The Law of Reflection presented by The Ministry of YOU 7/22/24

The Law of Reflection in essence is learning to pause to allow growth to catch up with YOU. John Maxwell gives a quote that really sums up the Law of Reflection. He quotes Peter Drucker. Peter Drucker was an Austrian American management consultant, educator, and author, whose writings contributed to practical foundations of modern management theory. “Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action.”

This is a Biblical principle. The Lord God advised Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ minister, after the death of Moses to follow the principle of reflection. Moses was dead now and it was now time for Joshua to lead His people to the land that He had promised them. God Himself ordained Joshua as Moses’ replacement. During his ordination God spoke to Joshua’s destiny. AMPC Joshua 1:5-7; No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

Be strong (confident) and of good courage, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Next, the Lord God introduced the Biblical principle of reflection or meditation. AMPC Joshua 1:8; This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate (reflect) on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success. So, from quiet reflection or meditation on The Book of the Law or The Word of God will cause more effective action. What is that effective action? You will make your prosperous, deal wisely, and have good success.

Let’s take an even closer look at the word “meditate.” Meditate is the Hebrew word haga (haw-gaw’). It means to moan, growl, utter, muse, devise, plot, speak, imagine. The first word I would like to highlight in these defining words is the word, “muse” and it means to become absorbed in thought, a state of deep thought. In addition, the word, “imagine” means to form a mental image of something not present.

There is also a speaking aspect of meditation or reflection. In modern day terminology this is referred to as self-talk. We discussed self-talk in our lesson in the previous meeting. This was discussed with the Law of the Mirror which states YOU must see value in yourself to add value to yourself. Self-talk is the running conversation that you are continually having with yourself on a daily basis.

The Lord God wanted Joshua to understand his perspective of himself was going to determine whether not he failed or succeeded. God gave Joshua His destiny for him. However, Joshua still had to choose to receive and believe his God-given destiny, and so do we! Our perspective of ourselves, which is our mental view of ourselves is important. This is why God gave Joshua His Perspective or Mental View of him so he would have the Truth. In order to experience this good success, we will have to align or mental image of ourselves and self-talk with the Word of God. Because the Word of God is the Truth and this is where we will find our true destiny! John Maxwell gives a very good example of how he had to make a quick shift in his paradigm or mental view. It was during a time when he was traveling on an extended speaking trip. He scheduled to speak in the Ukraine to a group of about five thousand businesspeople.

He had a pretty good idea of what his subject matter would be with these businesspeople until he had an encounter with the gentlemen who would be his translator. The translator told John that he had read several of his books. He referenced one of his books that discussed leaders adding value to others. This is what John was going to discuss with these businesspeople. The translator cautioned him that this message would fall on deaf ears in the Ukraine. Because in the Ukraine the leaders are crooked and selfish, and being able to circumvent authority and working the system were seen as virtues.

John said, because he still had a little time before he had to speak, he decided to go the speaker room so he could pause and reflect on the things the translator had told him. He said he was feeling very emotional and wanted to take time to let his thinking catch up with his feelings. So, he started to ask himself some questions: how am I feeling? The answer was sad. What could I do? He decided he could show them his heart as a leader. How could I do that? He decided he could let them know that he knew what their situation was, and he had compassion for them.

He said, “I didn’t completely abandon what I planned to speak about that day, but I sure modified it for and tailored it to my audience.” One of the first things he said that day was, “My name is John, and I’m your friend.” He said it helped to soften some hard but humorous truths that he was delivering. It worked, the audience began to believe that he really was there to cheer them on and add value to them as a leader. John admits that he would have failed in his delivery had he not taken the time to pause and reflect on what his audience needed to hear. The audience needed to have their mental view or perspective to change so they could change. John added value to them by helping them to have a paradigm shift.

John gives some helpful insight on how reflection can help us grow. 1. Reflection turns experience into insight. John believes that evaluated experiences is how we learn and grow. He disagrees with the concept that “Experience is the teacher of all things.” He recalls an old joke that experience is a hard teacher because the test is given first and the lesson is given afterward. He goes on to say, “People have numerable experiences every day, and many learn nothing from them because they never take time to pause and reflect. The Word of God tells us Who our Teacher is supposed to be. AMPC John 14:26; But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name (in My Place, to represent Me and act on My Behalf), He will teach you all things, and He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you. This is what our Teacher the Holy Spirit will help us to do. He helps us to reflect or meditate on the things He’s teaching us. He helps us to really begin to learn and understand the things of God.

2. Everyone needs a time and a place to pause. John recommends this because he says it allows us to make sure we are on the right track. After all, if someone is going down the wrong road, he doesn’t need motivation to speed up. He needs to stop, reflect, and change course. He encourages us to have a place to go in order to think and create. Most people are just busy with a lot of demands upon them, and they just rush from place to place trying to get things done. John admonishes us to slow down because there are experiences, we may have that are impactful to our lives, but we miss them because we didn’t pause to reflect on them. As children of God, we are supposed to be learning to become just like Jesus. However, if we are busy with the busyness of life, even if it’s good things and never take time to meditate or reflect on God’s Word, we will never get to know the One, Who we are to become.

3. Pausing with intention expands and enriches thinking. John realized that people who made an impact on the world spent a considerable amount of time alone thinking. I like this quote by John Maxwell. “A minute of thought is worth more than an hour of talk.” This can really help YOU to figure out what’s really important and what isn’t. The book of Proverbs warns us about moving fast without taking the time to think and reflect. AMPC Proverbs 19:2; Desire without knowledge is not good, and to be overhasty is to sin and miss the mark. The word “overhasty” is defined in the Merriam and Webster dictionary as acting too quickly, done or made in a hurry, or overly eager or impatient. We don’t want to be so busy and moving so quickly toward what we think is an intended goal, to find out it wasn’t the right goal. If we would have just taken the time to pause and reflect, we wouldn’t have missed the mark or missed God! The Lord God didn’t want Joshua to miss the mark, so he advised him to take the time day and night to meditate or reflect. Joshua received and believed the Lord God’s advice and made his way prosperous, dealt wisely, and had good success. He meditated and reflected on the Book of the Law and acted on the Biblical principles written in the Law. In addition, he became his God-given destiny.

According to commentary, Joshua’s personal success was definitely related to his attitude toward God and the Mosaic revelation, he immediately made the Israelites conscious of their relationship with God. The miraculous manner in which the city of Jericho was conquered, the conquest of Ai, the defeat of the Amorite League in the south, and the razing of Hazor, the Canaanite stronghold in the north, gave the Israelites possession of the main areas. Joshua publicly renewed the covenant between God and Israel, admonishing the Israelites to maintain a wholehearted devotion to and Love for God. With conviction he expressed his own determination to serve God.

John Maxwell suggests some personal awareness questions: 1. What is my biggest asset?

2. What is my biggest liability?

3. What is my highest high?

4. What is my lowest low?

5. What is my most worthwhile emotion?

6. What is my least worthwhile emotion?

7. What is my best habit?

8. What is my worst habit?

9. What is most fulfilling to me?

10. What do I prize most highly?

In closing, John Maxwell leaves us with some very good advice. “Never forget that your goal in personal growth is reaching your potential. To do that, YOU need to keep pausing, keep asking questions, and keep growing every day.”

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