



Digging Deep: September 08, 2026

Theme: PROMOTION COMES ONLY FROM GOD

Sub-Theme: The Source, Standard and Purpose of Lifting

Text: PS. 75:6-7

INTRODUCTION — WHY THIS STUDY?

The world often explains promotion by visibility, connections, lobbying or power. But Scripture gives a deeper truth: **people and institutions may be channels, but God is the ultimate Source of true lifting.** Promotion is more than a new title; **it is an enlargement of responsibility, influence, opportunity and usefulness.**

Psalms 75:6–7 relocates our confidence: promotion does not ultimately arise from any human direction—*“God is the Judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.”* This does not excuse passivity. While we should pray, prepare, apply, build honourable relationships and work diligently; we must refuse manipulations, desperations and compromises.

Guiding question: When God lifts me, what will He find in me—and what will I do with the lift?

We will be studying this in 3 Outlines.

1. THE SOURCE OF TRUE LIFTING IS GOD

- **Trust God, not human power:** Jeremiah 17:5 warns against making flesh our ultimate confidence. Respect people and proper processes but never enthrone them in God’s place. A closed human door cannot cancel an open divine door.
- **God governs times, seasons and positions:** He changes times and seasons and raises or removes leaders (Daniel 2:21). He brings low and lifts up (1 Samuel 2:7–8); every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17).
- **Biblical picture:** Joseph prepared faithfully in obscurity, yet only God could move him from prison to the palace at the appointed time (Genesis 41:39–41). Delay did not mean abandonment; hidden seasons built capacity for public responsibility.

Key point: Men may recommend you, but God determines the reach, timing and purpose of your lifting.

Biblical example: The Chief Butler recommended Joseph to the King as an Interpreter of Dreams (the role advertised by the King), little did he know that God would turn his recommendation to a Prime Minister role for Joseph (the unadvertised role that only God could see).

2. GOD’S STANDARD: CHARACTER, DILIGENCE AND INTEGRITY (CDI)

- **Excellence creates credible capacity:** The diligent stand before kings (Proverbs 22:29). Daniel and his friends were found ten times better (Daniel 1:20). It is evident from the life of Daniel that **prayer is not a substitute for preparation; grace should make us dependable, skilful and fruitful.**
- **Integrity refuses shortcuts and compromises:** Daniel first purposed in his heart not to defile himself (Daniel 1:8). Promotion obtained through dishonesty, flattery, sexual compromise, bribery or sabotage may increase position while diminishing the person. Such promotions don’t honour God.

- **God examines the heart:** People see appearances, but God sees the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). David was chosen as a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22). Therefore, work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord—even when no supervisor is watching (Colossians 3:23).

Key point: God is more interested in the person you become than the position you obtain.

3. GOD'S PURPOSE: STEWARDSHIP, SERVICE AND HIS GLORY (SSG)

- **Every elevation carries an assignment:** Esther's palace access was for 'such a time as this' (Esther 4:14). Nehemiah used royal favour to rebuild what was broken (Nehemiah 2:17). The faithful servant received greater responsibility—not merely applause (Matthew 25:21).
Ask: Who should be served, protected, developed or restored through my influence/position?
- **The glory must return to God:** God will not yield His glory to another (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11). Herod accepted worship that belonged to God and was judged (Acts 12:22–23).

Note: Humility remembers the Source, honours helpers and treats achievement as stewardship.

Key point: If the lift ends with you, then you have missed why God lifted you.

CONCLUSION — READY FOR THE LIFT!

Waiting for God is not doing nothing; it is refusing ungodly shortcuts while becoming ready for divine opportunity. Therefore: **trust the Source, meet God's standard and fulfil His purpose.** When overlooked, serve without bitterness. When opportunity comes, enter without compromise. When lifted, remain humble and make the position count for the Kingdom.

Final challenge: If God lifts me today, can He trust me tomorrow? Let our prayer be: *"Lord, prepare me for what You have prepared for me, and let every lifting bring glory to Your name."*

Q&A / INTERACTIVE SESSION

- › What is the difference between waiting on God and being passive?
- › Is it biblical to apply, ask or position oneself for promotion? Where is the boundary?
- › How should a believer respond when repeatedly overlooked despite being diligent?
- › What subtle compromises commonly accompany the pursuit of influence/higher positions today?
- › How can we deliberately convert personal advancement into Kingdom service?