

THE TESTIMONY OF PROCESS

PART 1: DAVID & SAUL: WAITING BETWEEN PROMISE AND POSSESSION

A. BACKGROUND

- **Text span:** *1 Samuel 16* → *2 Samuel 5*
- David was anointed long before he was enthroned. The oil came instantly, but the throne came through the process. Between the promise and the fulfillment stood fifteen years of shaping, testing, restraint, obscurity, and inner formation.
- This is a message about what God develops in a man while he waits. David was chosen, called, and empowered — yet held back by God’s timing. The delay was not punishment; it was preparation. The wilderness was not a detour; it was the classroom of kings.
- This passage speaks to every man who has ever known:
 - a calling that has not yet manifested
 - a destiny that feels delayed
 - a promise without a platform
 - a gift without recognition
 - a future that feels out of reach
- The question is not “Has God chosen you?”
- The real question is “Can you wait without wasting the wait?”

B. THE ANOINTING — IDENTITY ESTABLISHED, ARRIVAL DELAYED

(1 Samuel 16)

David is anointed, the Spirit rushes upon him, and yet — nothing externally changes. Saul is still king. Life returns to the ordinary. The anointing marks him, but it does not advance him.

1. **Biblical Insight:**

- The oil came first — not to accelerate, but to authenticate
- Calling is immediate, but commissioning is gradual
- God gives identity before He gives a platform
- The wait was not divine hesitation but divine protection

We assume calling should come with shortcuts — but all extraordinary callings come with a no-shortcut clause.

- ##### 2. **Application:** Brothers, don’t confuse anointing with arrival. You can be called and still be hidden. Identity comes long before influence.
- ##### 3. **Challenge:** Do not resent the delay. The wait is not wasted — it is forming the man who can carry the calling.

C. THE FIRST TEST — THE PALACE ASSIGNMENT

(1 Samuel 16–18)

David moves from solitude to a tense, insecure palace atmosphere, playing the lyre for a tormented king.

1. Biblical Insight:

- David learned temperament under tension
- He trained his nervous system before he trained his hands
- He became a thermostat, not a thermometer
- He set the emotional atmosphere instead of absorbing it

This was hidden excellence — greatness without applause, mastery without recognition.

2. Application: In your workplace, business, marriage, and leadership — set the tone. Do not mirror the emotional instability around you.

3. Challenge: Lead quietly before you lead publicly. Master yourself before you manage others.

D. THE SECOND TEST — THE CONFLICT AND THE CHASE

(1 Samuel 18–24)

David kills Goliath — and instead of promotion, he is hunted. The promise turns into a pursuit. The chosen becomes the chased.

1. Biblical Insight:

- David's greatest moment was not killing Goliath — but sparing Saul.
- Twice, he could have killed his enemy. Twice, he refused.
- He said: "I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed." (1 Samuel 24:6)
- He was not protecting Saul's behaviour — he was protecting God's prerogative.

This is sacred restraint — the maturity to wait for God's timing even when opportunity presents itself.

2. Application: Any man can fight. A mature man knows when not to. Restraint is the proof of kingship.

3. Challenge: Do not grasp the promise prematurely. Refuse shortcuts. Let God enthrone you.

E. THE FINAL TEST — THE CAVE AS CLASSROOM

(1 Samuel 22)

David retreats to Adullam — a liminal space where the old identity dies and the new identity is not yet confirmed. Here he becomes captain of the distressed, indebted, and discontented.

1. Biblical Insight:

- You learn to rule before you reign
- The cave is where governance is forged
- Resentment grows quietly when you are gifted but overlooked
- The Psalms reveal David's emotional transformation

David made a vow in the cave: "I will not become what I replace."

2. **Application:** Guard your heart in obscurity. Without vigilance, bitterness becomes your identity.
3. **Challenge:** Let gratitude turn your cave into a classroom. Refuse to be shaped by disappointment.

F. THE CORONATION — POSTURE GAINED

(2 Samuel 5)

After fifteen years, David is crowned. The process was not punishment — it was posture.

1. Biblical Insight:

- The anointing gave the promise
- The chase gave the patience
- The cave gave the posture

The testimony is not the throne — the testimony is the process.

The oil did not dry. The promise did not expire. God was forming a king.

2. **Application:** Men must understand — waiting is not passive. It is disciplined readiness. Brothers, your testimony isn't what you receive — it's who you become.
3. **Challenge:** Waiting well is not a feeling — it is a discipline. This week, practice waiting with intention:
 - Wait without complaining — resist the urge to interpret delay as abandonment
 - Wait without comparison — another man's timing is not your timetable
 - Wait without forcing outcomes — refuse shortcuts that bypass character
 - Wait while preparing — read, sharpen skills, strengthen your inner life
 - Wait with worship — keep your heart soft, thankful, and God-focused

So brothers, let this be our commitment: **While I wait, I will grow. While I wait, I will prepare. While I wait, I will remain faithful. I will wait well.**