

DELAYED BY INTIMIDATION

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1. DELAYED ACCELERATION THROUGH INTIMIDATION

Amos 9:12-15 “Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won’t be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I’ll make everything right again for my people Israel: “They’ll rebuild their ruined cities. They’ll plant vineyards and drink good wine. They’ll work their gardens and eat fresh vegetables. And I’ll plant them, plant them on their own land. They’ll never again be uprooted from the land I’ve given them.” **GOD, your God, says so.**

- 1.1.** When looking at this scripture, one can see that God has amazing promises for us.
- 1.2.** The enemy on the other hand, has many counter actions to derail us from receiving these promises.
- 1.3.** The enemy does not want you to be all God has intended for you or to know God as He really is.
- 1.4.** The way the enemy intimidates us, is by feeding us a bunch of lies about God and who He is and about who we are.

2. DEFINITION OF INTIMIDATION

- 2.1.** “**The Oxford English Dictionary** defines intimidation as: to render timid; to inspire fear; to discourage; or, suppress by threatening.
- 2.2.** **Liza Bevere** defines intimidation as: the objective of intimidation is to restrain us from action and force us into submission.
- 2.3.** The enemy threatens us and tries to get us to believe lies. That is intimidation!

3. TELL-TALE SIGNS THAT YOU ARE STRUGGELING WITH INTIMIDATION:

- 3.1.** Fear, anxiety, stress and a feeling of overwhelmedness.
- 3.2.** Tired, wearied, wants to sleep all the time.
- 3.3.** Apathy: lack of interest and passivity.
- 3.4.** Despondency: Hopelessness, discouragement, despair.
- 3.5.** Feeling where you don’t want to get out of bed or just want to die.
- 3.6.** Condemnation and sin.
- 3.7.** Low self-esteem; pulled back; cowardice.

4. THE ENEMY INTIMIDATES WITH LIES

- 4.1. People (words, our past) Parents, teachers, friends and loved ones.
- 4.2. The World (fear of man, fear of failure).
- 4.3. Your circumstances (overwhelms you and depletes you) then you can't resist.
- 4.4. Your own emotions (emotions are fickle, the enemy loves to use our emotions to lie to us and intimidate us).
- 4.5. Basically anything and anyone that causes you to go into a state of fear.

5. WHAT DOES INTIMIDATION DO TO US?

1 King 18:17-18 "Is that, you, O troubler of Israel?" Elijah replied, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed Baals". Then he commanded the king to gather up the 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah and take them to Mt. Carmel – along with the entire nation of Israel.

1 Kings 19: 1-5 "Ahab reported to Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, including the massacre of the prophets. Jezebel immediately sent a messenger to Elijah with her threat: "The gods will get you for this and I'll get even with you! By this time tomorrow you'll be as dead as any one of those prophets."

3-5 When Elijah saw how things were, he ran for dear life to Beersheba, far in the south of Judah. He left his young servant there and then went on into the desert another day's journey. He came to a lone broom bush and collapsed in its shade, wanting in the worst way to be done with it all—to just die: "Enough of this, GOD! Take my life—I'm ready to join my ancestors in the grave!" Exhausted, he fell asleep under the lone broom bush."

- 5.1. Intimidation decelerates you and it keeps you from truly walking and experiencing everything God has for you.
- 5.2. Elijah was intimidated through being threatened by Jezebel and he was not able to complete his assignment from God. He was decelerated by intimidation.

6. HOW TO BEAT INTIMIDATION

- 6.1. Intimidation is always rooted in a lie.
- 6.2. It is important to know who we are.
- 6.3. It is important to know whose you are (Isaiah 40: 12-31).

Sermon Discussion Guide

Grace in Acceleration3

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Can you see some of the tell-tale signs of intimidation in your life?
2. In what areas of your life is the enemy intimidating you? How is this affecting your life.
3. How has intimidation kept you from living out your purpose.