



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“OWN IT”

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Own it means to take responsibilities for life, specifically, to become what God wants us to be. In the first part of the *Keys to abundant living series*, we embrace the life God has given to us, based on the 3 key principles: God has a plan for our life (Jer. 29:11); we will face spiritual battles (Jn. 10:10); many will fail in winning the battle (marriage, children, finances, life). God doesn't want us to be a lost sheep (Mt. 9:36); therefore, let us claim God's plan for our abundant living.

1. God's plan for our life

At most times, we take the blame game on any circumstances we suffered today, but our life is made up of choices which can affect God's plan for our life. In our journey, there are some difficult people affecting our journey with God; they will cause disruption to God's cause. However, God has a plan for each one of us.

1.1. We must cling to God's word in order to take back what God bestowed on us. In the Gospel account of *Jesus and the paralytic* (Jn. 5:1-16), Jesus asked, “Do you want to be healed?”; the paralytic who suffered for 38 years answered by expressing excuses to himself and blaming others for his current state. Thus, we must cling to God's words to be healed.

1.2 Jesus healed the paralytic. There is power in the word of God (Mt. 8:8; Ps. 107:20; Mt. 8:16-17). God is asking us like the paralytic – our healing and conversion. We will own God's promises of life and abundance, for we have the confidence of His Son, Jesus Christ who lived in us; we must also live in Him (Gal. 2:20). Hence, we are a new creation of God (2 Cor. 5:17).

2. Secrets for abundant Living

2.1 Be grateful for your healing. Initially, the man healed by Jesus did not show signs of gratitude, yet Jesus searched for him (Jn. 5:14-15). God is looking for those He wants to be saved (Lk. 17:11-19). He will not abandon His sheep, so, we have to cling to Him always.

2.2 Embrace positive change. Our healing leads to abundance, and this does not only mean financial blessing; It includes our health, relationships, and most of all our salvation. Our life will be extraordinary when we are with Jesus Christ. When Christ healed us, He asks us to sin no more (Jn. 5:14, Jn. 8:11) as He forewarned a worse state if we continue to sin (Mt. 12:45).

(To be continued...)

Conclusion

God has a plan for us in order to live a life in abundance. However, we are responsible to take back what God wants to give us. His words are powerful that anyone who seeks will be healed according to His will, and continue the journey according to His plan.

Reflection:

1. What are the choices you make that lead you closer to God?
2. Which part of your life requires healing? Have you lifted these to God?
3. What are your ways in discerning God's plans for you?

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