

Empowering Leaders for Our Time
Pastor Terry Edwards
www.equipper.com

2 Sam 23:11-17

Next to him was Shammah, son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. 12 But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.

13 During harvest time, three of the thirty chief men came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 14 At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. 15 David longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" 16 So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD. 17 "Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it. Such were the exploits of the three mighty men.

Prophetic sense: (primarily to pastors and pastoral team) This is a year of **campaign against oppositions** and of **seizing opportunities**. God has ordained victory for your life as you deliberately position yourself on the ground that he has given you no matter what comes against you. God is going to open your eyes in faith to see opportunities for things to change and doors to walk through. There is a new spiritual toughness and resolution that you are to step into. You are going to experience and witness breakthroughs in areas of personal life and church that will allow you to go forward and take new ground. I believe it is a year to focus on strengthening your leadership team. God desires that we fight forward with a team and see multiplied power and anointing because of it.

**A Leadership Paradigm for a
"Transforming Wineskin"**

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Matt 6:10

**We are in a process of transformation wherein God is bringing the church into an ever increasing expression of the "glorious church", "without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. " (Ephesians 5:27-28)*

Current Key Elements of a "Transforming Wineskin"

1. Embracing God's desire for heart to heart intimacy with you as His chief pleasure, the source of our greatest fulfillment, access to His abiding presence, grace for personal sanctification, and release of kingdom faith and power.
2. A value for and commitment to ongoing personal transformation into Christ's likeness (sanctification) as a life long process that culminates in being made like Him because we "see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2), and our bodies being "conformed to His glorious body" (Phil 3:21).
3. A deeper understanding of the issues of the heart that restrict intimacy and personal freedom and an embrace of ministries (inner healing and deliverance) anointed to address these.
4. A deeper revelation of the Father's heart that secures our identity in His love and empowers us to share His love more effectively to others.
5. An honor of every person for their inherent value before God and a desire to see their identity, destiny, gifts and talents established and released.
6. Cultivation of a sensitivity and receptivity to the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in both our personal lives and the church.
7. Building "worship and word centered" churches that release God's presence and anointing and facilitate personal and corporate encounter with Him.
8. A commitment to prayer and intercession that produces a deeper personal and corporate sense of partnership with Christ and His purposes.
9. Honoring the value of prophetic ministry for individuals and the church within proper guidelines for discernment and wisdom for application.
10. Accepting the need for personal accountability within the structure of a New Testament church pattern.
11. Commitment to apostolic New Testament networks that embrace the "transforming wineskin" as the most representative of the organizational/relational dynamic necessary to move forward with God.
12. Recognition that these elements of the "transforming wineskin" work together with all the other aspects of the local church already in place such as church programs, family emphasis, Bible study, Marriage ministries, counseling, operation of spiritual gifts, etc.