

# Achieving Acceleration Part 1

Amos 9:13, 14

<sup>13</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman  
and the planter by the one treading grapes.  
New wine will drip from the mountains  
and flow from all the hills,  
<sup>14</sup> and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.

God has given us the word ‘acceleration’ for this year, but we’re now at the end of July and coming towards the end of the year. What has God done in your life so far? How fast are things going in your life at the moment?

Maybe you’ve been believing for acceleration but you haven’t yet seen it like you thought you would.

## **We need to accelerate towards a destination.**

It’s not enough to move quickly, we need to know where we’re moving quickly to. Maybe you’re feeling lost and things are moving, but you don’t really know where you’re going. How can you find out where God wants you to go?

Micah 4:4

Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid,  
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

This scripture was prophetically written by Micah to talk about the coming of the Messiah. Sitting under your own vine and under your own fig tree was understood as studying and looking for the Messiah to come and fulfil this scripture.

John 1:43-49

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”  
<sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is

no deceit.”<sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

Nathanael didn’t believe that Jesus was the Messiah and couldn’t believe that anything good could come out of Nazareth, a small and insignificant town.

The name Nazareth has the root word for branch in it, and saying Nazareth would immediately remind you of a branch. The prophecies constantly mentioned that the Messiah would be a ‘branch’ that God would raise up. (Isaiah 4:2, Isaiah 4:11, Jeremiah 23:5, Zechariah 3:8, Zechariah 6:12)

When Jesus tells Nathanael that He saw him under the fig tree, Nathanael suddenly realizes that Jesus knew that he was earnestly looking for the Messiah.

What Nathanael thought of as the small town of Nazareth was actually the anointed and chosen branch.

God brings out good even in the situations and circumstances that we can’t see. Even when we don’t know where we’re going or what’s happening or the direction that we’re facing, we can still earnestly search for Jesus, seek him, keep praying, keep worshipping, keep coming to church, and keep our focus on Him.

Let pursuing God be the constant when nothing else makes sense.

### **Sometimes it feels like we’re going in circles.**

Things might seem like they’re moving fast, but you’re not really getting anywhere. The same mistakes, the same choices, the same process, all repeating again and again.

Numbers 14 talks about the Israelites wandering the desert. A trip that would take 11 days ended up taking them 40 years. They went around the mountains instead of going through them.

The reason was because the Israelites didn’t trust God, they grumbled, complained, worshipped other idols, and kept talking about and thinking about what they used to have in Egypt. They were particularly focused on the food that they had access to.

They remembered the food but they forgot about the chains. They were given provisions for so that they could eat for 2 hours a day, but they forgot that they were slaves for 24 hours a day. And because they wouldn’t let go of their past, they ended up delaying their arrival for 40 years.

We sometimes remember the good things in the past, but we forget what they came with. We forget that there were so many other things that weren’t right, that God has brought us forward. To stop going in circles, we need to let go of the past and take steps of obedience to move forward.

Psalm 127:1

<sup>1</sup>Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

Not doing things God's way is vanity. Without God in control and having His way in our lives, we will never achieve what God has for us. We can't achieve God's plan by doing things our way.

### **Fix our eyes on Jesus**

Hebrews 12:2

<sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus, the <sup>[a]</sup>author and <sup>[b]</sup>finisher of *our* faith,

Everything we're believing for starts with Jesus and Jesus will make sure that He finishes it. He created us with His plans in mind and if we focus on Him, we are guaranteed to see them come to complete fruition.

Our only hope to having the right direction set for us is to fix our eyes on Jesus. Not looking to the left or to the right, not getting distracted, making sure that we have the right goals, not allowing worries or troubles to lead us off course, but to keep our eyes constantly fixed on Him.

What does God want to accelerate in your life? Seek God for what He wants to do. It's not too late, that's the point of acceleration. What would usually take along time can happen much quicker. God can do in the second half of the year what would normally take the entire year. Believe God for acceleration, let God set your direction.