

# ELIMINATION OF EXCUSES

Pastor Chad Gilligan | April 3, 2022

## I. INTRODUCTION TO A NEW SEASON

### A. New Seasons Emerge from Fresh Encounters with the Holy Spirit

*Heavenly Father,  
In The New Season  
May Your Holy Spirit  
Bring To Me  
The Elimination of Excuses*

**Acts 19:1-5** While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John's baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Acts 8:36** As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

### B. At every significant turning point in the life of the church, someone said, “YES!”

## II. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN HELP US TO ELIMINATE THE EXCUSES IN OUR LIVES.

*Where I am  
I will do what I can  
And give what I have  
To do Your will.*

### A. WHERE I AM

**Acts 20:18-19** When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.

**Acts 8:4-5** Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

**1.) God will use you where you are.**

- You might have to say “no” to *fear* to say “yes” to God.

**2.) God will empower you where you are.**

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- God may choose to do unlikely things in unlikely places.
- You might have to say “no” to *not here* to say “yes” to God.

**B. I WILL DO WHAT I CAN**

**Acts 20:20-21** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

**1.) The Spirit has given you gifts to use.**

- You might have to say “no” to *not me* to say “yes” to God.

**2.) The Spirit has given you opportunities to take.**

**Ephesians 5:15-16** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

- You might have to say “no” to *not now* to say “yes” to God.

**C. AND GIVE WHAT I HAVE**

**Acts 20:35** In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

**1.) Everything you have comes from God.**

**1 Chronicles 29:14** “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

## 2.) God asks us to give back to Him.

**Malachi 3:8-10** “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”

- When we give, we are blessed.

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- You may have to say “no” to *self* to say “yes” to God.

## D. TO DO YOUR WILL

**Acts 20:24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

*Where I am  
I will do what I can  
And give what I have  
To do Your will.*