

## **CHARACTER BEFORE PLATFORM: GUARDING THE ANOINTING**

### **PURPOSE:**

Explore how the anointing empowers ministry leaders and how we can guard against losing sight of God's call. Emphasize identity in Christ, Spirit dependence, humility, love for people, and practical guardrails to protect the assignment God has given.

### **CORE SCRIPTURE:**

#### **Ephesians 3:14-21:**

*"14 For this reason I kneel before **the Father** 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be **strengthened with power** in your inner being **through his Spirit**, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being **rooted and firmly established in love**, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of **God's love**, 19 and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all **the fullness of God**. 20 Now to **him who is able** to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the **power that works in us**— 21 **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Bold added for emphasis)*

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- The anointing is God's empowering presence, given by the Holy Spirit, for ministry that serves others and glorifies God.
- Identity in Christ is foundational; platform can be stripped away.
- The Spirit empowers for witness, gifts, fruit, and holy living; remain rooted in spiritual disciplines.
- Humility and love protect the heart; guardrails and accountability sustain integrity.
- The "way up" in God's economy is down; serving others in love guards the anointing.

### **IDENTITY IN CHRIST:**

- Our core identity is in Jesus, not gifting or platform.
- You are a child of God first and foremost. He loves you.
- Key scriptures: John 1:12; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Colossians 3:3-4; Romans 8:15-17.

### **EMPOWERMENT BY THE SPIRIT:**

- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to be witnesses (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49).
- Gifts, fruit, and empowered life are for building the church, not our platforms (1 Cor. 12:4-11; Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 12:6-8).
- Maintain Spirit-dependence through spiritual disciplines (prayer, word, worship, etc.).
- "Higher levels, higher devils" - be intentional.
- Pray in the Spirit (1 Cor. 14).

### **ROOTED IN LOVE:**

- Leadership without love is empty (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

