

MANIFESTING GOD PODCAST

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL — KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP: PRESENCE

When the Plan Gets in the Way of the Presence

Theme: Stewarding God's Presence

Goal: Manifesting the Person of Christ

Journey: Inspiration → Revelation → Transformation → Manifestation

DAY 1 — MAKE ROOM

Scripture: Matthew 21:12–17

Jesus entered the Temple and overturned what was interfering with its intended purpose. The Temple was active, organized, and functioning—but activity had taken up space that belonged to God.

Jesus' words, **“My house will be called a house of prayer,”** remind us that the Temple belonged to Him. The people were stewards, not owners.

The same question applies to us: **What has taken up space that belongs to God?**

Our “tables” may not be obviously sinful. They may be schedules, expectations, habits, responsibilities, relationships, or even religious routines. The issue is not simply whether something is good or bad. The question is whether it has begun occupying space God is asking us to surrender.

Key Truth

Presence requires space. Stewardship determines what gets to occupy it.

Reflect

What might be occupying space in my heart, mind, schedule, or priorities that God is asking me to surrender?

Prayer

Father, show me anything occupying space that belongs to You. Give me the courage to let You overturn whatever interferes with Your purpose for my life. Help me remember that everything I have belongs to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

DAY 2 — DON'T LET THE SACRED BECOME COMMON

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:12; 4:1–11

Hophni and Phinehas were surrounded by sacred things. They were priests, worked around sacrifices, and lived in an environment of worship—yet they failed to honor God.

Later, Israel treated the Ark of the Covenant almost like a formula: **Bring the Ark and we'll win.**

They became familiar with what represented God's Presence without remaining properly aligned with God Himself.

We can do the same.

Prayer can become routine.

Worship can become routine.

Church can become routine.

Scripture can become routine.

We can know what happens next and still miss what God is doing now.

Key Truth

What becomes familiar can stop feeling sacred.

Reflect

Where have I become overly familiar with the things of God?

How can I approach God's Presence with renewed reverence and expectation?

Prayer

Father, forgive me wherever familiarity has caused sacred things to become ordinary. Restore my wonder, reverence, and expectation. Help me never become so familiar with the things of God that I fail to recognize the God of the things. Amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

DAY 3 — WAIT FOR HIS PRESENCE

Scripture: Exodus 32:1–8; 33:14–15

Israel became impatient because Moses stayed on the mountain longer than expected.

God had not abandoned them.

God had not forgotten them.

God simply wasn't moving according to their timetable.

So they manufactured something they could control.

Impatience still tempts us to do the same. When God seems slow, we may try to create the relationship, opportunity, answer, solution, or outcome ourselves.

But Moses gives us a different posture:

“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.” — Exodus 33:15

Moses understood that arriving somewhere without God was not success.

Key Truth

Impatience can cause us to manufacture what Presence intended us to wait for.

Remember

Impatience says: “I can't wait.”

Presence says: “I won't go without You.”

Reflect

Where am I becoming impatient with God's timing?

Am I tempted to manufacture something instead of waiting for God's direction?

Prayer

Father, teach me how to wait for You. Keep me from moving ahead simply because I am uncomfortable with the waiting. I would rather wait in Your Presence than arrive somewhere You never led me. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

DAY 4 — RELEASE CONTROL

Scripture: Numbers 9:15–23

Israel's movement depended on the cloud of God's Presence.

When the cloud moved, they moved.

When the cloud stayed, they stayed.

Sometimes it remained briefly. Sometimes much longer.

Their plans had to remain surrendered to God's direction.

Planning is not wrong.

Organization is not wrong.

Structure is not wrong.

But problems begin when our plans become so fixed that God is no longer allowed to redirect us.

We can pray, **“Holy Spirit, have Your way,”** while secretly meaning, **“as long as Your way fits my plan.”**

Stewarding Presence requires surrender.

Key Truth

When Presence moves, we move. When Presence stays, we stay.

Reflect

Is there an area of my life where I want God's Presence but also want complete control?

If God changed my plans today, would I recognize His direction—or resent the interruption?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, I surrender my plans, expectations, and timelines to You. Help me plan wisely without making my plan an idol. Give me sensitivity to know when You are saying move, stay, wait, or change direction. Amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

DAY 5 — ASK GOD AGAIN

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:17–25

David faced the Philistines and asked God what to do.

God gave him a strategy.

David obeyed.

David won.

Then the Philistines returned.

David could have assumed, **“I already know what works.”**

Instead, David asked God again.

This time God gave him different instructions.

Same God. Same enemy. Different instruction.

One of the dangers of success is turning yesterday's revelation into today's formula.

What God used before may have been right **for that moment**. Stewarding Presence means remaining sensitive enough to ask Him again.

Key Truth

Yesterday's move of God cannot automatically become today's method for God.

And as Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12–14, we need both **responsiveness and order**. The Spirit remains the One who determines how He works; our responsibility is to discern and respond faithfully.

Reflect

Where might I be relying on what worked before instead of seeking fresh direction from God?

What do I need to ask God about again?

Prayer

Father, keep me from turning yesterday's victory into today's formula. Give me ears to hear Your present instruction. Teach me to remain responsive, discerning, and surrendered to Your Spirit. I want Your Presence more than I want my preferred method. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

FINAL PRESENCE CHECK

After these five days, ask:

What table is God showing me?

Familiarity: “I know how this works.”

Impatience: “God is taking too long.”

Control: “I already have the plan.”

Yesterday's Method: “This is how God did it before.”

Distraction: “I'm too busy serving.”

Which one is God dealing with in me?

What needs to move?

What will I surrender?

MANIFESTING GOD PRINCIPLE

If God is only allowed to move according to our plan, we're not following Presence—we're asking Presence to follow us.

My prayer moving forward:

“God, what is occupying space in me that belongs to You?”

“Holy Spirit, what needs to move?”

My Final Reflection

Inspiration — What caught my attention?

Revelation — What is God showing me?

Transformation — What needs to change?

Manifestation — What should become visible in my life?
