to speak God's promises over our lives. Speaking in agreement with God's Word activates the power of the Holy Spirit and aligns our circumstances with divine reality.

The Role of the Word in Creation and Life

All things were created by the Word, as described in John 1:3. This foundational truth underscores the creative power of God's spoken Word. Nothing in life changes without speaking God's Word. From creation to the fulfillment of God's purposes in our lives, His Word is the driving force. When we speak in alignment with God's Word, we partake in His creative power and activate divine change in our lives.

Faith in the Name of Jesus

In our spiritual walk, faith in the name of Jesus is paramount. When we use the name of Jesus, we tap into the power of the Holy Spirit. By aligning ourselves with God's plan, we can experience victory over life's challenges. It is not through human might or power but through the Holy Spirit that we overcome. Understanding this truth allows us to position ourselves for divine favor and success. When we speak God's Word in faith, we create an environment where the Holy Spirit moves powerfully on our behalf.

Dealing with Worry and Fear

Fear and worry are tools that the enemy uses to destabilize us. However, we are encouraged not to succumb to these emotions. Instead, we must declare God's Word over our lives, replacing anxiety with peace. Hebrews 3:1 reminds us that Jesus, as our High Priest, takes our confessions and makes them powerful in the heavenly realm. Our words become a bridge between our earthly reality and the divine, ensuring that God's will is established in our lives.

Living in the Overflow of God's Love

God's love is a constant source of strength and empowerment. As we position ourselves to receive this love, we become vessels of it to others. This love is not just a passive feeling but an active force that shapes our lives and interactions with others. By being receptive to God's love, we are empowered to live out His purpose and share His love with those around us. This love is a weapon that counteracts fear, doubt, and negativity, allowing us to live in the fullness of God's plan for our lives.

Conclusion: Embracing the Call to Spiritual Victory

As we conclude, we are reminded that our spiritual journey is not about passively waiting for things to change but actively engaging with the power of God's Word, faith, and the Holy Spirit. The battles we face are real, but they are not fought in our own strength. Through speaking God's Word, trusting in the Holy Spirit, and embracing the love of God, we can rise victorious in every area of

our lives. Let us commit ourselves to this journey of faith, knowing that God's love and power will guide us every step of the way.