

Always Positioned to Minister

August 4, 2013

Core Value #6: We believe that all of us are called to ministry and are positioned to transform the world around us.

- Ed & Louise Riekert
- You are always positioned to minister—you always have something to give regardless of your circumstances
- “When my health comes back” ... “When my marriage is on track” ... “Once the kids are raised” ... “When I get through this difficult season”
- We are seated with Christ—He is always positioned to minister
- In the driest places, the most challenging journeys of our walk...there is a river whose streams (favor, refreshing) make glad the city of God—you still have life in you!

Holy Spirit dwells in us—you always have a river in you

John 7:38 – (AMP) – “He who believes in Me [who cleaves to *and* trust in *and* relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, from his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs *and* rivers of living water.”

- Rivers of living water – refers to running water, not a container—abundant supply

We weren't meant to live life solely as a recipient, but as a giver!

JOSEPH

- Potiphar saw God was with Joseph and how everything Joseph did worked for good
- God blessed Pharaoh, his home and fields—all because of Joseph
- Joseph receives favor with head jailer and is put in charge of the prisoners
- His eyes weren't on the prison that held him captive, but the prisoners
- Pharaoh makes Joseph second-in-command
- In the land of his slavery and of his enemies, he had something to give

Staying Positioned to Minister

LIVE OUT OF HIS PRESENCE

Psalm 91:1 – “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].”

- To live in constant fellowship with Him

- To live from a place where everything we need we get from Him
- We are at home with Him, live in Him, converse with Him, depend on Him

Living in His presence is the antithesis to performance

- Isaiah 26:3 – *“You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is fixed on You because he trusts in You”*
- You will fortify us in impenetrable peace when our minds lean on you because we run to You for refuge
- Fruit comes from abiding in His presence—a fruit tree just abides in healthy soil...it doesn’t strive (Bill Johnson)

Psalm 73

- Asaph envied the prospering of the wicked—had he lived a pure life in vain?
- Verse 17 – *“When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.”*
- Asaph’s perspective changed when he went into the sanctuary of God

The Great Commission – not you alone, but joining together for a mission

- We have the Creator of the universe as our partner!

Holy Spirit loves to teach us about all things—especially how to live out of His presence

LIVE WITH A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE

What is your perspective—your circumstance or Jesus?

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (AMP) – “[Most] blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, *and* relies on the Lord, and whose hope *and* confidence the Lord is. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters that spreads out its roots by the river; and it shall not see *and* fear when heat comes; but its leaf shall be green. It shall not be anxious *and* full of care in the year of drought, nor shall it cease yielding fruit.” (AMP)

What happens to the person who believes, trusts and relies on the Lord:

- He will spread his roots to draw water
- He won’t feel the heat or be afraid of it—because he’s rooted in Jesus
- He will remain green (evidence of being well-watered)
- He won’t be anxious in drought times
- He will continuously be fruitful

See your situation from His perspective

- What you believe will destroy you or take you out of the game, He plans to use to transform you into His image and build you up

- “We are assured *and* know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together *and* are [fitting into a plan] for good to *and* for those who love God and are called according to [His] design *and* purpose.” (Romans 8:28, AMP)

Jesus in His last moments—healed an ear, welcomed a thief into eternity and took care of his mother

John was a prisoner on the island of Patmos” (Revelation 1:9)

- Patmos – Roman prison camp—a slave penitentiary overseen by some of the cruelest people ever to walk the earth
- Romans were known for their horrendous treatment of humans, especially those viewed as a threat to their regime
- John says, “Immediately I was in the Spirit.”—at one moment he was in the middle of pain and in the next he was “at once into a new place”
- He was fully in Patmos (never left) and fully in this “new place”—he received a new perspective
- At this “new place” he received an amazing revelation of Jesus on His throne

Romans 12:2 – let him renovate your mind OR change the way you think

What Happens When We Minister

Isaiah 58:6-11 (AMP)

- *Well-watered* – your thirst will be satisfied with drink
- *Whose waters fail not* – you won’t be disappointed—when you look for it, it will be there

SHAMENEK TESTIMONY