## Portion:

#### **SCRIPTURES**

- Exodus 27:20-30:10
- I Corinthians 12-14
- I Chronicles 22, 28, 29
- Matthew 25:14-30

## Title:

#### **IMPLANTED SAGACITY**

- Divine Assignments
- Impartation
- Guides and Provides
- Spiritual Gifts

"God helps those who help themselves." Have you heard that one before? There are so many quippy little phrases that float around in our culture that have no foundation in God's truth. The Bible says that God's strength is made perfect in my weakness, so that snappy little saying seems closer to the opposite of the truth. Paul's perspective on those who could not help themselves was—"When I am weak then I am strong."

But every once in a while, one of those little idioms passing by is true! This one for instance: "Where God guides God provides."

Yes, it is true that you should consider yourself on assignment for God, and whatever assignment you are on, God has provided everything you need to fulfill your destiny in Him. From your implanted skills and gifts, to your personality bents, to the very

circumstances you will find yourself in throughout your lifetime, Yahweh is directing your steps and making provision along the way. If you go where God guides it won't always be easy, but I promise it will be the greatest adventure imaginable.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest." Exodus 28:2-3 NKJV

#### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all." I Timothy 4:14-15 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion of Exodus continues with the instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle, now turning its attention to the priesthood that would serve in that sanctuary. Yahweh gives

Moses detailed instructions to make special garments for Aaron and his sons to wear while ministering as priests. After describing the priestly garments, the portion concludes with details for the ritual inauguration of Aaron and his sons into the priesthood. (Note: you can learn why the every detail that Yahweh gave on the mountain is so important in the teaching called: The Volume of the Scroll)

- 2. We begin where we left off last week as we saw every detail for the construction of the Tabernacle and its contents and now we need oil to light the menorah. Yahweh commands pure olive oil be used to keep the light burning continually. This light is to burn in the tabernacle outside the veil which separates the holy place from the most holy place (where the Ark resides).
- 3. We learn that it is Aaron and his sons who will be responsible to keep the fire burning continually forever.
- 4. Now we turn our attention to the priesthood. Aaron and his four sons are the seed of the Levitical Priesthood (remember Moses and Aaron are from the tribe of Levi). Aaron's sons are Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. (Keep your eyes on the first two as they will make a critical error in the near future, and Eleazar will have to step up into the leadership role!)
- 5. Moses is instructed to make holy garments for his brother Aaron who is about to be consecrated as the first high priest.

- 6. Yahweh Provides where He Guides: I love that Yahweh provides where He guides. In other words, have no fear, if He tells you to do something, He makes it possible for you to do it!
  - (a) "So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest." Exodus 28:3 NKJV
- 7. Yahweh has filled those who will take on this assignment with all the skills and knowledge they need to do it precisely.
- 8. Then we see exquisite details for the garments: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash.
- 9. Descriptors so detailed are painted in words pictures that you can literally see the designs in your mind. The adjectives used leave no doubts that you are witnessing a blueprint being described in words.
- 10. **The EPHOD:** I especially love the two memorial stones with the names of the 12 Tribes of Israel written on them in birth order (six on each), giving us the mental picture of the two tablets with The Ten Commandments on them! God says He does this so the names of the sons of Israel are ever before Him!
  - (a) "Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: six of their names on one

stone and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth." Exodus 28:9-10 NKJV

- 11. **The BREASTPLATE:** The breastplate with it's 12 different stones also will be engraved with the names of sons of Israel on them, one per stone. And as the stones are laid out in four rows with each type of stone in a particular position, you can use the birth order of Israel's sons to align which stone represents which tribe! (See Exodus 28:17-21)
- 12. This is the birth order with their mothers:

LEAH Son#s1-4 Son#s 9-10	ZIPAH (Leah's servant) Son#s 7-8	BILHAH (Rachel's servant) Son#s 5-6	RACHEL Son#s 11-12
Reuben (1)	Gad (7)	Dan (5)	Joseph (11)
Simeon (2)	Asher (8)	Naphtali (6)	Benjamin (12)
Levi (3)			
Judah (4)			
Issachar (9)			
Zebulun (10)			

13. These are the stones with their perspective tribes (see this in your mind from right to left as that is the direction you read in the Hebrew language):

#### The first row:

- #1 Reuben-sardius
- #2 Simeon-topaz
- #3 Levi-emerald

#### The second row:

- #4 Judah-turquoise
- #5 Dan-sapphire
- #6 Naphtali-diamond

#### The third row:

- #7 Gad-jacinth
- #8 Asher-agate
- #9 Issachar-amethyst

### The fourth row:

- #10 Zebulun-beryl
- #11 Joseph–onyx
  - \*(Note: this is the same stone as the two stones used for the Ephod with all 12 names on them! "Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel:" Exodus 28:9 NKJV) As there are no idle words in the Scriptures, consider that Joseph has a "special role" that relates back to all the tribes! And isn't this so true when we examine the life of Joseph and his special calling

to preserve the life of Israel (His father Jacob and his 11 brothers!)

#12 Benjamin-jasper

14. Side Note: The New Jerusalem has 12 Gates and 12 Foundation Stones!

## 15. Twelve Gates

- (a) "Also she had a great and high wall with **twelve gates**, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the **names of the twelve tribes** of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west." Revelation 21:12-13 NKJV
  - 1. Ezekiel clarifies which tribe is connected to which gate—
    ""These are the exits of the city. On the north side,
    measuring four thousand five hundred cubits (the gates of
    the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the three
    gates northward: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah,
    and one gate for Levi; on the east side, four thousand five
    hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate
    for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan; on the south side,
    measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates:
    one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate
    for Zebulun; on the west side, four thousand five hundred

Asher, and one gate for Naphtali. All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE."" Ezekiel 48:30-35 NKJV

#### 16. Twelve Foundation Stones

- (a) "Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb...The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst." Revelation 21:14, 18-20 NKJV
- 17. Pillars in the Temple (of the New Jerusalem) with God's name on them!
  - (a) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which

- comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name." Revelation 3:11-12 NKJV
- 18. Why are the names of the sons of Israel also on the breastplate?
  - (a) "So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually."

    Exodus 28:29 NKJV
- 19. The Urim and Thummim are also in the breastplate so they are positioned over Aaron's heart!
  - (a) "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually." Exodus 28:30 NKJV
- 20. Then other priestly garments and their details are described—even that there are bells attached so it can be heard when Aaron goes before Yahweh. Presumably this is so they can determine if he is still alive when he disappears behind the veil, a place in which no one else can go.
- 21. **The Head Covering:** The turban Aaron wears will have a gold plate on in that has inscribed "HOLINESS TO THE LORD". This is so Aaron can present gifts of the people to Yahweh as holy, **as if he is bearing their iniquity on his own head** (sound familiar?).

- (a) "You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet [the engravings of a seal]: HOLINESS TO THE LORD." Exodus 28:36 NKJV
- (b) And this sign over Aaron's head certainly conjures up thoughts of the cross and of Y'shua's priestly garments in Revelation, and our NEW NAME, and our call to be HOLY!
  - 1. "And they put up over His head the accusation [reason for execution] written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." Matthew 27:37 NKJV
  - 2. "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.

    And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns.

    He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

    He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a

- name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."
  Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV
- 3. Our New Name! "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

  Revelation 2:17 NKJV
- 4. We, now as His priests, must also "wear a sign"—

  HOLINESS TO THE LORD: "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy [from Leviticus 11:44]."" I Peter 1:15-16 NKJV
- 22. How do you hang the signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD?
  - (a) "And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban." Exodus 28:37 NKJV
- 23. **The Priestly Image:** He wears this sign **as to bear the iniquity on himself!** What a beautiful shadow of Y'shua as the true High Priest through whom we become acceptable to Yahweh!
  - (a) "So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his

- forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD." Exodus 28:38 NKJV
- (b) **IN OTHER WORDS!** "It will be on Aaron's forehead, and he will **bear the guilt** involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, **whatever their gifts may be**. It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so **that they will be acceptable to the Lord.**" Exodus 28:38 NIV
- (c) Now you can understand what Moses means when you read about carrying God commands as Frontlets between your eyes!
  - 1. "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you— 'a land flowing with milk and honey.' "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 NKJV

- 24. Now look at all the imagery of the Y'shua and priesthood from the Letter of Hebrews: In Him alone can we be holy and so too our gifts become acceptable! With Him we are and our gifts are all just filthy rags! "But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6 NKJV
  - (a) "Seeing then that we have a great **High Priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." Hebrews 4:14 NKJV
  - (b) "So also Christ did not glorify Himself **to become High Priest**, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You

- are a priest forever **According to the order of Melchizedek"**;" Hebrews 5:5-6 NKJV
- (c) "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV
- (d) "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually." Hebrews 7:1-3 NKJV
- (e) "Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is

evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."" Hebrews 7:11-17 NKJV

- (f) "(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek'"), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood." Hebrews 7:21-24 NKJV
- (g) "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for

- all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever." Hebrews 7:25-28 NKJV
- (h) "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV
- (i) "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;" Hebrews 9:24 NKJV
- (j) "But this Man, after **He had offered one sacrifice for sins**[bore our iniquity] forever, sat down at the right hand of
  God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His
  footstool." Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV
- 25. Aarons sons will also wear tunics, sashes and hats. And they must wear linen trousers to cover their nakedness. We saw this before when God warned Moses not to make an alter with steps going up to it so the priest's nakedness would not be exposed! (See Exodus 20:25-26)
- 26. And all of them shall be anointed and sanctified before Yahweh so they can minister as priests before Him.

- 27. Chapter 29 them speaks to the consecration of the priesthood.
  - (a) ""And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: ..." Exodus 29:1 NKJV
- 28. What follows are all the details of what that consecration process looks like, of both Aaron as High priest and of his four sons. The holy garments of Aaron as the High Priest shall pass to his sons after him. The son who takes his place will wear the garment for seven days and the altar shall be cleansed for seven days as well.
- 29. From this process of consecrating the priesthood and the altar flows this premise: (you can see details about God dwelling among His people in: <a href="https://doi.org/10.2016/journal.org/">The Volume of the Scroll</a>
  - (a) "And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory." Exodus 29:43 NKJV
  - (b) "So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests." Exodus 29:44 NKJV
  - (c) "I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God." Exodus 29:45-46 NKIV

30. The portion ends with instructions for the altar of incense in the first ten verses of chapter 30.

#### **GIFTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

1. The Gifts that are Implanted in You—a pastoral approach with prophetic implications!

## A. <u>Divine Assignments</u>

- (1) Created for a Vision and a Purpose
  - (a) **Created in Christ Jesus:** "For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for** good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 NKJV
  - (b) **The LORD directs your steps:** "A man's heart plans his way, But **the LORD directs his steps**." Proverbs 16:9 NKJV
  - (c) A future and a hope: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13 NKJV
- (2) Tapping into the vision inside of you!

- (a) **Delight, Commit, Trust:** "**Delight yourself** also in the LORD, And He **shall give [implant]** you the desires of your heart. **Commit your way** to the LORD, **Trust** also in Him, And **He shall bring it to pass [fulfill]**." Psalms 37:4-5 NKJV
- (3) Certainty—You already have everything you need!
  - (a) **He has give you all things!** "as His divine power **has given to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:3 NKJV
  - (b) He will supply all your needs! "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19 NKJV
- (4) When you live without a Vision...
  - (a) **Personal or Prophetic Vision?** This is not simply about your personal calling and accomplishments, but instead about your role in God's Prophetic plan as one of his human initiative partners.
    - "Where there is **no revelation**, the people **cast off** restraint; But happy is he who **keeps the law**."
       Proverbs 29:18 NKJV

- 2. "When there is **no prophetic vision** the people **cast off restraint**, but the one who **keeps the law**, blessed is he!" Proverbs 29:18 NET
- "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction." Proverbs 29:18 NIV
- 4. "When you do not seek, find, and live for what you have been created, by heeding the wisdom to God's laws and instructions, your life will run wild with nothing to keep you in check!" Proverbs 29:18 DJV (Dr. Jeff's Version )
- (5) **Tapping a Vision from Yahweh**—It is always for a greater purpose and never just about your personal life. However, the personal benefits are immeasurable.
  - (a) Like something as specific as the artisans who were on assignment, their roles to piece together God's masterpiece Tabernacle, its articles, and the garments of the priesthood, or King David himself who conceived to build a Temple for Yahweh (II Samuel 7) and then proceeded to download the detailed blueprints to meet the needs of his assignment in (I Chronicles 22, 28, 29), we see that where.

- God Guides... "Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."" II Samuel 7:3 NKJV
- 2. God provides... "Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;" I Chronicles 28:11-12 NKJV
- (6) And when you do not feel up to the challenge...God's strength is made perfect in your weakness!
  - (a) "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." II Corinthians 12:9-10 NKJV

#### B. Yahweh Provides where He Guides

(1) Yahweh Guides

- (a) You shall make... ""Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. And you shall make <a href="https://holy.com/holy.garments">holy garments</a> for Aaron your brother, <a href="for glory">for glory</a> and <a href="mailto:for beauty">for beauty</a>." [that Yahweh may be seen as glorious and beautiful] Exodus 28:1-2 NKJV
- (2) Yahweh Provides—by implanting/imparting!
  - (a) I have provided all you need to make... "So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans [wise in heart/mind; specially skilled], whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom [Implanted sagacity in his craft so he may do it successfully], that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest." Exodus 28:3 NKJV
    - 1. **Sagacity** is the quality of being wise or having good judgment, being discerning,; wisdom, penetrating intelligence.
    - 2. Use the formal adjective sagacious to describe someone who is wise and insightful like an advisor to the president or a Supreme Court justice. Someone like an inspirational leader or an expert in a field who

- seeks knowledge and has foresight can be described as **sagacious**.
- 3. Moses is instructed to make holy garments for his brother Aaron who is about to be consecrated as the first high priest.
- 4. I love that Yahweh provides where He guides. In other words, have no fear, if He tells you to do something, He makes it possible for you to do it!
- 5. Impartation and Implanted Wisdom—Why Impartation?
  - a) That you may be established: "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—" Romans 1:11 NKJV
  - b) That your progress may be evident: "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all." I Timothy 4:14-15 NKJV
- 6. Your responsibility... Stir up the gift!

- a) "Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift** of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." II Timothy 1:6 NKJV
- (3) Then Yahweh Sanctifies...so that they will be acceptable!
  - (a) "So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD." Exodus 28:38 NKJV
  - (b) "It will be on Aaron's forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the Lord." Exodus 28:38 NIV
    - 1. Whatever gifts you are given and giving, they are going to be acceptable to Yahweh.
  - (c) **The Ultimate Aaron:** "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **a Minister of the sanctuary** and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV

- Translation: In Y'shua, as opposed to Aaron, we have
   a Hight Priest who bears ALL OF OUR INIQUITIES so
   that ALL OF OUR GIFTS are ALWAYS acceptable!
   (See The Priestly Image in points 23 & 24 in "Let's Set
   the Scene: Portion in a blurb")
- (4) **About your Assignment:** Don't Worry—Don't Complain—Don't Count—Don't Neglect—Don't Look Back!
  - (a) **Don't Worry:** ""Therefore **do not worry, saying**, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV
  - (b) **Don't Complain:** "**Do all things without complaining and disputing**, that you may become blameless and
    harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a
    crooked and perverse generation, among whom you
    shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life,
    so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not
    run in vain or labored in vain." Philippians 2:14-16
    NKJV

- have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"Philippians 3:7-8 NKJ
- (d) Don't Neglect: "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself [personal calling] and to the doctrine [prophetic calling].
  Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." I Timothy 4:14-16
  NKJV
- (e) **Don't Look Back!** "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind** and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

  Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV
- (f) **Don't Look Back!** "Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my

father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God [The calling!]." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."" Luke 9:59-62 NKJV

## C. Spiritual Gifts and Offices

- (1) Separation of Duties— Given to Serving tables?
  - (a) We know what we are called to do so we must find others who are called to do what we are not called to do! "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables [Not our gift or calling]. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom [Those whose gift or calling it is], whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give

**ourselves** continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."" Acts 6:1-4 NKJV

### (2) Spiritual Gifts

- (a) Eight Different gifts according to the grace that is given to us: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a [1] measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if [2] **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or [3] **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who [4] **teaches**, in teaching; he who [5] **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who [6] gives, with liberality; he who [7] leads, with diligence; he who shows [8] **mercy**, with cheerfulness." Romans 12:3-8 NKJV
- (b) Nine Spiritual Gifts One Spirit: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. **There** are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the [1] word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the [2] word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another [3] **faith** by the same Spirit, to another [4] gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the [5] working of miracles, to another [6] prophecy, to another [7] **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of [8] tongues, to another the [9] interpretation of **tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." I Corinthians 12:1-11 NKJV

- (3) Comparing is a mistake!
  - (a) Do not compare yourself to anyone else! How to consider those gifts when compared to others: "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body,

so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am **not of the body**," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we **bestow greater honor**; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there

should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members **individually.** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that **miracles**, then gifts of **healings**, **helps**, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way." I Corinthians 12:12-31 NKJV [What is the more excellent way? Love in 1 Corinthians 13]

- (4) Love is the answer!
  - (a) Without love, all my gifts and calling amount to nothing! "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love **never fails**. But whether there are prophecies, **they** will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:1-13 NKJV

(b) For a great series of devotions about love, See <u>Suffer</u>
<u>Well Devotion</u> #'s 155-171

- (5) Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts
  - (a) Pursue love and spiritual gifts! "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification." I Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV
    - Following this in I Corinthians 14:6-25 are all sorts of instructions about the proper use of tongues and prophecy.
  - (b) No matter what your gift—use it for the building up of your brethren! "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." I Corinthians 14:26 NKJV
- (6) Offices as Gifts—for the purpose of edification!

(a) Each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift—all used for edification! "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be [1] apostles, some [2] prophets, some [3] evangelists, and some [4] pastors and [5] teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:1-16 NKIV

- (7) Do remember that the church's itself is built on the Apostles and Prophets with Y'shua being the chief corner stone.
  - (a) **Proper Church Governance:** "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom

- you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV
- You can see an extensive teaching on this mandate for church governance in this teaching: <u>Rock Paper</u> <u>Scissors</u>

## D. <u>Desires Gone Sideways</u>

- (1) Challenges to go off track will come
  - (a) Don't be deceived—when you are off track it is because you are being drawn away by your own desires! "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." James 1:12-15 NKJV
- (2) Selfish Desires
  - (a) **Seeking your own pleasures:** "Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure** that war in your members? You lust

and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." James 4:1-3 NKJV

- (3) Wrong Desires
  - (a) The gifts of God are not for sale! "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **And** when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness,

- and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."" Acts 8:14-23 NKJV
- (4) Always a away out!
  - (a) Temptation is never the deciding factor! "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:12-13 NKJV

# E. What you do with what's been given matters—even if the road is tough!

- (1) New Assignments—Narrow Roads
  - (a) **Roads in the Wilderness:** "Behold, I will do a **new thing**, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I

    will even **make a road in the wilderness** and rivers in

    the desert." Isaiah 43:19 NKJV
  - (b) **Narrow Gates:** "Enter by the **narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because **narrow is**

- the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV
- (2) Faithful Stewards
  - (a) Required not suggested! "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV
- (3) The Faithful and Wise Steward has much required it him!
  - (a) Know your Master's will and act accordingly, OR ELSE! "And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his **household**, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do

- **according to his will**, shall be beaten with many stripes." Luke 12:42-47 NKJV
- (4) Much Given—Much Required!
  - (a) You must produce results for God! "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:48 NKJV
- (5) Whatever you do—do as unto the Lord
  - (a) All with God in mind! "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV
- (6) All good gifts are from the Father
  - (a) Every gift is to His credit, so get over yourself! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures." James 1:17-18
    NKJV

- (7) The Gifts of God are without repentance
  - (a) "For the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable**." Romans 11:29 NKJV
- (8) The Parable of the Talents: a pastoral view—don't waste your gifts!
  - (a) ""For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country [Think: Y'shua], who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them [Think: you and your assignments]. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability [Think: each is given specific gifts]; and immediately he went on a journey [Think: He's waiting in Heaven until His people finish their assignments]. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. [Think: we are called to steward what was assigned to us] After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them [Think: Y'shua is coming back to settle accounts]. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you

delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' [Think: two of the servants were faithful stewards—well done!] "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [Think: the Kingdom is upside down—reaping where you had not sown. ]And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' [Think: poor stewardship] "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers,

and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" [Think: it will not work out well for you if you neglect your assignment!] Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV

- (b) Consider the following in light of the Parable of the Talents:
  - 1. "For the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable**." (Romans 11:29)
  - "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." (I Corinthians 4:1-2)
  - 3. "For everyone to whom much is given, from him **much will be required;** and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48)
  - 4. "And whatever you do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will

- receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)
- 5. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

  (James 1:17)

## **Summary: Gifts and Assignments**

- 1. Yahweh has implanted gifts in you because you have a divine assignment to fulfill.
- 2. You were created for a specific Vision and Purpose, not simply for personal reasons, but for a prophetic destiny!
- 3. God will provide all you need in every area He has guided you.
- 4. If you neglect your vision and calling, it will not go well for you.
- 5. Your job is to first do the work of tapping into that vision from God and you do so by understanding the desires of your heart and from where they come.
- 6. You are called to do the work of stirring up the gifts in you. Give yourself entirely to them, so your progress is evident to all. And fear not, when you do, God will sanctify them.
- 7. About your Assignment: Don't Worry—Don't Complain—Don't Count—Don't Neglect—Don't Look Back!

- 8. Everyone has gifts, find yours and don't compare! They are all good, and you can't give back any of them!
- 9. Love is the ultimate thing to seek for everyone!
- 10. Be careful to not go sideways—and if you do, don't blame God, that's on you!
- 11. You are required to be a faithful steward of your assignment and you will be held to account—just like in the Parable of the Talents!
- 12. Fulfilling God's call will not always be easy; at times it will feel like a journey through the wilderness, and sometimes like squeezing through a narrow gate, but it is all worth it!

#### **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

- 1. When you delight in Yahweh He will "give" you the desires of your heart:
  - A. What two things does "give" indicate?
  - B. Sometimes God gives you challenges; what should your weakness in distress cause?
  - C. Why is having no vision for what Yahweh wants of you so risky?
- 2. What does Paul mean by, "stir up the gift of God which is in you"?

A. What does it mean to have gifts imparted to you?

### 3. Where God Guides He also provides:

- A. How did this show up for Moses when he was instructed to make holy garments for his brother Aaron, the High Priest?
- B. How did this show up for David in regard to the building of the Temple?

## 4. Discuss the different gifts and offices we find in scripture:

- A. Why is it a bad idea to compare yourself to others?
- B. Why is love paramount above all gifts?

# 5. What are some of the greatest challenges and temptations as you pursue God's gifts and calling in your life?

- A. Can you be tempted beyond your abilities? Why or why not?
- B. Are your gifts and calling ever truly personal? Why or why not?

# 6. Consider the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 from a pastoral position and then discuss the following ideas:

- A. "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29)
- B. "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." (I Corinthians 4:1-2)

- C. "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48)
- D. "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)
- E. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17)