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## A Charge To Our Graduates

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The message for today is mainly for those who have recently graduated but will be beneficial to all believers. We are all called to greatness, but we must be persistent, we are beginning a journey that never ends, we need to get on track and stay there, no matter how small the plans we make may appear to be, but they are in preparation for our lives that will follow. We learn from the scriptures that God had a plan for us even before we were born, it was created while we were in the womb of our mothers, and His plan, a special job has been set apart just for us. However, there are guidelines that we need to follow in order to know His plan.

Jer 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." KJV

There are three principals that we need to follow in order to have the kind of life that the Lord wants for us.

1) Learning to be grateful, everything in life is subject to change. Being grateful is to acknowledge what God is doing and has done, not the circumstances, but the outcome. We have an example of a man who at an early time in his life, began to ask questions regarding successful men, how they had achieved their success and what made them great, in his search he found that many times there were only 5 friends who have influence in their lives, he read many books that revealed how they lived and what they accomplished. His goal was to do the same and after a period of time, though there were many trials along the way, he succeeded and went ahead to be an influence on thousands of people.

1 Thess 5:18 "Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]." AMP

2) We need to be careful in choosing our acquaintances, we need to be encouraged

from others, knowing in our senses right from wrong. Having the wrong kind of relationships and companions will cause us to be deceived and misled. Don't let yourself be fooled, wrong companions can lead many down the wrong paths. You will start picking up bad habits, acting like they do. Regardless of what profession of life you are in there will be people who will corrupt your morals, but there will also be people that will lift you up and encourage you. The word encourages us to live a life of holiness not allowing our senses to lead us. We must get on the right track and stay on it. Wrong companionships will pull us down, but right companionships will lift us up, will edify us and build us up, giving a right attitude toward life. In any area of endeavor that we may chose, there will be people who will lift and encourage, those are the kinds of people that we should be looking for as examples in our lives. Proverbs chapter 13 and 14 tell us that if we want to be wise, hang around wise people. If you have a God size dream on the inside of you, you will need help in order to accomplish that dream and fulfilling the dream. On your journey, God will bring people across your path that will encourage and help you to fulfill the dream.

1 Cor 15:33-34 "Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character. 34 Awake [from your drunken stupor and return] to sober sense and your right minds, and sin no more. For some of you have not the knowledge of God [you are utterly and willfully and disgracefully ignorant, and continue to be so, lacking the sense of God's presence and all true knowledge of Him]. I say this to your shame." AMP

These three principles; learning to be grateful, choosing wisely our companions and becoming servants, may appear to be something that the younger generation doesn't realize the importance of, but they are truly important in order to have a fulfilled life and fulfill the plans that the Lord has for each of us. We must learn to be servants to others. This is a journey that we never quit, first we serve God, then we serve leaders or our employer and then we learn to serve one another.

3) We must learn how to be servants to others and become servants. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He did not have the attitude that He was too good to serve, Jesus made the choice to serve others and we must make that same choice regardless of what our standing may be and what we have accomplished in our lives. If we want to be great in the kingdom of God we must take on the servants attitude and die to self. This will open the door to our destiny, as we learned from an example of a young man, a deskclerk, who had given up his room at the hotel where he worked, to

an older couple, who had arrived late, in bad weather and because all the rooms had been taken, he offered to let them have his room for the night. When they checked out the next morning, thanking him and getting his name, they made a comment to him that they would build a hotel for him because of what he had done for them. A couple years later the young man received a letter from them, asking him to come to New York City and upon his arrival there, they informed him that the new Waldorf hotel that had just been built by them was to be his place of employment because of his attitude and concern that he had for them earlier, he truly had a servants heart and was willing to help. This is an example of true servanthood that opened the door for his destiny.

Phil 2:5-9 "Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] 6 Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, 7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. 8 And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! 9 Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name," AMP

Phil 2:5-9 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" KJV

In order to become great in the kingdom of God and learning to be true servants, we need to begin to mix the natural principles with the supernatural principles and we will be able to achieve what God has called us to do. Learn to dream big God size dreams and disregard entitlements from every area of life. History tells us that in the early 1930s the government decided to do away with the patent office, but because of what has been developed since that time, we realize that this would have been a mistake, there are so many things left to do, so many songs and books to be written, discoveries to be made and God has the plans for them all. Taking risks and maybe having failures should not cause us to hold back from becoming champions, keep pursuing the goal set before us. God has great purpose for us and if we want to

accomplish great things we will have the risk of failure, but that is not our goal, keep pursuing your dream, being strong finishers, doing your best in everything that is set before you. We have an example of a man who was ready to retire, being tired of the work that he had been doing so many years building houses for others and he was one of the best builders, his former employer ask him for one last favor, would he build one last house and then retire. The man agreed to do it but in doing so, did not give the work his best, began to cut corners, he made things as easy and cheap as he could and when he was finished, the work was not a good example of his best, but the employer presented him with the keys to the house that he had just build, telling him that it was to be his as a gift. and his thoughts were if only he had put forth his best work, but he hadn't. Don't be like this man, give it your best regardless of what you are doing. Many times people will only do a good job not their best work and live to regret it later in life.

Be a strong finisher and don't just quit. If you are looking to retirement be ready to share with others the wisdom and experience that you have learned through the years of your life. There is much knowledge to be learned from you. Some people are anxious to hear from the retirees but there may be some who are not, they haven't made a quality decision to be successful in life. Have we done our best or just enough to get by? Are we going to be strong finishers? In the following scripture we see that in order to finish our race on earth, we must put Jesus first in our lives, He is to be our top priority. Jesus never lost sight of the goal line, He knew what was set before Him. We must keep our eyes on the goal line making Jesus our top priority regardless of what we encounter along the way. We cannot be successful without hard work. Gods plans are for us is to go change our world.

Heb 12:1-3 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." KJV