



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“BACKSWING”

(5 Keys to Power Part 4)

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June 22, 2022

A backswing is a movement of a club, racket, bat, or arm backward to a position from which the forward or downward swing is executed. To go forward with any power, we must first go backwards. Similarly, our walk with God is going to be like that: two steps forward and one step back. Whether we realize it or not, every time we get knocked back a few steps, we can come forward with more faith and more power. But growth requires change in order to realize our God-given potential. Hence, we have to get rid of what we used to do – our ways, our style and our perspective in life.

1. What does it take to realize our God-given potential?

- 1.1 We should change our perspective in life. The ten spies sent by Moses to reconnoiter the land of Canaan (Num. 13) had entirely different perspective from that of Caleb and Joshua. They forgot and rejected the word and promise of God for them.
- 1.2 We should not grumble, murmur, complain, fret or doubt God’s promise (Num. 14:36-38). We should surrender to the Lord our problems, our sickness, grudges, insufficiencies, pains, trials and persecutions. We should align ourselves with our walk with God (Jm. 1:6-7; Heb. 3:18-19).
- 1.3 We should stay away from people that will lead us to destruction. The ten spies caused division through negative words that confused the people from claiming God’s promise (Num. 14:36). Satan is at any time going to destroy, kill and rob us from the truth and will feed us with negative thoughts (Jn. 10:10).
- 1.4 We should never be afraid to stand with the minority which is right. Caleb dared to be different, and to go against the flow of the

majority. Good company will encourage us and help boost our faith (Heb. 10:25).

2. What made Caleb different from the ten spies?

- 2.1 He knew a surrendered life. He remembered his own commitment to the Lord, “I wholly follow the Lord, my God.” (Josh. 14:8-9). It was a personal, perfect and practical commitment to God, an attestation of his surrender. He was a faithful man who trusted God to fulfill His promises when others allowed their fears to override their small faith. His faith was rewarded and he was blessed by God with an inheritance within the promised land.
- 2.2 He knew a sustained life (Josh. 14:10). He thanked God for keeping him alive for forty-five years (1 Thess. 5:17). We should not doubt God’s promise (Jm. 1:6-7; Heb. 3:18-19). We should sustain our daily needs with our walk with God.
- 2.3 He knew a supported life (Josh. 14:11, 1 Jn 4:4).
- 2.4 He knew a satisfied life (Josh. 14:13).

Conclusion:

One element of success is growing to our maximum potential. However, growth requires change to be stimulated to being successful. God is building our faith as we gain more experience. Like Caleb, we should commit to serve God no matter how old we are and follow Him in every circumstance, patiently waiting for Him to fulfill His promises and ready to take action when the time is right.

Reflection:

1. How many of you feel that God has a greater purpose for you and that He wants to partner with you to pursue your purpose?
2. What has your faith in God been doing in your life?

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