

2026 - Progress with Purpose (Pt. 1)

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Sub-title: Advancing in Life in 2026

- 3 days ago we crossed over into a New Year
- Last year is gone, and a whole new year lies before us. There are:
 - new opportunities to be seized
 - new possibilities to be considered & acted upon
 - new paths to be forged
- We are fixing our eyes on the future (Proverbs 4:18)
- We are moving from possible stagnation to real progress & advancement
- We are identifying solid solutions to overcome this (last) year's challenges

1. Receiving clear (new?) direction from the Lord for 2026

Deuteronomy 2:1–3 (NKJV) Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the Lord spoke to me, and **we skirted Mount Seir for many days.** **2 “And the Lord spoke to me, saying: 3 ‘You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.’”**

- Moses recalled the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt & their journey towards the Promised Land
- At a certain time in their journey, they skirted Mount Seir “for many days” (possibly longer than a year)
- Mt. Seir is a mountain range covering an area of 100 kms x 50 kms
- God said: You have skirted this mountain long enough, turn northward
 - Skirted – going around & around, circular, non-directional
 - Turn northward – directional (uni-directional)
- While they skirted the mountain again & again, they were definitely moving, but they were not advancing!
- God said: It's time to stop circling Mt. Seir, it's time to advance

2. Exodus - Geographical Facts & Travel Times

- The distance from Goshen (Egypt) to Jericho (Promised Land) is approx. 500 kms (walking route)
- An average day's journey in the Wilderness - approx. 23kms (Deut. 1:2) (same distance as from VCC to the Airport)
- With continual movement, they could have made the whole journey in approx. 20 to 35 days (approx. 1 month)

- With planned stops along the way, their journey would have stretched out by another month or two
- Sadly, because of their unbelief &, disobedience, the Israelites added over 39 years to a journey that should have taken a mere 3 months
- Those over 20 years old at the start of the journey never made it into the Promised Land (except Joshua and Caleb)
- Their delayed journeying in the wilderness wasn't about distance — it was all about their decisions

Numbers 10:1–8 (NKJV) *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “**Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. 5 When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. 6 When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. ... 8 The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets ...***

- These silver trumpets were made for sounding the advance

3. We should ask ourselves - Have we circled any Mountains in 2025?

- Honest questions to ask myself:
 - Are there any Mt. Seirs in my life?
 - Have I wasted time circling issues rather than dealing with them?
 - Have I been my own hindrance in my own journey?
 - Have I been making excuses instead of addressing the real causes?

4. Example set by Apostle Paul

Philippians 3:12–17 (NKJV) *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.*

- Ap. Paul said: I haven't arrived yet – but I am still pressing on
- Vs. 13. ... **but one thing I do,**
 - **forgetting those things which are behind**
 - **and reaching forward to those things which are ahead**
- Ap. Paul didn't live a "circular" life – he lived a "directional" life
- Vs. 15. *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind ...*
- Vs. 16. *... let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind ...*
- Vs. 17. *Brethren, join in following my example ...*

5. Apostle Paul encourages Ps. Timothy to ensure Progress in his Life

1 Timothy 4:14–15 (NKJV) (Timothy) *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*

- Paul said (in not so many words):
 - Timothy, take things seriously
 - Do not neglect the gift that God has given you
 - Give yourself entirely to God's plan and purpose for your life
- ... that your progress may be evident (visible, noticeable) to others

1 Timothy 4:15 (YLT) *Of these things be careful; in these things be, that thy advancement may be manifest in all things;*

- That your advancement be made manifest (visible) in all things (areas)

6. Identifying Areas of potential Advancement & Progress in 2026 :

- Spiritual goals & progress
- Emotional goals & advancement (healing)
- Ministry goals & progress (Kingdom business, serving the Lord)
- Relational & Social advancement
- Vocational goals & advancement (studies, career, job, business)
- Health & fitness goals & advancement
- Financial goals & advancement
- (It's good to focus on one mountain at a time – beware of discouragement)

7. Specific Areas (mountains) to tackle in 2026

a. Toxic Relationships

- What do I need to do to improve a challenging relationship?
- Or do I need to leave it altogether and create some distance?

Hebrews 12:14–17 (NKJV) *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that **afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected**, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

- Bitter or profane people (like Esau) do not inherit the blessing of God
- Let's not allow bitterness to take root in our heart
- (Personally, I don't want to be defiled, so I stay away from bitter people)
- The best way to pursue peace with some people is to stay away from them

b. Mediocrity & Instability

- Half-measures will ever only produce half-results (at best)
- Full breakthrough only comes by being fully committed to things

Genesis 49:4 (NKJV) *Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it— He went up to my couch.*

- Jacob prophesied over his older son Reuben, who was a mediocre & unstable sort of a guy
- Reuben lost his birthright as the first-born because of his sexual indiscretion with his father's concubine (Genesis 35:22, 1 Chron. 5:1)

c. Anger & Unforgiveness

- Two forces, both as destructive as each other
- One works demonstrably & fast, the other works slowly & insidiously
- A man spends half a lifetime to build up a legacy, & loses it all in a fit of rage
- A person with unforgiveness in their heart can't figure out why they can't get ahead in life

Proverbs 16:32 (NKJV) *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

Matthew 6:15 (NKJV) *But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*