

Serve God's Purpose Part 4

Be Wise to Authorities God Placed Over You and Don't Revenge

“1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Romans 13:1 KJV)

God who created you is the One who has called you for His purpose and glory. In order to achieve His purpose, God has placed you wherever you are right now. The country that you are in, the city that you live, the family that you belong, the work you are working, the church that you are part of, the people who are around you and whom you are meeting every now and then, in all these God has a purpose. So be more aware of what is going on around you!

David was wise in dealing with the authority that God had placed over him. He was loyal to King Saul. At the beginning David was not much aware that the Lord had left Saul and he would replace him. Yet David served God's purpose while under the leadership of King Saul. David served King Saul faithfully; he was to play the harp whenever the evil spirit comes and torments King Saul. ***“21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. 23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.” (1 Samuel 16:21-23 KJV)***

David pleased the king and in the first place truly King Saul liked David's faithfulness and obedience in service. ***“5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.” (1 Samuel 18:5 KJV)***

But later on Saul became jealous of David on account of what he achieved for God. And Saul was even trying to finish David's life. ***“6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. 7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.” (1 Samuel 18:6-9 KJV)***

“10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice. 12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. 15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went

out and came in before them.” (1 Samuel 18:10-16 KJV) Many times King Saul attempted to finish the life of David, but David was wise on how to handle every situation. With God's wisdom David continued to be faithful to God and in his service to King Saul, and God granted him more success.

The success that God would give you and grant to you could cause some people to be jealous of you. If jealousy is in the hearts of those who are over you then that will be more difficult, not because of the troubles that they may cause you, but because of the frustration that may come into your life. You find yourself discouraged because they who are supposed to help you and encourage you to grow and glow, you find them the same people who are trying to trouble you. But you need to forgive them and focus yourself to do what God's Word teaches you, so you don't need to be side-tracked and get into a blind and dark path.

Saul was trying and inventing other ways to kill David: ***“17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. 18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? 19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholahite to wife. 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. 22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. 28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. 29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.” (1 Samuel 18:17-30 KJV)*** Saul was using his daughter in order to push David to die on the hands of the Philistines, and that was a dirty way to get rid of David. But the Lord delivered David and helped him and granted him success against all his enemies.

This is the same for you today. Don't be intimidated with what people around you and over you may do to harm you. The authority that is disturbing you – they could be those over you in your work place, in the family realm, the government of the country where you are living, or the authority in the church where you belong. But the same advice is given to you: Don't be anxious or give much thought to whatever evil or harm they are trying to do to you. Be

wise and continue to do good works. Be obedient and faithful person in serving God under the leadership and authority of those people God placed over you. Whether they are good or bad, you continue to be keen to do your part and don't be afraid; the Lord will help you and protect you from the hands of your entire enemies. *"13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."* (1 Peter 3:13-16 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: David said to the Lord, *"5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."* (Psalm 23:5 KJV) God will continue to bless you and provide for you even if others are not wishing you good. Continue to trust God, obey His Words, and faithfully do your responsibility as a worker. This is wisdom from the Lord.

"8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Peter 3:8-12 KJV)

David did not revenge to the people that harmed him. One of the most difficult tasks you faced as worker is how to deal with those who are superior to you in the Lord. If they are doing God's will you enjoy the grace of God and the direction of the Lord under their spiritual guidance and care. But if they are disobedient and living in compromises the task you need to do requires more perseverance and patience, to wait upon God till He delivers you from them and fulfill to you what He promised.

David was driven away by King Saul from the kingdom. Saul with his jealousy of David, he was trying his best to hunt David and kill him. Saul's focus and all his concern were not on what the Lord wanted him to do but on how to finish the life of David.

The point to learn here is how David handled those crises and how he responded to the threats. David did not focus on Saul and his wrong doing against him. Although King Saul tried many times to kill David, David did not plan to revenge or to retaliate. He only managed to escape from Saul's plot to kill him. David continued to do God's will and worked hard for God. He was not disturbed about King Saul, instead he continued the Lord's campaign against the Philistines and the rest of the enemies of God.

Furthermore, there were two opportunities that David could finish Saul's life but he refused to revenge. He decided not to do wrong against Saul:

"1 And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks

of the wild goats. 3 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. 4 And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. 5 And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. 6 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. 7 So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. 8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. 9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? 10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed. 11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. 12 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. 13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. 14 After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. 15 The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand. 16 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. 17 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. 18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. 19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. 21 Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house. 22 And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold." (1 Samuel 24:1-22 KJV)

Again in another occasion David spared Saul's life:

"1 And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon? 2 Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. 3 And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. 4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed. 5 And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him. 6 Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab,

saying, *Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.* 7 *So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.* 8 *Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.* 9 *And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?* 10 *David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.* 11 *The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.* 12 *So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.* 13 *Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them:* 14 *And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? 15 And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.* 16 *This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.* 17 *And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.* 18 *And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?* 19 *Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.* 20 *Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.* 21 *Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.* 22 *And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.* 23 *The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed.* 24 *And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.* 25 *Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.” (1 Samuel 26:1-25 KJV)*

David knew that King Saul was God's anointed king, so even Saul was doing him wrong he decided not to be the one to strike him or harm him but God Himself would do at the right time. This attitude of David reflected the fear of the Lord in his heart, and how he was patiently waiting upon God to do what he was promised. David was waiting upon God to avenge for him and to reward him all that was ordained for him.

My Dear and Beloved: In certain period of your life, you might be in the same situation as David's. Therefore, in whatever you are now passing through the following steps are powerful and effective to serve God's purpose:

1. **Wait upon God:** “7 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.* 8 *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” (James 5:7-8 KJV)* God put you in certain times with hard people and He wants you to exercise patience waiting upon Him till He delivers you. So never focus on your enemy or their wrong doings against you, but continue to work hard and be faithful until God fully delivers you.

2. **Don't be envious when evil men succeeded in their own evil ways:** “1 *Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.” (Psalm 37:1 KJV)* When you are put in hard situations, you should not escape the situations by doing evil. You have the right to protect yourself when you have to. But never use wrong or evil ways in dealing with conflict. Keep your integrity by following God's principles.

3. **Don't revenge or retaliate:** “17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.* 18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* 19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* 20 *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.* 21 *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21 KJV)* Follow the example of David with Saul, his enemy; continue to do what is right, avoid harming them, but give room to God to deal with them.

4. **Pray for your enemies:** “28 *Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:28 KJV)* Prayer is so powerful and effective in dealing with those who ill-treat you. *Lord I pray for those enemies of mine _____, Lord save me and deliver me from them in Jesus' name, Amen.*

5. **Be humble waiting upon God to lift you up:** “6 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:* 7 *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7 KJV)* God is the only One who can save you from your troubles. He is the only One who is able to lift you up and reward you in His perfect time.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your clear word to me. Lord, thank you for your Word that reminds me of your ways and what you want me to do and to be. I humble myself in your hands, accepting your will and willing to follow your ways. Lord, I will continue to serve you and be faithful to you. Lord, I will not look to the offenses that people or those who are above me are doing against me but I will look always on how much you suffer for me and the great things that you have done and are doing to me. Lord, give me self-control and patience to wait upon you to deal with my enemies and to lift me up in your perfect time. Lord, upholds me with your grace and protect me. Please give me the

wisdom to continue to do your work and to achieve your will in my life. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your anger, unforgiveness, the grudges in your heart and your trial to revenge of your enemies. Confess and renounce your jealousy and envy. Confess and renounce your lack of patience and self-control. Confess and renounce all your fears, doubts, worries and lack of faith. Confess and renounce your delay obedience and stubbornness. Renounce your non willingness to humble down before God and renounce doing your own will and not the will of God. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____

Lord God, thank you for your message that you placed in my hands that taught me to humble down in your hands and to be patience and to wait upon you until you come and deal with my enemies and lift me up and reward me in your due time. Lord, I forgive those people who keep harming me _____; Lord I commit myself not to revenge or retaliate. Lord, I placed them in your hands, that you deal with them and free me from their bad influences on my life, ministry and service unto you.

Lord help me to overcome this struggle in my life _____. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to do your will and go into your ways. Lord uphold them with your grace and mercy, protect them, provide their needs, and sustain them to go on and serve you. Lord give them more patience and self-control to wait upon you until you come to lift them up.

Lord, we commit ourselves as your church to apply what we learned in the message today in our lives, in the lives of our families and the disciples. Lord we commit into your hands the following people and authorities who oppose us and keep troubling us _____. Lord deal with them and remove them as obstacles from the way that you ordained for us to pass through. Devil we come against you in the name of Jesus and we cast you away and out; you have no right to disturb any ministry and any worker in the church. Lord we commit ourselves to go forward reaching new people and places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord continue to lead us with your Holy Spirit to do the things that you wants us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Serve God's Purpose Part 4. Be Wise to Authorities God Placed Over You and Don't Revenge. Romans 13:1. 1 Samuel 16:21-23. 1 Samuel 18:5-30. 1 Peter 3:13-16. Psalm 23:5. 1 Peter 3:8-12. 1 Samuel 24:1-22. 1 Samuel 26:1-25. James 5:7-8. Psalm 37:1. Romans 12:17-21. Luke 6:28. 1 Peter 5:6-7.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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