



reflection DEVOTIONAL



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ABOUT

Pastor Elgin

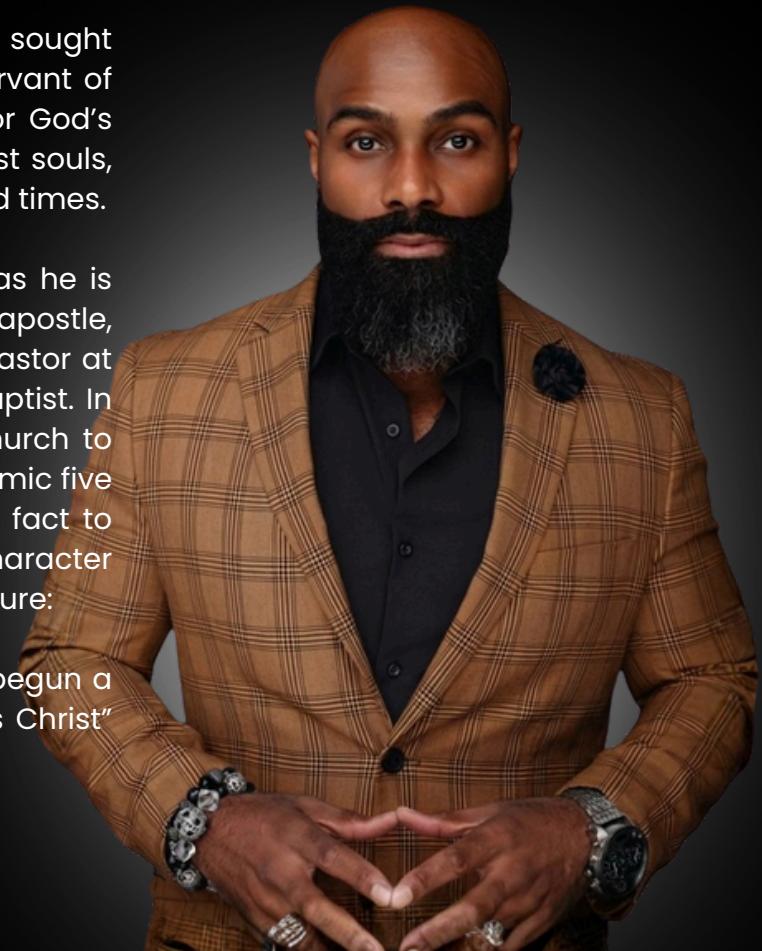
Elgin D. Orton originated from Columbus, Ohio born to Deacon Matthew and Lenora Orton. Like the prophet Jeremiah, Pastor Elgin Orton had a word on his life before he was conceived in his mother's womb. The prophecy declared the infinite destiny of young Elgin and the lives that he would soon affect. This word carried him out of his mother's womb and in to his destiny. E.D.O accepted the call to salvation very early, only to later begin his ministry at the tender age of seven, not even realizing the impact that the early start would have on his destiny. E. D. O. received direct mentorship from that point on from his grandfather the late Rev. James Walter Mitchell of whom he would later fill his shoes in pastoring the Zion Hill Baptist Church.

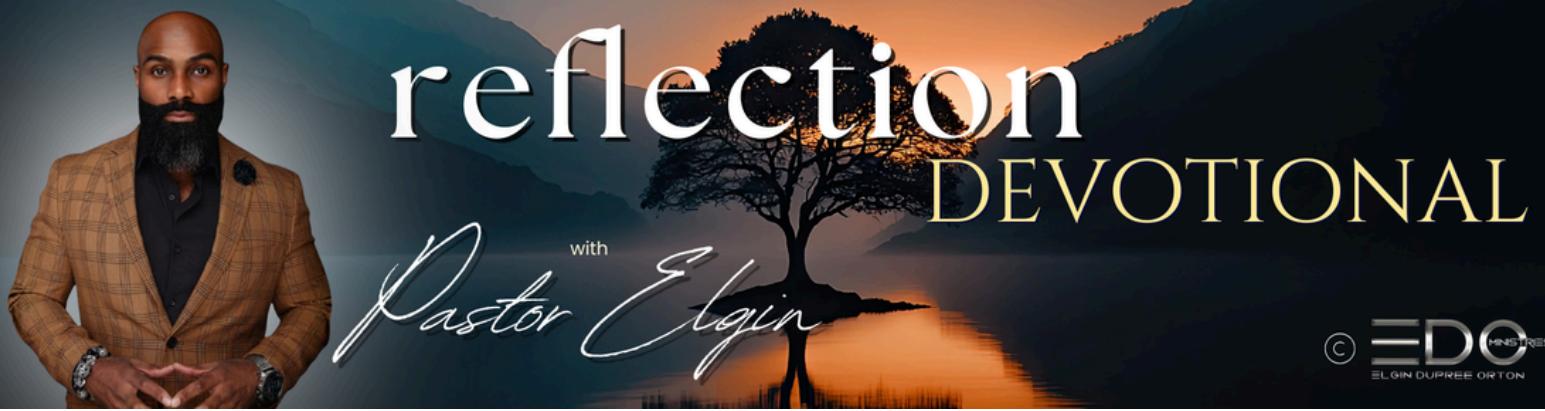
During his adolescent years, E. D. O. struggled with the immense call of God on his life. Young Elgin experienced numerous challenges in his attempts to embrace destiny. Yet, despite his early salvation, E. D. O. learned quickly that God desired a personal relationship with him. This revelation caused him to be more sincere in his dedication and commitment to the Lord in the summer of 1996. Since then he has walked in apostolic truth, revelation and the power of the Holy Ghost. E. D. O.'s zeal for God and love for the Word would lead him to furthering his theological training. In 1999, he found himself sitting at the feet of knowledge of world renowned evangelist Pastor Rod Parsley. From here he received his degree in Arts in Religion from World Harvest Bible College. Not content with his training and feeling a greater desire for more ministerial education, he later attended Young Preacher's Institute of Columbus, Ohio which added Bishop Brian Keith Williams to influential list of mentors.

Of course, it is no shock that this Man of God is now sought after by pastors world-wide. E. D. O. is an anointed servant of God, who possesses a spirit of humility and a love for God's people. At the core of his heart is the restoration of lost souls, as well as Kingdom Authority and dominion in these end times.

E.D.O. seeks to expand his ministry across the world, as he is already known by many across the Nation. This apostle, prophet, teacher, pastor and evangelist is the Senior Pastor at The City of Zion Church formally known as Zion Hill Baptist. In his ten years of shepherding, God has allowed his church to increase memberships from a faithful twenty to a dynamic five hundred plus, as it continues to grow steadily. Matter fact to know him is to love him; E. D. O. is a man of great character and integrity and firmly believes in his foundation scripture:

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6





Hello City!

Many of us know the rhythm well: we hear a powerful sermon series, feel stirred in the moment, and then **shift our focus** once the next message begins. Yet Scripture urges us to hold onto what God has already spoken. Hebrews 2:1 reminds us, “*We must pay the most careful attention... so that we do not drift away.*” True **spiritual growth** happens when we **revisit the Word** and allow it to **shape our daily lives**.

The **Reflection Devotional** was created to help us do exactly that. This monthly guide **serves as a recap** of the **sermons preached** in our house, offering space to **pause, remember, and ask, “What is God still saying to me?”** Through Scripture-based prompts and **reflective questions**, you are **invited to slow down** and let the **Word** take deeper root. Joshua 1:8 calls us to **meditate on God’s Word day and night**, and Psalm 1:2–3 promises that those who do become “*like trees planted by streams of water steady, fruitful, and strengthened.*”

Rather than letting sermons fade, this **devotional** helps you carry **truth** into your **decisions, relationships, and spiritual walk**. Monthly, it guides you to revisit **key themes** and **apply them** with purpose.

Each monthly reflection offers:

- A recap of key themes from recent sermons
- Scriptures that anchor those themes
- Pivotal questions for personal application
- Space to identify next steps, prayers, and growth

James 1:22–25 reminds us to be **doers of the Word, not hearers only**. As you engage these **reflections**, the **Holy Spirit** will highlight what needs **strengthening, stretching, and/or surrendering**.

Pastor Elgin’s heart is that our church grows “**from glory to glory,**” **maturing in Christ** (Ephesians 4:15). This devotional is a practical tool to help us **cultivate** that **growth** together.

May these monthly reflections help you **carry the Word forward, apply it with clarity, and be continually strengthened by God’s truth** month by month, step by step.



A landscape photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a darker blue at the top. In the center, a large, gnarled tree with a dense canopy stands on a small island or peninsula. The tree's reflection is clearly visible in the calm water of the lake. In the background, dark, silhouetted mountains are visible, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

reflection
DEVOTIONAL
GUARDING THE VISION
YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN
FEBRUARY 2026

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Pastor Elgin

GUARDING THE VISION YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

Theme: Guarding The Vision You've Been Given

Scripture Focus Throughout: Habakkuk 2:2–3; Proverbs 4:23; Nehemiah 2:17–18; Hebrews 12:1

January was about receiving vision—seeing clearly, realigning our hearts, and understanding where God is taking us. February is about something just as critical: Guarding what God has revealed.

Vision rarely fails because God was unclear. Vision fails because it was left unguarded.

The moment God gives vision, pressure follows. Not always loudly. Not always through obvious opposition. More often, it comes subtly:

- Through distraction that pulls your focus
- Through delay that tests your patience
- Through comparison that distorts your confidence
- Through overexplanation that weakens your conviction
- Through fatigue that makes you question if it's worth it

Scripture reminds us, “For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it” (Habakkuk 2:3). Vision requires more than excitement—it requires endurance.

What God shows you is valuable. And anything valuable must be protected.

The Bible is clear: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23). Vision lives in the heart long before it ever shows up in your hands. If the enemy can weaken your heart—through discouragement, impatience, or doubt—he doesn't have to steal the vision. You'll lay it down yourself.

This is why February matters.

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GUARDING THE VISION YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

Guarding the Vision You've Been Given Devotional Continued

After vision is revealed, there is often a quiet stretch where nothing seems to move yet. The clarity is still there—but the momentum feels slower. This is the season where:

- Faith is tested
- Discipline matters more than motivation
- Obedience must outlast excitement

Waiting is not wasting time. Waiting is active trust.

Nehemiah understood this. Before a wall was rebuilt, the vision was guarded. He prayed. He fasted. He waited. He didn't rush to announce what God had placed in his heart. When the moment came, he spoke with confidence and clarity: "You see the trouble we are in... come, let us rebuild" (Nehemiah 2:17).

Vision spoken too early can be damaged. Vision spoken at the right time mobilizes people.

Not everyone needs access to what God showed you.

- Some will misunderstand it
- Some will minimize it
- Some will project their fears onto it
- Some will try to rush what God designed to mature

If you're not careful, you'll start shrinking what God enlarged just to keep others comfortable. "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). Vision is not a group vote—it's a call to obedience. Vision must also be guarded from comparison. Looking sideways will always distort what you're building. Hebrews reminds us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

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GUARDING THE VISION YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

Guarding the Vision You've Been Given Devotional Continued

Always remember:

- Your race is different
- Your pace is intentional
- Your process is specific
- Your timing is appointed

Slow progress does not mean wrong direction. Resistance does not mean rejection. Pressure does not mean God has changed His mind. Vision that matters attracts opposition. Vision that comes from God requires faith to sustain it.

February is the month to ask hard but necessary questions:

- Am I protecting what God showed me—or exposing it to unnecessary strain?
- Am I still aligned—or slowly drifting into frustration?
- Am I willing to wait without weakening?

Guarding the vision means revisiting what God said, not what you feel.

It means staying committed after the excitement fades. It means trusting that God is still working—even when nothing looks different yet. The same God who gave you the vision is responsible for fulfilling it. Your responsibility is not to rush it, but to steward it well.

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GUARDING THE VISION YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. *What vision or direction did God clarify for me in January, and how am I actively guarding it now?*

2. *What distractions, voices, or pressures threaten my focus or patience in this season?*

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GUARDING THE VISION YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

3. Am I trusting God's timing—or trying to force progress before the appointed time? How?

4. How can I better guard my heart from discouragement, comparison, or impatience this month?



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THE POWER OF A PAUSE
JANUARY 2026

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THE POWER OF A PAUSE

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Theme: The Power of a Pause

Scripture Focus Throughout: Psalm 46:10a – “Be still, and know that I am God.”

We live in a culture driven by speed, efficiency, and constant motion. Many of us are planners by nature—mapping out goals, timelines, careers, relationships, and future years in advance. Planning itself is not a problem. Scripture affirms wisdom and preparation. The tension arises when our plans begin to compete with God’s purpose.

The Bible reminds us, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails” (Proverbs 19:21). God often allows us to plan until our plans begin to outrun His will. When that happens, He lovingly intervenes. What feels like interruption is often protection. What looks like a setback may be God blocking a path that would have broken us. Sometimes the greatest blessing in our lives is not the plan that succeeded, but the plan God refused to let continue.

There is an important difference between a God pause and a devil delay. God’s pauses are intentional, purposeful, and rooted in love and wisdom. They align us with a future we cannot yet see. Delays from the enemy are meant to frustrate, confuse, and derail. Discernment is required to tell the difference. God’s pauses never come to punish us, they come to preserve us.

We live rushed lives. Rushing through mornings, conversations, responsibilities, and even sacred moments meant to be enjoyed. In that rhythm, we often confuse movement with progress, busyness with purpose, and activity with productivity. Scripture warns us that faith is not proven by haste: “He who believes will not make haste” (Isaiah 28:16). Sometimes we are moving fast—but in the wrong direction. When God says, “Be still,” He is not calling us to laziness or inactivity. The Hebrew word raphah means to stop striving, let your hands fall, cease from your own effort. It is an invitation to release control. God pauses our movement so we can recognize His authority. In the pause, God reminds us: “I am God, not you. I am in control, not the situation. I am working—even when you are waiting.”

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THE POWER OF A PAUSE

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The Power of a Pause Devotional Continued

The order in Psalm 46:10 matters: Be still and know. Knowing God does not happen in chaos or hurry. Revelation rarely comes while rushing. Stillness becomes the classroom where God teaches what movement would have caused us to miss. Some understanding only comes while waiting.

Throughout Scripture, pauses were never wasted seasons.

David was shaped in caves (1 Samuel 22).

Moses was refined in the wilderness (Exodus 3).

Joseph was prepared in confinement (Genesis 39–41).

Elijah was sustained by the brook Cherith (1 Kings 17).

Jonah was redirected in the belly of the fish (Jonah 2).

Even Jesus was paused in the desert before ministry (Matthew 4).

In every pause, God was strengthening character, sharpening discernment, and preparing hearts for greater responsibility. Pauses clear noise, adjust posture, and realign identity.

Sometimes the pain is not that God said no but that He has not said anything yet. Silence can feel heavier than rejection. But Scripture teaches us that silence does not mean absence. Job cried out and heard nothing, yet God was still at work (Job 23:8–10). Waiting exposes what we truly believe about God, not just His power, but His timing. “With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day” (2 Peter 3:8). God operates outside of our calendars.

Delay is often the space where God prepares sudden turnarounds. Joseph waited years, yet “Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit” (Genesis 41:14). God does not need much time, He needs the right moment. “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). God is never late; He arrives when purpose is ready.

While waiting, worship becomes essential. Worship does not change God’s timing –it changes us. It keeps our hearts aligned and our faith alive. Even gratitude for crumbs keeps us close enough to experience the miracle. God finishes what He starts: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

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THE POWER OF A PAUSE

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The Power of a Pause Devotional Continued

As we move forward, we must understand that a new season does not require frantic movement, it requires surrendered movement. "In Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). God rarely changes the promise, but He often changes the path. Transformation is not tied to a new calendar, but to a willingness to move differently when the pause ends.

The pause is not the end of your story. It is preparation. God is not delaying you. He is developing you. And when He releases you to move again, you will move with clarity instead of chaos, obedience instead of impulse, and faith instead of fear.

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THE POWER OF A PAUSE



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. *Where in my life might God be calling me to pause instead of push forward, and how have I been responding to that stillness?*

2. *What plans, timelines, or expectations do I need to surrender so God's purpose can prevail?*

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

3. *What has God revealed about Himself to me during seasons of silence or waiting in the past?*

4. *How can I practice worship, trust, and gratitude while I am still in the “yet” season?*

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THE POWER OF A PAUSE

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

5. When God releases me to move again, what would it look like for me to move differently—led by faith rather than pressure

REFLECTION PRAYER POINTS:



A silhouette of a large, gnarled tree stands in a body of water at sunset, with mountains in the background. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, reflected in the water. The tree's branches are intricate and reach out over the water.

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MONTH

DECEMBER 2025

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MONTH

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Theme: Battle for the Family

Subject: What's in YOUR Garden

Scripture Focus Throughout: Genesis 3:1; John 1:45–46; Psalm 34:18; Genesis 12:1–3; 2 Corinthians 4:7

Family is God's first institution custom-built, intentional, and designed with purpose. No two families look alike, and no family is perfect. Every home has its own culture, structure, personality, history, and spiritual journey. Yet God works through every family flawed, messy, or complex to fulfill His divine plan. Because of that, the enemy fights families fiercely. His goal is simple: disrupt the home, distort identity, divide relationships, and derail purpose. That's why this month is about raising the standard again and reclaiming what God intended.

Just like Adam and Eve in the Garden, many families leave spiritual doors open without realizing it. Distractions, busyness, unresolved conflict, prayerlessness, generational habits, and emotional wounds can create space for the enemy to creep into what God designed to be sacred. Scripture reminds us that the battle "is not against flesh and blood," and until families recognize the real enemy, they will continue fighting each other instead of fighting for each other. God calls every household to rebuild prayer, guard the atmosphere, walk in forgiveness, unify in purpose, and speak His Word over the home. When the family stands together, the enemy loses his access.

But part of winning the battle for the family requires seeing each other the way God does. Too often families suffer under labels, assumptions, stigmas, and stories that no longer reflect who they are or ever were. Like Nathanael's question about Jesus, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" People often reduce family members to their past, their mistakes, their personality, or their struggles. But God looks at the heart, not the exterior. He erases stigmas, restores identity, transforms character, and redeems what others dismiss. There is more to every person in your household than what you see on the surface. Heaven calls your family chosen, beloved, forgiven, gifted, and in process.

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FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MONTH

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Focus on the Family Month Devotional Continued

Many battles that families face are not visible; they are internal. The deepest wounds often come from the people closest to us. Words spoken in anger, absence where support was needed, betrayal, childhood trauma, unmet expectations, or broken trust leave marks on the soul. Psalm 34:18 assures us that God is near to the brokenhearted. He draws close to heal emotional wounds, restore peace, revive hope, and bring order back to the soul. Healing doesn't happen through pretending, shouting it away, or burying it under busyness. Healing happens through God's presence, His Word, healthy connection, time, and the willingness to be honest about what still hurts. A healed soul brings healing to the entire family line.

God is not just the God of today, He is the God of generations. His intention has always been to bless families beyond their lifetime. When He called Abraham, He wasn't just speaking to one man, He was speaking to an entire lineage. In the same way, God is raising up people within families today to break patterns, to lead differently, to believe differently, and to walk in obedience so that future generations can inherit blessings instead of battles. Someone in every family is chosen to be the one who steps into faith, breaks cycles, establishes new standards, prays differently, lives differently, and builds differently. That someone may very well be you.

And finally, every family, and every person within the family, carries treasure. Though we are like fragile jars of clay, God placed divine treasure inside each of us: gifts, callings, creativity, compassion, leadership, influence, dreams, talents, and spiritual purpose. This treasure must be discovered, developed, and released. God reveals it through passion, pain, growth, relationships, opportunities, and the gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit. Your family is not ordinary, you carry something the world needs. Focus on the Family month was not just about confronting problems; it was about discovering purpose.

God is fighting for your family. His desire is restoration, unity, healing, legacy, identity, and activated purpose. As you reflect, pray, talk, and grow together this month, ask God to show you what's in your garden, what's in your lineage, what's in your soul, and what's in your treasure. Victory belongs to your home.

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Pastor Elgin

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MONTH

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. *What is one thing in our “garden” (home, habits, patterns, or atmosphere) that we need to confront and become prayerful over?*

2. *What is one thing in our “garden” (home, habits, patterns, or atmosphere) that we need to confront and become prayerful over?*

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

3. *Where does our family need emotional or heart healing, and what is one step we can take toward healing together?*

4. *What generational pattern do we want to END, and what generational blessing or practice do we want to BEGIN or strengthen for those who come after us?*

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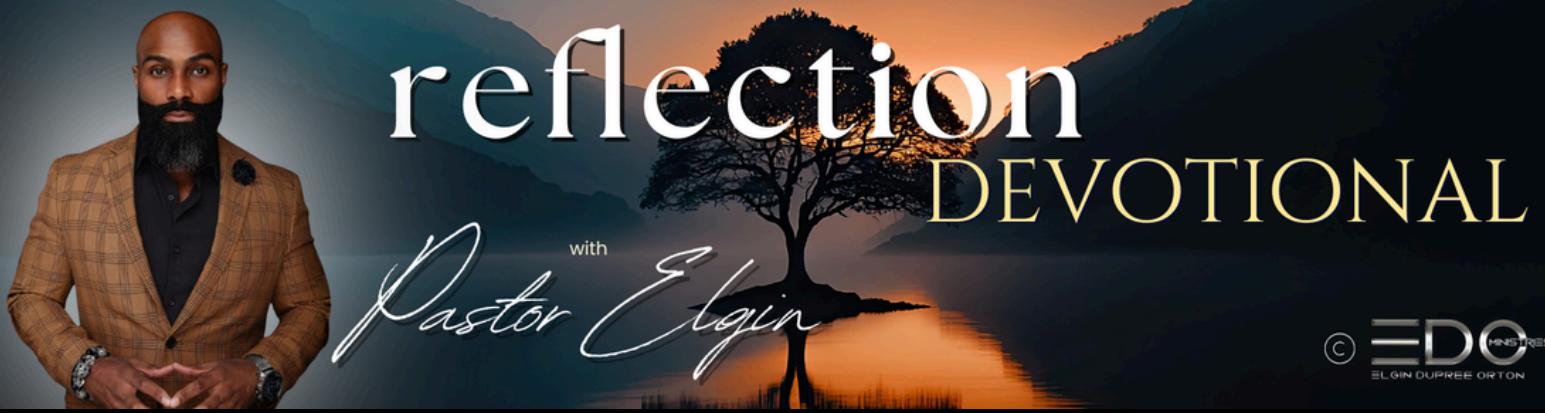
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

5. What treasure (gift, passion, strength, calling) do we see in each family member, and how can we encourage that treasure to grow?

REFLECTION PRAYER POINTS:



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