



## Influence: *Empowered By The Spirit To Do Something*

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### I. The “Assignment ~ Courage ~ Resilience ~ Favor ~ Influence” Package

A. **Courage:** We are going to begin to see unprecedented courage released to followers of Jesus who are being prepared for extraordinary assignments!

1. “**Courage is the quality (strength, ability) of mind and heart** that makes us resist the temptation to stop or retreat in the face of opposition, danger, or hardship. This implies the summoning of all our powers to reach the goal.”

a) <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for **God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control**. (2 Tim 1:5–7 ESV)

b) A final word: **Be strong** in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Eph 6:10 NLT-SE)

B. **Advancing the Kingdom is the goal.** What does that look like? First of all, this is God’s goal that we share with Him.

1. *From the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, **the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing**, and violent people are attacking it.* (Matt 11:12 NLT-SE)

2. The picture here is that of **conflict**. The Kingdom of God would continue to advance, but there would always be push-back from the kingdom of darkness. **At the center of this conflict was repentance and forgiveness**. Until Jesus’ return, this will always be where the most violent battle takes place.

3. <sup>4</sup> “*When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. <sup>7</sup> Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.*” (Titus 3:4–7 NLT-SE)

C. Our assignments as believers reveal our role as **participants, not spectators** in this conflict. The assignments of the saints are many times a vehicle for advancement. **Our assignments are a combination of God-given talents and abilities and supernatural empowerment.**

- D. Assignments can be personal, corporate, regional, national, or global. For the sake of discussion today, we will be focusing on **personal assignments** the Lord gives to allow us to cooperate with Him in the conflict of light versus darkness.
- E. **Assignments from God have dynamics.** They never take place in a vacuum, isolated from the world around us. Our assignments can never be completed effectively in our own strength. Our success is always linked to God's resources. Because they are dynamic, there is always more going on than any of us realize:
1. **Assignments** are an invitation from God to partner with Him to an end...**advancing His kingdom.**
    - a) *My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing **the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus**—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. (Acts 20:24 NLT-SE)*
    - b) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Eph 2:10 NAS95)*
    - c) *At just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that **I have been entrusted with this work for him.** (Titus 1:3 NLT-SE)*
  2. **Courage** is needed to enter into a battle we are only partially equipped for. We can “take courage,” but we can also stir up courage in each other.
    - a) *<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to **stir up one another** to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:23–25 ESV)*
    - b) **Encourage** = To throw courage one's way. ~ Rita Springer
  3. **Resilience** is imperative when we run into resistance or obstacles, allowing us to press through when times get tough and we feel like quitting. Resilience is not based upon our strength, but broom our trust in God.
  4. **Favor** is given to open the door for resources to flow to and through those who are actively participating in the battle.
  5. **Influence** is the result or fruit of courageously walking out an assignment from God in the fullness of His provision.

## II. I want to focus on these last two aspects of our assignments, favor and influence, or more appropriately, favor TO influence.

- A. **FAVOR**: A **spiritual magnetism** that wraps itself around a person who is charged with a divine assignment they are in the process of unfolding. Favor is **the attraction of God to you**, that releases an influence through you, so that every resource you need materializes in order to accomplish the assignment God gave you. The force of favor is this mysterious attraction factor that brings the resources, divine connections, appointments, and finances into proximity so that they find you and you find them. ~ Lance Wallnau

- a) *For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, **You surround him with favor** as with a shield. (Psa 5:12 NAS95)*

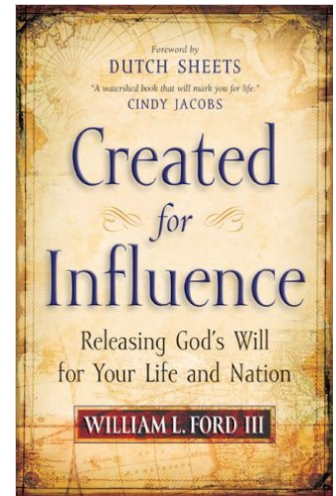
b) *Lord, how wonderfully You bless the righteous. **Your favor wraps around each one and covers them under Your canopy of kindness and joy.** (Psa 5:12 PASSION)*

B. **INFLUENCE:** Influence at its core is about capturing the affections of another. Thoughts, decisions and outcomes are altered and determined as a result. **The degree to which a person has intimately gripped the heart of another will determine the depth of influence that person can exert over the other.** ~ William L. Ford III, *Created for Influence: Transforming Culture from Where You Are*

1. **Influence is the ability to sway others' thinking and actions**, as well as the dynamics involved in our relationships (seen or unseen) with each other. When you allow God to capture your heart, He will give you His influence. It will flow through your passion and transform everyone around you. [Example: Picking up the bill for others/letting others walk out what they have learned under your influence.]

2. **"Is favor the same as influence?"** They are related, but they are not the same. Favor provides us with opportunities to use influence, but provides no guarantee that influence will be stewarded or cultivated the right way.

a) *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:2 NLT-SE)*



3. **The other side of influence...**"We must remember that **influence works two ways**. At the same time God is calling you to influence nations, **He is cautioning you to evaluate what is influencing you.** ~ William L. Ford III, *Created for Influence: Transforming Culture from Where You Are*

a) *<sup>1</sup> Follow my advice, my son; always treasure my commands. <sup>2</sup> Obey my commands and live! **Guard my instructions** as you guard your own eyes. <sup>3</sup> Tie them on your fingers as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. (Prov 7:1–3 NLT-SE)*

4. **Through prayer and godliness**, we can actually influence the invisible realm and partner with God to **shape history** here on earth. It is astounding that **our prayers can influence God**.

a) *<sup>7</sup> "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! <sup>9</sup> Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. <sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done **on earth, as it is in heaven.** (Matt 6:7–10 NLT-SE)*

5. **You can also influence the heart of God.** Did you know that Christ stares at you with the same fervent anticipation of your turning in His direction?

a) ***You have captured my heart**, my treasure, my bride. You hold it hostage **with one glance of your eyes**, with a single jewel of your necklace. (Song 4:9 NLT-SE)*

b)

### III. The Favor of God + the Mind of Christ = Kingdom Influence

- A. **This next season for the church will see doors opening** more radically than ever before into places where there are unsolved issues and specific believers (like you and I!) will be assigned with **revealing the counsel of God to a desperate world**. The kingdom is advancing!
- B. **The Mind of Christ**: This is Solomon-like access to the wisdom of God, the counsel of God, to get supernatural solutions to problems by the mind of Christ revealing the counsel of Heaven. **There is a solution to every problem if the power of God is in the answer!**
1. <sup>13</sup> *When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.* <sup>14</sup> *But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.* <sup>15</sup> *Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.* <sup>16</sup> *For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But **we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.*** (1 Cor 2:13–16 NLT-SE)
- C. The plan ("The Work") that God has for you in your city or company will require you to **gather with people you have affection with**. The Bible calls these relationship being in one "accord" (affection).
1. <sup>1</sup> *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!* <sup>2</sup> *It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!* <sup>3</sup> *It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has **commanded the blessing**, life forevermore.* (Psa 133:1–3 ESV)
- D. This kind of unity creates an attraction with the Holy Spirit and the atmosphere of affection **invites the anointing** the Spirit brings. Next, comes the **agenda** of God. **There are some things that God does not reveal until the right agenda is set**. When the agenda is finally set, a corresponding **authority** is released. What the Lord is releasing is the authority to solve problems. In *Intercessory Prayer*, Dutch Sheets writes, "Power does the work, but authority controls the power."
- E. **Who do you have accord** (friendship and respect) **with?** As you come into this next season, if you are not walking in **friendship** with those you share ministry with, if they don't **respect** your gifts and callings, when you start to receive "courage" from the Holy Spirit, instead of encouraging you to do it, these people will begin to **push back** against you and actually **try to thwart** the very thing the Lord is trying to accomplish through you!
1. <sup>2</sup> *One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul **for the special work to which I have called them.**"* <sup>3</sup> *So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.* (Acts 13:2–3 NLT-SE)