



Arrivalism Syndrome

One of the greatest temptations we need to watch as ministers or as we get elevated by the LORD is the arrivalism syndrome when we think we have not arrived.

We are nothing without the LORD and without Him, we can do absolutely nothing, but the good thing is we are with Him although we need to remember this. No man is an Island. You do not arrive in this life; no man is self-Sufficient. None of us has a corner on the market or the realm of Grace. God is doing many things outside any single ministry. It is true. God blessed Abraham by grace. Abraham did not have his act together. Grace is based on promises, the law is based on performance.

I heard a story about a guy who was scheduled to speak alongside another renown minister, this man had a thought right before he was about to go up and preach saying "I have arrived" and he immediately forgot how to play the keyboard after having been playing for decades. He soon realized that he had not arrived and needed to be totally dependent upon the Lord. And when he humbled himself and prayed, he was then able to remember how to play. All this in a space of less than an hour.

Philippians 3:12-13, Paul made it clear that he had not arrived. He had to keep pressing on. It's true he had left but hadn't arrived yet. We need to practice the same attitude and mindset lest we fail. This keeps us in humility and in check lest we walk not in humility.

Isaiah 51:1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

- a) One of the reasons we think we have arrived is because we have forgotten the hole of the pit whence, we were dug, and we have stopped looking unto the rock.

- b) Notice that we seek the LORD by looking unto the Rock. Jesus is the Rock ages. None of us is a specialist in all things. we have not arrived in all areas. We need to be God dependent.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

- a) We were not created to operate independently of Him the same way our bodies can't be independent of Oxygen or cars independent of gasoline. We begin to lose ground and eventually die if we eliminate, ignore, the Lord in all our ways.
- b) Letting the Lord know about your plans or getting Him up to speed with what you are doing is *not* acknowledging Him.
- c) Running to the Lord as our last resort after everything has failed is *not* acknowledging the Lord. It is simply acknowledging our failure. God wants to be involved in every area of our lives to direct our path if we let Him. We cannot arrive and we should never think we have regardless of the achievements of this world.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

- a) We are not the Vine. We are the branches. The branches do not produce fruit, they hold the fruit that the tree produces. Thinking we have arrived because we are holding the fruit is trusting in our own selves. Even more the fruit that we hold is not for us to eat, but for others. A tree or branch does not eat its own fruit. Fruit is for others to enjoy.
- b) When we think we have arrived, we are not abiding in Him. We are nobodies without Him. We need to be constantly dependent and be abiding in Him.

Contrary to what some folks think, the greatest temptation of man is success. When man begins to succeed, he begins to think that he made it! Yet not just made it but made it all happen without anyone's help or he begins to think he needs no more help. Because of all of this the net temptation is to take the glory that belongs to God for ourselves (Isaiah 42:9).

King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:24-36 [24] *This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: [25] That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. [26] And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. [27] Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. [28] All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. [29] At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. [30] The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? [31] While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. [32] And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. [33] The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. [34] And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: [35] And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? [36] At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.*

Notice a few things from the passages above that reflect an attitude of a person that believes he has arrived or has the arrivalism syndrome.

① *“thy Kingdom shalt be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.”*

a) When we are acknowledged that the Lord is above all of us, we will not be caught up in pride. We won't catch the arrivalism syndrome.

② *"Break off thy sins by righteousness"*

a) This can only happen by the righteousness (right standing with God) of God through faith. This happens only by faith in Jesus, not by our performance.

③ *"Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the Kingdom by the might of my power and for the honour of my majesty?"*

a) He was saying he had arrived, done this by myself, he got no help, not even from the LORD. We do not arrive in this life. I like saying that *I have left, but not arrived*. If we think we have arrived, we are in pride, are not depending on the LORD.

b) One of the reasons we think we have arrived is because we are in the flesh, yet we do not arrive in this life. We need to stop looking at our achievements, accomplishments, looks or bank account, wealth, positions, titles, or Influence. We need to be looking to the LORD.

Solomon

A. Solomon seeking the Lord and getting blessed with wisdom, riches, honor, and life.

Solomon started out seeking the Lord with all his heart. He was God dependent, and he knew he had not arrived. He sacrificed to the Lord like no other and God appeared to him in a dream and asked him for what he needed. Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people, but God gave him more. He gave him riches as well. Solomon became so rich that gold was in the streets of Jerusalem.

a) 1 Kings 3:3-14 ³And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. ⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. ⁵In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. ⁶And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before

thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.⁷ And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.⁸ And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.⁹ Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?¹⁰ And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.¹¹ And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.¹⁴ And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

B. Rich and Prosperous Solomon

- a) ¹⁴ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, ¹⁵ Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country. ¹⁶ And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. ¹⁷ And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon. ¹⁸ Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. ²⁰ And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom. ²¹ And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. ²² For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram:

once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. ²³So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. ²⁴And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. ²⁵And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year. ²⁶And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. ²⁷**And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones,** and cedars made he to be as the sycomore trees that are in the vale, for abundance. ²⁸And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.

C. Solomon's downfall

- a) 1 Kings 11:1-13 *But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: ²Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. ³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father. ⁷Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. ⁸And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. ⁹And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, ¹⁰And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded. ¹¹Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. ¹²Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend*

it out of the hand of thy son. ¹⁵ Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

- i) The point is Solomon was so prospered starting out as being God dependent but with time, He forsook the very source of his success, and he came crumbling down. His kingdom was split into two under his watch. Solomon got into pride and started thinking he had arrived. He caught the arrivalism syndrome. He married lots of women and started building altars unto the gods of these women.

David

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. ² And it came to pass in an eveningtide that David arose from his bed and walked upon the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

—2 Samuel 11:1-2

- a) David was famous for pursuing and seeking after God. There came a time where I believe David believed to have arrived and forsook doing the duties of a king. Rather than being in battle at a time when ought to have been busy, David was sleeping all day. He had arrived. He was successful. He had made it. He was rich, prosperous, had all the women he wanted and shortly was on his way to stealing another man's. At this point of success in David's life, he was more susceptible to temptation than ever. He was in a state of success which causes many to think they have arrived.
- b) Temptation is greater when we are successful. We should be more alert and not let our guard down.
- c) When some people are successful, they do the stupidest things. They think they have arrived; they can do whatever they want and get away with it, and no one can tell them anything.

- i) For instance, when King Uzziah was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction (2 Chronicles 26:16). His success was his undoing. Success destroyed him. Success destroys the proud and the fools.
- ii) The greatest levels of arrivalism syndrome surface when people become successful in the things of God or the ways of the world. At this place, they believe they can do whatever they want and get away with it. They are not accountable to anyone in their eyes. They can disobey the LORD, and all will be well, after all look at who they are, what they have done, and how high they are.
- iii) They can take a neighbor's wife (David) and "get away with it". Don't you know they have arrived, and they are untouchable? They can burn Incense unto the Lord even though it was dishonoring to the LORD (King Uzziah).

Bottom line, because they have arrived, no one can stop them from indulging the flesh. They are free to do whatever they wish after all they are so high and unreachable. This summarizes the thought process, attitude, and the signs of one with the arrivalism syndrome.