

Faith
@ work



by Niteske Marshall

WEEK 7: TRUE PROMOTION COMES FROM GOD

Welcome to the final week of our faith@work challenge. We are concluding this seven week challenge by looking at how God's principles of promotion work. There are many ways to "earn" or seek promotion. Some people work themselves into those positions by sacrificing their family or personal life; others seek the favour of the "boss" regardless of whether it means compromising their own values. I believe that when we have submitted our lives completely to God, He will cause us to be promoted AT THE RIGHT TIME. We may see those around us "climbing the corporate ladder", but God has a unique plan and purpose for each of us and because we are part of His kingdom plans, we should not expect to walk exactly the same road as those around us. Premature promotion or untimely promotion can be fatal to our spiritual purpose. Personally, I do not want a promotion that God didn't authorise as I know that He knows when my character will be ready and when the timing will be right.

In looking at Joseph's life, it is clear that Joseph was moving up in the world pretty fast while working for Potiphar. Then, there came a day when he was falsely accused and thrown in jail. God allowed for this delay in his promotion trajectory in order to continue to build his character. He would need great character and meekness for the ultimate task and role he would play, as well as the power he would wield. It was definitely very difficult and didn't make sense to Joseph when he was imprisoned.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela had a leadership calling which only came into its fullness in his old age. I believe God "delayed" his promotion, too, for His purposes.

If you feel overlooked and frustrated, or even confined by your environment, continue to partner with God and know that His timing is perfect. He knows your potential, but He could be busy preparing you for a specific task. Don't give in to the temptation to accelerate promotion outside of God's will by making career decisions without consulting God.

Another important perspective on promotion is the principle of being faithful in the little. In this regard, I encourage you to read Matthew 25- the parable of the talents. Recently, at the Newsgirls Ladies Conference, we heard the story of Venete Klein who was an Executive Director of ABSA until recently. She shared how she tackled every duty and task by giving more than what was required, even when she started in the lowest position which involved removing staples from papers. After almost three decades of faithfully working with what had been entrusted to her, she ended up as the "ruler over much" that this parable speaks about.

I believe that this parable speaks about faith and being willing to take a risk at the right time based on believing that God is with you. God responds to faith. At one point in my own career, I was given an opportunity to manage a challenging business. I was intimidated at the time, being as inexperienced as I was, but I said "yes I will do it" because my faith in God was bigger than my fear of failure. When things went wrong and I was criticised and demoralised, I persevered because I believed that God had called me to business. One day, when I was spending time with God about the challenges ahead, I heard Him speak to me clearly and say: "Well done good and faithful

servant, you have been faithful in the little I will make you ruler over much". During the next year and the ensuing years, the business I was responsible for became one of the most successful within the whole company.

CHALLENGE FOR WEEK 7:

Reflect on where you find yourself at the moment. Have you been impatient in seeking promotion? Have you been focussing on self-promotion? Have you become discouraged? Take some time to talk to God and pour out your heart to Him if you are frustrated. Wait on Him to encourage you and confirm His purpose and timing in your life.

May God promote you into the fullness of your purpose and may God fulfil His kingdoms purpose in the marketplace!