

INFLUENCE WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU

The Quiet Power of Christian Influence
in Ordinary Life



Lawrence Stephen Fayeun

A COMPANION TO THE BOOK

Seven Reflections for Ordinary Christian Living

Where God Has Placed You

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*A companion to Influence Where God Has Placed You:
The Quiet Power of Christian Influence in Ordinary Life*

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Why This Little Companion Exists

The parable that opens these pages is itself the first reflection. The seven that follow are its unfolding — seven ways of living what the younger son eventually discovered.

Dear friend,

Thank you for receiving this small companion. It is offered as a gift, not as a summary of the larger book it accompanies. Think of it as a doorway.

The book it points to was written across the quiet years of an ordinary life — in classrooms and laboratories, in a parish, in a marriage, in the long faithfulness of work that does not announce itself. It argues that this ordinary life is itself the field God has given us to tend.

Read one reflection a day or one a week. Carry this booklet in a Bible or a pocket. Keep it. If it has spoken to you, tell someone else about it — or download a free copy for a friend at the website on page 15.

May God bless the ordinary places of your life.

The Younger Son and His Portion

A father shared two pieces of meat between his two sons. Each received his own portion.

The elder son looked at what had been placed in his hand. He smiled, thanked his father, and began to eat. He did not concern himself with what had been given to his brother. He was content with his own portion.

The younger son, however, was not satisfied. Although he held his own piece of meat, his eyes remained fixed on his brother's. He wondered why his brother's portion looked larger. The more he compared, the less he appreciated what he already had.

While he was still looking at his brother's hand, the family dog quietly came from behind and snatched the meat from his own.

Startled, he looked down.

His hand was empty.

The Younger Son and His Portion

He lost what had been given to him because he was absorbed in what had been given to someone else.

For a long moment he sat in silence. The meat he had ignored suddenly seemed precious. Only after losing it did he understand that what his father had placed in his hand had been enough.

Finally, he walked back to his father. Softly he said:

*“Father, if you give me another,
I will receive it with gratitude.”*

The father looked at him and smiled.

How often do we live like the younger son? We measure another person's gifts, opportunities, and achievements while neglecting the portion God has already entrusted to us. In looking at another's field, we fail to cultivate our own.

Gratitude begins when we receive what the Father has placed in our hands.

Perhaps influence begins there too.

REFLECTION ONE

Receive the Place God Has Given You

“Every one should remain in the state in which he was called.”

1 CORINTHIANS 7:20

The elder son in our opening story did something simple. He looked at what had been placed in his hand, gave thanks, and tended it. He did not wish for his brother's field. He received his own.

That posture of reception — quiet, grateful, undistracted — is among the most difficult in the Christian life. We measure our field against the field beside it, our portion against another's. And in that measuring, we lose the very thing we were given.

The life God has placed in your hands is not a temporary arrangement to be endured while you wait for something more significant. Your classroom, your workshop, your kitchen, your field — these are not waiting rooms. They are the field itself.

Receive your place. Tend what is in your hand.

FOR PRAYER

Where have I been treating my actual life as a waiting room? What would it mean to receive my portion today with gratitude?

REFLECTION TWO

The Holiness of Ordinary Work

“Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men.”

COLOSSIANS 3:23

I remember standing among my fluted pumpkin plants during my doctoral research, notebook in hand, recording observations that at first seemed ordinary. The field was quiet. There was no audience, no applause — only the patient work of looking again and again until a pattern slowly emerged.

What I eventually documented became the first report of apomixis in that crop. But what has remained with me even more deeply is this: a plant that reproduces outside all ordinary expectation quietly pointed me toward a God who entered human life in exactly the same way.

God often reveals extraordinary truths through ordinary, faithful work.

Your ordinary work is not a distraction from your calling. It may be the very place your calling is most fully expressed.

FOR PRAYER

What ordinary work has God placed in my hands today? Can I offer it to Him as worship rather than merely a duty?

REFLECTION THREE

Hidden Faithfulness

“He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.”

LUKE 16:10

Every morning, long before the rest of the household was awake, my wife was already preparing for the day. Breakfast did not appear by accident. School uniforms did not prepare themselves. The house slowly came to life because someone had already risen while everyone else was still asleep.

Only later did I begin to understand that much of what people saw in my public life rested on work they would never see.

It took me years to recognise what I was witnessing.

God builds families, communities, and His Kingdom through people whose names seldom appear in programmes and whose contribution would only be understood if it were suddenly withdrawn.

Hidden faithfulness is never hidden from God.

FOR PRAYER

Who in my life is exercising a hidden faithfulness I have never acknowledged? Where am I being asked to be faithful in ways that no one will see?

REFLECTION FOUR

Presence Is Influence

“Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

JOHN 13:1

He came at night. Nicodemus was a man whose reputation depended on being seen with the right people. So he came quietly, to ask his questions where no one would notice.

Jesus did not send him away. He received him — fully, attentively, without the distraction of an audience — and gave him one of the most profound conversations in the Gospels. Those words were not spoken to a crowd. They were spoken to one man who had come in the dark because he needed to be heard.

The younger son lost his portion through distraction — his body present but his attention elsewhere. Real presence is the opposite: keeping your attention on what and who is actually before you.

People rarely remember what we said. They remember whether we were truly there.

FOR PRAYER

*To whom have I been efficient when I should have been present?
Who is waiting not for my advice but for my attention?*

When Suffering Is Not Wasted

“In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body.”

COLOSSIANS 1:24

For many years I said yes to almost every request that came my way. I believed that being needed meant I was being faithful. Gradually the cost became clear. My days grew crowded. My family often received what was left after everyone else had been served. Even my prayer became hurried.

It was not success that taught me this lesson. It was suffering.

Through seasons of exhaustion and quiet disappointment, I began to understand that faithfulness is not the same as saying yes to everything. God has never asked one person to carry the work of the whole world.

I am not the Saviour of the world. Christ already is. Sometimes the most faithful yes to God begins with a gentle no to everything else.

FOR PRAYER

What has suffering taught me that no comfortable season could have taught? What is God asking me to release so I can hold more faithfully what He has given?

Character Leaves the Deepest Footprints

Ìwà l'ẹ̀wà — Character is beauty.

YORUBA PROVERB

One of the people whose character shaped my life was my godfather in the faith, Pa Akin Otiko. He had a gift of availability. No matter how busy he was, he welcomed people with patience.

I remember a day when I had been deceived by fraudsters. I hurried to Pa Akin, anxious and embarrassed. After listening quietly, he smiled and laughed gently.

“You have learned,” he said.

“They don’t even know you. And if they happened to see you again, they would probably be the ones to run.”

His calmness dissolved my fear more effectively than any long explanation. What shaped me was not his counsel but his character — a peace that gave courage to others.

Character is not built in great moments. It is built in small ones, repeated and unobserved.

Character leaves footprints that words alone never can.

FOR PRAYER

What is being formed in me in the small, unobserved moments?

Whose character has left a mark on my life I have never fully

Living with Open Hands and an Open Mind

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

PROVERBS 3:5–6

When I completed my undergraduate studies, I made a decision — I would build my own future. Despite real effort, I encountered one setback after another. I had not truly paused to ask God for His direction.

Then, unexpectedly, my supervisor invited me to return for postgraduate studies.

It was not the path I had chosen.

As I surrendered my plans and followed the door God placed before me, one door opened after another. The entrepreneurial gifts I thought I had abandoned eventually found their proper place alongside my vocation.

The greatest thing I released was not my ambition. It was my fear.

Sometimes the hands that hold most tightly are not holding possessions. They are holding plans. The gifts do not disappear when we open our hands. They find their proper place.

FOR THE JOURNEY

Five Questions

Spend one week with each question.

Let it work in you slowly.

1. Where has God placed me — and have I truly received that place?
2. What ordinary responsibility have I been overlooking while looking elsewhere?
3. Who needs my presence this week — not my advice, but my attention?
4. What suffering can I bring to God today, instead of carrying it alone?
5. What gift has God entrusted to me that I hold with fear rather than gratitude?

Return to the first question when the five weeks end. The questions deepen each time you ask them.

PRAYER OF OFFERING

For the Ordinary Day

Lord,

Thank you for the place You have given me in this life.

Teach me to accept and cherish my place with gratitude,

to work faithfully,

to love generously,

to suffer hopefully,

to serve quietly,

and to let You work through me,

not by seeking recognition,

but by reflecting Christ wherever You have placed me.

May my ordinary life become a libation

poured out before You.

AMEN.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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*This companion accompanies his book,
Influence Where God Has Placed You.*

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WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU

“Most Christians will never stand on a platform. They will stand at a desk, a farm, a kitchen, a ward, a market stall — and it is there, in the ordinary texture of daily life, that their deepest influence is already at work.”

*This companion is offered freely as a gift.
May it encourage you to receive with gratitude
the place where God has placed you.*

PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND