

Preparation, Position and Provision **By Julie Castro**

In 2014, a woman sat next to me at church as the Lord instructed her to do. Her obedience led to a friendship that is strong to this day. In the early days of building our friendship, she said, “I keep hearing D-Day for you”. I remember researching D-Day and discovered the impact it had on the world. At the time, I wasn’t sure what the Lord was telling me, but wrote about her comment and the significance of the day in my journal; not giving it much thought thereafter.

Recently, I heard a prophetic voice talk about D-Day. It had been quite a while since I heard the term mentioned, but his explanation of the three types of soldiers and God’s Army started to stir in me.

Many people lost their lives that unforgettable day on June 6, 1944, but the impact the invasion had on the world was undeniable. I had the following dream a few weeks ago and began to have a deeper understanding of what God’s army entails.

The Dream

My friend (the same one as above) and I were driving to a church situated high on a mountain. We knew approximately where to drive, but to get detailed directions to the church we stopped at a general store located at the foot of the mountain. While inside the store, we met a group of people who were also Disciples of Christ and they started to pray for our journey. As the prayers started to rise, a woman ran over to me and cried out, “You’re a Seal. You’re a Seal.” I knew in my spirit that as she shouted this at me, that the *seal* was a position that God was calling me to, although I did not fully understand it in the dream.

When I woke up, I began to reflect on the word *seal*. What came to my mind first were the seven seals in the book of Revelation. As each seal was opened something was either spoken or sounded, and revealed. I also thought of the purpose of a seal; it keeps something closed for security purposes until the object is to be revealed. Not knowing the purpose of my position as a seal or the meaning of the dream, I left it alone and waited for further insight from the Lord.

I hardly slept the next night, but prayed for the condition of the world based on what I saw in the spirit; the earth was weeping because of its poor state – physically and spiritually. Next thing I knew, I was in the spirit and saw and heard two people talking. One was an Army General; the other position was not revealed, but they were speaking about military related things. All of a sudden, the Lord’s presence came upon me and He spoke and explained the word *seal* to me. I was part of God’s Army and was appointed to the position of a Navy Seal.

When I researched the definitions and duties of a Navy SEAL, they all had the following in common. The name represents the environments in which they operate - Sea, Air, and Land. SEALS are trained for unconventional warfare and are considered to receive the toughest military preparation in the world; testing their stamina, leadership and ability to work as a team. Upon reading the definitions, I began to understand my position in God’s Army and the preparation that I endured for the assignment.

As I shared the dream with my friend, she wondered aloud why the Lord has not moved in His glory and the mighty way it has been prophesied. Out of my mouth came the words preparation, position and provision. After speaking those three words, I knew that God is working in His saints (army) so they will have an impact on the world in an undeniable way, just as D-Day did over 70 years ago.

Preparation

As with so many of His disciples, God has been preparing me for His army. Looking back over the past five to seven years, I can see the spiritual training I was receiving. Processes that I underwent, lessons learned, revelations and most importantly, obedience to His instruction. The bible tells us that gold is tested and silver is refined. The testing of my personal, emotional, physical, spiritual and psychological life was and is to ensure that I can endure the hardships of the respective mountains set before me. Just like a Navy Seal, I am trained for the mission from all perspectives – sea (psychological and emotional), air (spiritual) and land (physical).

Consider the areas that God has been testing you. Colossians 1:24-26 states: *Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.* (NIV)

There is a plan and a purpose for each of us. We are hidden and have been prepared for such a time as this. We are ready to land on the beach and climb the cliffs to accomplish the instruction given to us. We have experienced the testing and we think we are ready.

Like the delay surrounding D-Day, the mission set before us, the Lord needs to ensure the climate is right for the victory. It is now time for refinement. This comes as we wait for the instruction to move forward. As the Body of Christ, we are experiencing adjustments in our character or experiencing a deeper relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many of us are still honing our skills, being refined, while others are ready, but have not received their instruction. When we are prepared, then the Lord can better position us.

Position

Position is not separate from preparation, but it does have its own purpose. As we are prepared, the Lord is also opening up doors for the position to which we are called. The position of a Navy Seal is interesting, as they are usually amphibious, hidden under water. They remain hidden until it is time to land on the designated territory unbeknownst to anyone. So it is with us and our respective positions. Many of us are in a hidden position being refined and waiting for the instruction leading to victory.

On D-Day, the military was prepared and in position as they waited for the instruction to land. Each of us has a specific purpose. Some of the Body of Christ have gone out to scout the land and like Joshua and Caleb have brought back the good report. For those of us in place and ready, but are waiting, we trust God for His purpose in us. To accomplish the instruction, provision may be required, but it may not be financial, so be open.

Provision

The bible shows us that the Lord will provide for the position for which we are appointed. The story of Gideon is an example of provision that is not financial. God called Gideon to the position of a mighty warrior and provided the men to accomplish the taking of the land (Judges, Chapter 6 and 7). And it didn't take thousands of men, but only 300. Gideon stepped out in faith and the means to take the territory was provided. We also must step out in faith knowing that the provision will be accessible, if we are obedient. The provision does not always come in the form of a check or cash, but can come to us as knowledge shared, an introduction to a person, or from the obedience to follow an instruction.

For me personally, provision has been a faith walk. Following the instruction to "set aside and save" according to 1 Corinthians 16:2, the amount spoken was not enough to accomplish the position. But God is faithful and when He gave another instruction to take on a side job, the finances were available. Interesting to me is the finances thru the side job are only available as I need it. I never have too much or too little, but enough to accomplish the task assigned. So for now, the faith walk is continual, teaching me to trust Him for all things.

All Things Hidden Will Come to Light

Just like the Navy Seals, many in the Body of Christ are hidden for a predestined time. WAIT! When the instruction is sounded and your D-Day has arrived, you will be ready to fulfill the mission set before you. Out of the darkness you will shine! "*Arise, shine: for your light has come, And the Glory of the LORD rises upon you.* (Isaiah 60:1) Be encouraged in this time of preparation and positioning. Don't worry about the provision, it will come as you trust Jehovah Jireh (The LORD Will Provide; Genesis 22:14) and follow His instructions.

There is an army rising up and we each have a specific position. No position is better than another. As we live and move and have our being in Him (Acts 17:28), we will accomplish our respective commission to usher in God's glory. Rise up and take your position!

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Thirst No More and Bear Fruit

Julie Castro is author of *On Earth as It Is in Heaven, a Personal Allegory*, owner of Fiesta Publishing and TV Host of *Thirst No More and Bear Fruit*. Obedience to write and publish the book opened doors leading to the birth of the TV program. Understanding that she is in a process of refinement, Julie hones her craft as a publisher and TV Host and she waits for her D-Day. To learn more about the book and Fiesta Publishing, go to www.fiestapublishing.com.

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