

The Life Journeys of Paul: Lesson 2
The POF, POS, and POT of Christian Service
Acts 13-15

When we serve God it typically starts a cycle going from POF to POS to POT and then again to POF to POS to POT in a continuous loop.

We exhibit or exercise POF, we experience POS, but we should expect POT.

(2 Timothy 3:12, 4:5-8, Nehemiah 2:17-19, Matthew 5:3-10, 25:14-30, John 15:20)

So let's define each of these three acronyms.

POF stands for Perseverance, Obedience, Faith

POS stands for Power, Opportunity, Success

POT stands for Persecution, Opposition, Trials

If we demonstrate POF, Perseverance, Obedience and Faith in our walk with God, then God will faithfully give us POS, Power, more Opportunity and Success in serving Him.

But along with POS comes POT, Persecution, Opposition and Trials.

When we serve God, instead of POT, Persecution, Opposition, and Trials we would usually instead prefer PERSS—Praise, Encouragement, Reward, and Smooth Sailing.

Five keys of quality Christian Service to God:

1. Respond to God's Call.

(Acts 12:25, 13:1-3)

a. Be listening for His call.

b. Make sure it is His call.

c. When God's call comes, fast, pray, then go.

2. Do not Retreat from God's Service.

(Acts 13:4-14. Galatians 4:12-16, 6:9, Hebrews 10:36, 39, 12:1-3)

If you are in God's will, and you respond to His call, when the POF, Perseverance, Obedience, and Faith, becomes POS, Power, Opportunity, and Success, and then turns to POT, or goes to POT, Persecution, Opposition, and Trials, don't quit. Do not retreat.

a. Our past mistakes do not have to define our future.

(Colossians 4:10)

God constantly works within us to make us more like Him. No matter the extent of our failure, we should learn from it, and allow God to continue to work out his sanctification process in us. It is never too late.

b. If you mess up in ministry, or in life, don't ever feel like you can't get back in the game.

(Proverbs 3:6)

Mark was a late bloomer, as are some of us. Sometimes God works in people for years, with many falls along the way, before they are ready for ministry. Be patient.

c. It is never too late to reconnect with someone you have let down.

(Philemon 23-24)

We have all failed someone in our past. Time spent being sanctified can be a powerful healer.

d. It is never too late to forgive someone who let you down.

(2 Timothy 4:11)

Just as we have all failed someone else, we have also had someone fail us. Sometimes people go years without speaking because of a falling out. Someone hurts us, and we assume they will always be that type of person—unchanging. But we need to always remember that if we can change over time, so can someone else. Reach out to them. They just might surprise you.

3. Reserve the credit for God.

(Acts 14:27-28, Nehemiah 6:15-16)

4. Rely upon God.

(2 Corinthians 1:8-9)

5. Rejoice in God's grace.

(Galatians 6:17-18, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)