

Positioning For Functioning

Chalton Askew

We (Body of Christ) **must** realize in this hour how important it is to the success of our families, our churches, our communities, cities and especially to the building up of the Kingdom of God that we "**get in position**", but not only "**get in position**", but "**get in position**" and "**function**".

Apostolic Assignment: Equip the body of Christ for **functioning**. Football is actually a good illustration to use to drive this point home. **Why football?** Because we already know the principle so we don't have to re-teach it but focus on learning **application**. I've noticed, Holy Spirit pointing it out, that we have a lot of "**Apostolic acknowledgement**" in our midst but very little "Apostolic demonstration." The Holy Spirit called this "Apostolic pretense" for my hearing. We must begin to let the Holy Spirit lead us into "Apostolic demonstration."

The Lord took me back to my childhood when I would walk with a friend to his house. As we began our journey I would follow along side of him and he would take me through a path in the woods that would result in us arriving sooner to our destination. I knew where he lived and I would have gotten there but it would have taken me a little longer. No words were exchanged but in him leading the way and my decision to follow we arrived at our destination.

My point is, if we will begin to demonstrate or walk in the Apostolic authority of our God, others will begin to see it and be inclined to follow us. Thus we all arrive at the point that God desires for us without further delay.

"POSITION IS IMPORTANT"

* **Coach** - relays play to the quarterback.

* **Quarterback** then relays the play to the other players.

* **Team** then takes their positions

The team huddles together and the "voice" of the quarterback is heard. The team then returns to the line of scrimmage and the ball is snapped. Once the ball is snapped everyone goes into motion and functions in their respective strengths, as warranted by the play that was called, to "create an environment" for the whole team to be successful.

The aim of the team is to get the ball across the goal. Each member of the team is well aware that in order to do this they may have to take some hits. They may even get knocked down. Each player understands how important they are to the success of the whole team. Good players sometimes get injured but because they are determined and committed to winning they will occasionally play injured even at the risk of further injury.

Can you imagine what would happen if the play is called and the ball is snapped and no one functions? No progress is made and the quarterback is likely to get sacked. This scenario is all too familiar in our local churches. The Holy Spirit (Coach) relays and assignment (play) to the quarterback (pastor) and he shares it with the team (Ministers/Leaders) but the team does not support the vision. The quarterback (pastor) ends up not gaining any ground and may end up being sacked by the opposition (enemy) or at least feel like he/she has.

If the play is called and no one goes into action a "delay of game" penalty is called. Once a penalty is awarded we move further away from the goal instead of getting closer. We know where the goal is but we are ineffective and getting the ball across that line. With this in mind we must allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into functioning.

Players on the team are assigned by the coach noticing the strengths and weaknesses of all the players. Sometimes a player may have to be repositioned. When a player is slightly out of line and another team player notices that this person's position may jeopardize the entire team, they may gently nudge that player over to the appropriate or desired position. In some cases the player may have to be repositioned all together if they are unable to achieve the desired results of the position they are currently in.

Speaking of REPOSITIONING:

Here is one that we all should aspire to obtain. Christ took our position at Calvary, even though He had never sinned, but in effect paying the sin debt of all humanity. We must take our new position in the Second Adam (Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus) vs. our old position in the First Adam (Law of Sin and Death).

The Law of Sin and Death is called "original sin". This is the Law which Paul said works in the members of the physical body of the person. **(Romans 7:23)** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. It places one in bondage, making the person a slave to the Sin Nature. Our new position affords us victory over

every opponent we will face in our flesh that keeps us from reaching and obtaining the goals that our Lord has set for us.

FUNCTIONING to carry on a function or be in action (*operate*)

Imagine a car sitting in a garage but can't run. If you're in need of transportation, you are no better off by the car being there than if you did not have a car at all. As believers in the body of Christ we must function or better said, let the Holy Spirit function in us to will and to do His good pleasure. Otherwise the kingdom of God is not impacted by our inactivity. Many believers today are in "maintenance mode". The enemy has us in a constant cycle of working on ourselves that we cannot function for the kingdom.

How do I know that God wants me functioning? Here's the evidence:

-John 14:12; verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

- **Ephesians 4:11;** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12)** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13)** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

This reminds me that we must be "Spirit led" and not just "Spirit filled." Otherwise we become as valuable as the parked car sitting in the garage.

-Romans 8:14; for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Ankle Deep & Knee Deep (Ezekiel 47) For some of us by now we should be flowing in the river with God and causing change in our environments (homes, work places, city, state, country, the nations) **FUNCTIONING**. However, many believers today have not grown to a spiritual mature state and after many years of being saved remain in only ankle and knee deep waters. This is a type person who is Spirit filled but not led by the Spirit. To flow in the river of God means to release control to the Holy Spirit.

In a recent conversation with the Holy Spirit He shared that's important to know who's turning your rudder. Perhaps our inability to function may be because we have failed to let the Holy Spirit have control of our rudder.

Rudder 1: a flat piece or structure of wood or metal attached upright to the stern of a boat or ship so that it can be turned causing the vessel's head to turn in the same direction

2: a guiding force or strategy

Whoever controls the rudder controls the boat.

Sometimes we allow our rudders to be guided by: envy, pride, doubts, lust, jealousy, anger, rage, T.V., music, pain, spouses, jobs, situations and circumstances. **Romans 8:13;** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Reading **Acts 27** reminds us that no matter what we go through or how strong our opposition, we will score a "touch down" if we stick with the plays that God has designed for "victory." The Lord will always see us through if we keep our Faith in Him.