

4. **MAKING IT REAL** • Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Carve out quality time and do it before our enemy snatches it away!

- A. What have you seen God doing?
- Do you believe that when you see Him doing something He is inviting you to join Him?
- B. Are you presently experiencing a crisis of belief?
- Explain this the best way you can.
- C. What adjustment is God asking you to make in your life?
- Are you making that adjustment?
- D. What must I do to join Him in His work?

What is God saying to you *today*?



2 Timothy 2:3-4 *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

1. **OUTWARD CALLING** • Understand God's purpose and wholeheartedly pursue that purpose.

- A. God is _____ at work around you, and He "invites" you to join Him in that purpose.
- Read the call of Moses in Exodus 3:1-10.
 - Instead of trying to find our purpose in life we must first try to understand what God is doing and then discover how we fit into that plan. How is this approach different?
- B. God's purpose is accomplished through the Church, His Body. Read Ephesians 3:10-11.
- Do you know what God has called CLC to do? For the ministry flow its: "Reaching, Restoring, Equipping, Extending." Concerning our missions work: "To touch our world with practical acts of God's love" and to go to unreached, unengaged people groups.
- C. What is God doing and how can I join Him in His work?

D. Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

2. INTERNAL PREPARATION • Prepare the soil of our heart to produce Kingdom life.

- A. There is a danger of not being _____ as we see in parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.
- What was the consequence for not being prepared? How can that apply to us today?
- B. To prepare is to take the necessary action to make it fit for use or action, or for a particular event or purpose.
- C. Preparation involves the _____ of our heart as seen in Matthew 13:3-9 (Matthew 13:18-23) and Luke 8:4-8 (Luke 8:11-15).
- We are focusing primarily on the soil with bedrock because it is a difficult soil to prepare.
 - Many people accept Christ with joy or respond to Him with strong affirmation but in time of difficulty or trial they fall short of fulfilling their commitment.
 - The rock represents a hidden characteristic that (will always) prevent the seed of God's Word to grow to maturity. The Bible states that God's Word is like a hammer that breaks the rock to pieces (Jeremiah 23:29). If we patiently sit under the teaching of His Word and apply what we learn, His Word will be fruitful.
 - What seems to stop you after you say, "yes," to God?
 - Strong truth — "I want to..." is actually spiritual disobedience when it doesn't mature into "I am...!" We can't walk in faith when we live in fear or hesitation. (The "5 Second Rule" applies)

D. 2 Timothy 2:21 ... *Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.*

3. PERSEVERING THROUGH OBSTACLES • Understand *satan's strategies to halt our growth.*

- A. God's invitation to work with Him *always* leads to a _____ that requires a decision based on faith and action. Examples include:
- Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3); Joshua taking Moses' place (Joshua 1); Isaiah's commission (Isaiah 6); when Jesus was crucified, the disciples fled and scattered (Mark 14:50).
 - What was the "crisis of belief" in the lives of these men of God and how did they overcome this?
 - Strong truth — The Greek word for crisis means a decision. This is a turning point where you *decide* what you truly believe about God. The way you respond in the crisis of belief determines whether you become involved in a God-sized task that brings glory to His Name.
- B. You *must* make major _____ in your life to join God in what He is doing.
- A negative example: Paul's companion deserting him in a desperate situation in Paul's ministry. 2 Timothy 4:10 ...*Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.*
 - A positive example: Jonathan's armorbearer understood the danger but followed his leader's word to win a great battle. 1 Samuel 14:6-7 ...*So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."*