

ACTIVATION IS NECESSARY

What does it mean to activate?

- ❖ make (something) active or operative. (Oxford Languages Dictionary)
- ❖ to make (something, such as a molecule) reactive or more reactive (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
- ❖ to put (an individual or unit) on active duty (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

For there to be activation, there must be something to activate

We must ask some questions:

1 – What has been placed inside of me?

- ❖ As a believer, the Spirit of God is in you – Ephesian 1:13-14; Titus 3:5
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is there – Eph. 4:30-5:17
 - We can cause the Spirit to become dormant in us
- ❖ The Greater One is in us – 1 John 4:4

2 – Who placed this inside of me?

- ❖ Phil. 2:13; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 4:10

3 – Why has God placed this inside of me?

- ❖ Phil. 2:12-17, 2 Cor. 4:7; Acts 1:15-26; Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:26-29

4 – Activation requires humility and discipline

- ❖ Phil. 2:5-11, Isa. 52:13-15; James 4:6

We are activated to be agents of change not tools of conformity

Rom. 12:2; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:10

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Lesson 2: Activating the Word

The Word of God works – Jer. 1:12; Heb. 4:12; Isa. 40:8

Desire matters – 1 Peter 2:2; Psa. 37:4; Psa. 119:10-11

Diligence matters

- ❖ God often attaches blessings to those that go beyond just hearing the Word – Rev. 1:3
- ❖ Your diligence will pay off – Pro. 13:4; Pro. 12:24; Deut. 6:17
- ❖ Do it for the right reason – Col. 3:23-24

Your actions can make the Word of no effect in your life – Mark 7:1-13

- ❖ There's a problem when hand washing is more important than heart washing – vs. 6, Mat. 23:25

Some things that the Word of God will activate in you

- #1 – Faith – Rom. 10:17
- #2 – Sustaining power and hope – Romans 15:4; Heb. 1:1-3
- #3 – Boldness and permission – Psa. 33:1-3; Jer. 1:4-9
- #4 – Accountability to your purpose – Jer. 20:9
- #5 – An awareness – Psa. 119:105-107; 2 Tim. 3
- #6 – Genuine fruit that will remain – John 15:4-6, 16
- #7 – Healing – Psa. 107:20

God's has spoken a prevailing Word to us – Romans 8:28

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Lesson 3: Moving Heaven and Earth

Mat 6:9-13 KJV After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

A Look at Stephen's Life & Ministry

- ❖ Stephen checked all the boxes in the flesh – Acts 6:3
 - Stephen was full of faith and power – Acts 6:8
 - Stephen had activated potential – Acts 6:8
 - He did many great wonders and miracles among the people – Acts 2:22-24
 - Stephen had unstoppable wisdom from the Holy Ghost – Acts 6:10
 - ➔ You are never helpless with the Lord on your side – Romans 8:31
- ❖ Stephen's alignment with God meant not only reigning but also suffering – 2 Tim. 2:12
 - Opposed because the anointing on him activated the opposition of the enemy – Acts 6:10-15
 - Some of what you are experiencing is a result of walking in your purpose and calling
 - When they bear witness they produced false witnesses – Acts 6:11-14
 - ➔ Be careful that you don't allow people to activate you in an ungodly manner
 - Note that Acts 6:15 describes his face like the face of an angel and yet their lying words are everything but that of an angel

Observations from the Acts 6 passage:

- ❖ God performed and performs signs and wonders through those He chooses – Acts 2:22; Rom. 15:19; Acts 5:12; Acts 2:43; Heb. 2:4; Acts 6:8
- ❖ What glorifies God may well activate the enemy against you – Acts 16:19; 2 Tim. 3:12; Acts 4:1-4
- ❖ The same people that recognize that God is using you can still despise you –
 - Korah's rebellion – Num. 16
 - Saul and David – 1 Sam. 18:6-12
- ❖ Never underestimate the power of influence – Neh. 13:4, 7-12
- ❖ Learn to place and keep your confidence in God – Psa. 118:1-6; Romans 8:18
- ❖ Let the glory shine through all of it – Exo. 34:29

What happens next to Stephen? Stephen's Defense – Acts 7

❖ Stephen

- Note that Stephen's defense centered around:
 - God's promises – Acts 7:1-8
 - God's faithfulness – Acts 7:9-16
 - Their rejection of Moses – Acts 7:17-43
 - Vs. 44-53: Brought it home with them being:
 - Stiff-necked (stubborn)
 - Uncircumcised in heart and ears
 - Always resisting the Holy Ghost like your fathers
- Stephen is stoned to death after
 - Vs. 54: Stephen's truth met with mob rage and indignation – Mat. 8:12
 - God's truth will not always be met with celebration – Gal. 4:16

How Stephen activated Jesus in Heaven

- ❖ Vs. 55-56: Our response should be different if we truly are full of the Holy Ghost
 - Looked up and saw the glory of God –
- ❖ Saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God –
 - Stephen's faith and relationship with God moved Jesus from being seated to standing
 - Acts 26:64; Mar, 14:62; Acts 2:34; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:3
 - Stephen saw the heavens opened – Mat. 3:16
- ❖ Vs. 57: That was it...they could not take anymore
- ❖ Vs. 58: Laid garments at young Saul's feet as they stoned Stephen
- ❖ Vs. 59-60: Stephen's perspective on his stoning
 - Asked God to receive his spirit, the part they could not destroy
 - Interceded for his killers