

Assignment

8-9-26

2 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

But we will not boast beyond limits but will boast only with regard to the area (sphere) of influence God assigned to us.

This is an interesting verse and can help us in our Christian walk, our prayer life, and dealing with issues around us. What I want to share is not intended to limit your view of God, or your prayer life in any way whatsoever. My intention is to help focus our walk, our prayers, and identify our immediate God assigned spiritual responsibilities. For instance, there is nothing wrong with praying for world peace. However, it is very hard to measure, and it will remain on your prayer list forever, because it is very doubtful God will answer this before Jesus comes back. However, Bill Wright who I have often mentioned gave me a list of all the countries in the world with the names of their leaders and said I should pray for them. I had a one on one with Jesus and said, “Dear Lord, I don’t think you called me to this.” So do whatever Jesus tells you, but I think God gives us this verse to help us understand our assignment and act accordingly.

First of all, we see that the Apostle Paul will not boast beyond his limits, meaning there are limits. But he will boast within his sphere of influence. The word area or sphere of influence comes from the Greek word “metron” having to do with measuring boundaries. Instead of “influence” the NIV translates this as “sphere of service” which waters down the meaning and is literally incorrect. Area of influence or sphere of influence are both correct. This is very important, because this means that we have a limited sphere of influence assigned by God.

What does this mean?

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

Everyone among you should not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but according to the “measure” of faith that God has assigned.

#1 Measure – area of influence – Act based on our area of influence.

#2 Faith – Faith is hearing and then acting – we hear within our area of influence.

#3 God has assigned – God assigned our area of influence and speaks to us and empowers us within that area of influence.

You want to hear God? We need to stay in our area of influence. Plus, there is power with our area of influence.

Ephesians 4:7 (ESV)

Grace was given to each one of us according to the “measure” of Christ’s gift.

#1 Measure – area of influence – Grace is given in our area of influence.

#2 Grace – favor and power – we receive favor and power in our area of influence.

#3 Christ gives us the necessary gift – HE gives us power according to our area of influence.

You want to hear God. You want power.

Recognize your area of influence. Therefore, to have authority and power we need to know our sphere of influence or our assignment which has divine boundaries. Please listen. We do have the presence of Christ and HE is always working and guiding us. I am not saying we don’t, but I am saying God has given us an assignment and specifically speaks to us and empowers us for that assignment. We need to prioritize those things within our sphere of influence.

The Apostle Paul demonstrates our limitations.

Acts 16:6 (ESV)

They had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

We certainly have a general sphere of influence wherever we are and in whatever we are doing.

However, we should be aware of our specific sphere of influence assigned by God. God specifically speaks and empowers in these specific assignments.

For example, a Pastor has spiritual authority and power within his church which is in his sphere of influence. He should be praying for them. Every father has loving spiritual authority and power within his family which is in his sphere of influence. He should be praying for them. These are just two examples that help us understand our sphere of influence assigned by God. When we understand our sphere of influence assigned by God, it helps us to hear God and prioritize all issues of life. The first priority:

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”