

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2023

July: Divine Reset

Outlines for the month

Week 1: Positioning for a divine reset ✓

Week 2: Fighting to reset

Week 3: Pressing the reset button

Introduction

The following story was told by a famous golfer, Gary Player.

'I was practicing in a bunker down in Texas and this good old boy with a big hat stopped to watch. The first shot he saw me hit went in the hole. He said, "You got 50 bucks if you knock the next one in." I holed the next one. Then he says, "You got \$100 if you hole the next one." In it went for three in a row. As he peeled off the bills he said, "Boy, I've never seen anyone so lucky in my life." And I shot back, "Well, the harder I practice, the luckier I get."

What is the moral of this story? Gary player was not claiming that the result of his effort was 100% within his control. He was saying was that positioning is a key ingredient of success. In order to be "lucky", he had to actively put himself in the best possible position by training. Louis Pasteur put it this way "chance favours the prepared mind".

When people use the word "luck", they are saying that they don't know why something is happening, they can't control when it happens and they don't know how to make it happen again. A divine happening may be counted lucky by those who are not connected to God, but we know better. We may not be in control of it, but we know it is under control - by God himself. Even better, we know that His thoughts towards us are always for good, and that includes constantly giving us opportunities to experience something new with Him.

Our question therefore is not whether there will be a divine reset, but how we can position ourselves so that we can be a part of it when it does happen.

Pilot text

1 Sam 10:2-7 [NKJV] Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His [a]inheritance? 2 When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?" ' 3 Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a

skin of wine. 4 And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. 5 After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

- From the pilot text, How do we position for a divine reset?
 - **Receive the prophetic word.** The instruction of Prophet Samuel began a cascade of events that led to Saul walking in the reality of God's promise to him (via the anointing). The first thing Saul had to do was receive bread, which is symbolic of the Word of God.
 - **Pay attention to the times and seasons.** There was a clear sequence of signs, after which it would be time to act. Saul needed to be alert to recognise these signs.
 - **Speak the prophecy.** Speaking the prophecy was crucial to Saul's transformation (reset) into another man, one who was now able to operate in the new divine season
 - **Know what to do.** What to do is determined by the occasion, and the occasion is determined by a recognition of the signs marking the time and season.
- Questions for discussion (use scriptures to support your position):
 1. Who determines when a divine reset happens – God or us?
 2. Many self-help experts teach the principle of self-affirmation. It could be argued that speaking a prophecy is nothing other than self affirmation. How would you respond?
 3. Every believer who is led by the Spirit must always know what to do in every situation. If they don't, it means that they are not walking in the Spirit. Agree/disagree with reasons.

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The starting point of our divine reset is the will of God. However, we know that there can often be a disconnect between the will of God (in heaven) and our lived reality (on earth) – hence Jesus' guidance to pray "Your kingdom come" and "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". We know that God is willing and able to cause a reset to our circumstances. We know that His divine power has given us everything we need to be all that He has called us to be. We have heard the prophetic word, we've seen a vision for a better tomorrow, and our hearts yearn with expectation.

There is a divine reset available for us, but we may not yet have experienced it in full. How do we fight a good fight to ensure that nothing stands in the way of our reset?

Pilot text

1 Tim 1:18-19 [TPT] So Timothy, my son, I am entrusting you with this responsibility, in keeping with the very first prophecies that were spoken over your life, and are now in the process of fulfilment in this great work of ministry, in keeping with the prophecies spoken over you. With this encouragement use your prophecies as weapons as you wage spiritual warfare by faith and with a clean conscience. For there are many who reject these virtues and are now destitute of the true faith.

- What principles do we see from the pilot text about fighting for our divine reset?
 - **We must remember our divine calling.** Actively remembering what God has said to us helps to stay strong in times of doubt and wavering of our faith.
 - **We must hold on to our faith.** Regardless of how circumstances may unfold, we must never lose hold of our faith. Faith is a critical ingredient for succeeding in warfare, for if we have faith for nothing, then nothing is worth fighting for.
 - **We must maintain a good conscience.** The surest way to keep our faith pure is to maintain a good and tender conscience. Deviations from the true faith are often preceded by violations of a tender conscience – [Pulpit commentary](#)
 - For more reading on the subject, see [here](#) (provided by bible.org).
- Questions for discussion (use scriptures to support your position):
 1. Wrong behaviour always begins with wrong thinking. Agree/disagree? Why?

2. A fellow Christian argues that using prophecies to provoke or encourage the (good) behaviour you want to see in other people is effective, and therefore consistent with scripture. Agree/disagree with reasons.
3. Are there any circumstances in which it is right for us to ignore our conscience? Why/why not?

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The bible is full of examples for our education. In it we see flawed men and women of faith who have made mistakes, and yet succeeded in their faith-walk in spite of their imperfections. We learn how *not* to do things. But in many cases, we also see shining examples of how to do things according to God's will. In considering how to operate in a season of divine resets, we will be considering an example from scripture. As we study, consider how these stories illustrate the principles we have been learning through this series, and what you can apply to your own life.

Pilot text

2 Kgs 7:1, 3-5 [NKJV] 1Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'"

3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." 5 And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there.

- Consider the story of the 4 lepers in [2 Kgs 7:1-10](#).
 - How did the divine reset unfold in this story?
 - There was a prophetic word in operation [v1](#)
 - There was a battle that was fought (and won) in the realm of the mind [v3-4](#)
 - Action was taken to position themselves to experience a divine reset [v5](#)
 - Others?
- Questions for discussion (use scriptures to support your position):
 1. What is the difference between old testament prophets such as Elisha, and present day prophets?
 2. It is possible for another person to prevent a divinely ordained prophecy from coming to pass in our lives, even if we believe and act on it? Agree/disagree with reasons.

3. Sometimes the right thing to do is not to share certain prophecies with those closest to us, such as our spouse. Agree/disagree with reasons.