

SESSION #4

CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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God has called us all to active duty in the Kingdom of God! This means that God has purposes and plans for our life. He not only wants to establish the Power of His Kingdom in us but also through us. He decided ahead of time what gifts, talents and abilities He would give us and put in us. Now by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit these are to flow out of us to bring glory to His name and to expand the realm of His Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HIS WORK AND HIS KINGDOM

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

"Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."
1 Corinthians 15:58

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" Ephesians 4:11-12

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20

"The kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21

"The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17

"My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36

"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Mark 10:15

"He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."
Acts 1:3

"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

"Let all that you do be done with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

GOD'S WORK IS MORE DEPENDENT ON WHO HE IS THAN WHO WE ARE

I have said for years that the greatest ability we can have is availability. To those that are available, who are fully yielded to Him He says: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

Some make the mistake of looking at their own inabilities instead of God's abilities. Some look at what they are capable of or incapable of instead of looking at what God is able to do. The bible says in "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Below is a list of people that God used to do His work to bring Glory to His name. Just like them we have abilities and inabilities. Our inabilities are there to cause us to be dependant on His abilities and powers instead of our own. Phil. 4:13 says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

OLD TESTAMENT SERVANTS

Moses stuttered.

David's armor didn't fit.

Hosea's wife was a prostitute.

Solomon was too rich.

Abraham was too old.

David was too young.

Naomi was a widow.

Jonah ran from God.

Miriam was a gossip.

Elijah was burned out.

Samson had long hair.

Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning...

Gideon and Thomas both doubted.

Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal.

Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?

So did Peter, Paul - well, lots of folks did.

NEW TESTAMENT SERVANTS

John Mark was rejected by Paul.

Timothy had ulcers.

Peter was afraid of death.

Lazarus was dead.

John was self-righteous.

Paul was a murderer.

So was Moses.

John the Baptist was a loudmouth.

Martha was a worry-wart.

Mary was lazy.

A TRUE DISCIPLE LOOKS FOR WAYS TO WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD

1) LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

THIS IS A GREAT INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE IN SOMEONES LIFE THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME. TEACH THEM WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD, HIS WORD AND SERVING HIM. REMEMBER, WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY LEARNED CAN BE A GREAT BENEFIT TO THEM. DON'T EVER THINK WHAT YOU HAVE TO SHARE IS NOT GOING TO BE BENEFICIAL TO THEM.

2) LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE WHEREVER YOU ARE

DON'T ALWAYS WAIT TO BE ASKED TO DO WHAT YOU KNOW GOD WANTS YOU TO DO. ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO, LET HIM DEVELOP A SERVANTS HEART IN YOU. THEN DO YOUR TASK AS UNTO HIM, OTHERS WILL BE BLESSED TOO BUT ALWAYS DIRECT IT FIRST TO GOD. IF PEOPLE DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE OR APPRECIATE YOUR ACT OF SERVICE YOU WILL KNOW THAT GOD DOES AND HE IS WELL PLEASED. DON'T LOOK FOR HUMAN RECOGNITION IN YOUR SERVICE BUT RATHER PRAISE FROM GOD.

3) LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!

DON'T TRY TO GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER ALL THE TIME, ESPECIALLY BEFORE PRAYING. SOMETIMES GOD WILL LET US BE CONFUSED ABOUT A MATTER UNTIL WE STOP AND PRAY. HE WANTS US TO LEARN TO "SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD" MATT. 6:33. LEARN TO TAKE YOUR BURDENS TO HIM, BUT ALSO LEARN TO HELP OTHERS TAKE THEIR BURDENS TO HIM. BY PRAYING WITH SOMEONE IN NEED YOU ARE HELPING TO DISCIPLE THEM INTO A LIFE OF PRAYER AND DEPENDENCE UPON GOD, THEIR FATHER.

4) LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD WITH PEOPLE.

LEAN TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD. WHETHER THIS HAPPENS IN THE MIDST OF A CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE OR DURING A MEETING, THIS IS PART OF LEARNING TO DISCIPLE OTHERS. IT TEACHES YOUR PEERS HOW IMPORTANT GOD AND HIS WORD IS TO YOU. THAT VALUE CAN BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH YOU TO THOSE AROUND YOU. DON'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, YOU'LL BE AMAZED WHAT HAPPENS AS YOU LET GOD'S WORD CONTINUALLY FLOW OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.

Remember service should never interfere with worship. However, true worship involves true service. Equally true is the statement that true service involves true worship. In the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42 Jesus is not saying Martha shouldn't serve. Serving is part of the Kingdom of God. He is saying do not chose service over worship. Jesus said Martha was "worried and upset about many things". She wanted to be recognized in her serving and was upset that others worshipped while she "served". Hebrews 12:28 says "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

WHAT IS WORSHIP? WHAT IS A WORSHIPPER?

WORSHIP IS NOT SINGING A SONG
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT RAISING YOUR HANDS
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT PRAYING
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT GIVING
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT FEEDING THE POOR
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT READING THE BIBLE
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS NOT GOING ON A MISSION TRIP
ALTHOUGH THAT CAN BE WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE
WORSHIP IS AN ATTITUDE OF THE HEART
WORSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE
WORSHIP IS SOMETHING WE DO
BUT MORE THAN THAT, WE ARE TO BE WORSHIPERS
FOR THAT IS WHAT THE FATHER SEEKS

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS

I. Title

The book receives its title from the name of the church to which it is addressed. It is the second letter written to the church in Corinth.

II. Author and Setting

A. Author

This letter was written by Paul and Timothy, based on 2 Corinthians 1:1

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:"

B. Setting and Date

The letter to the Corinthian church was probably written AD 55 or 56.

Spring AD 55: 1 Corinthians written

Summer/Fall AD 55: Painful visit (2 Cor. 2:1, 12:14, 21, 13:1-2)

Spring 56: Severe letter (2 Cor. 7:8, 12)

Spring 56: Paul leaves Ephesus

Summer 56: Paul in Macedonia

Summer 56: Titus arrives in Macedonia

Fall 56: 2 Corinthians written

It is believed by many that 2 Corinthians was written from Macedonia. This is suggested by references in 2 Corinthians 7:5, 8:1, 9:2-4.

INTRODUCTION TO 2 CORINTHIANS

Shortly after writing his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul left Ephesus, where intense excitement had been aroused against him, the evidence of his great success, and proceeded to Macedonia. Pursuing the usual route, he reached Troas, the port of departure for Europe. Here he expected to meet with Titus, whom he had sent from Ephesus to Corinth, with tidings of the effects produced on the church there by the first epistle; but was disappointed #1Co 16:9 2Co 1:8 2:12,13 He then left Troas and proceeded to Macedonia; and at Philippi, where he tarried, he was soon joined by Titus #2Co 7:6,7 who brought him good news from Corinth, and also by Timothy. Under the influence of the feelings awakened in his mind by the favourable report which Titus brought back from Corinth, this second epistle was written. It was probably written at Philippi, or, as some think, Thessalonica, early in the year A.D. 58 and was sent to Corinth by Titus. This letter he addresses not only to the church in Corinth, but also to the saints in all Achaia, i.e., in Athens, Cenchrea, and other cities in Greece. The contents of this epistle may be thus arranged:

1. Paul speaks of his spiritual labours and course of life, and expresses his warm affection toward the Corinthians (#2Co 1:1-7:16)
2. He gives specific directions regarding the collection that was to be made for their poor brethren in Judea (#2Co 8:1-9:15)
3. He defends his own apostolic claim (#2Co 10:1-13:14) and justifies himself from the charges and insinuations of the false teacher and his adherents.

This epistle, it has been well said, shows the individuality of the apostle more than any other. "Human weakness, spiritual strength, the deepest tenderness of affection, wounded feeling, sternness, irony, rebuke, impassioned self-vindication, humility, a just self-respect, zeal for the welfare of the weak and suffering, as well as for the progress of the church of Christ and for the spiritual advancement of its members, are all displayed in turn in the course of his appeal."—Lias, *Second Corinthians*. Of the effects produced on the Corinthian church by this epistle we have no definite information. We know that Paul visited Corinth after he had written it #Ac 20:2,3 and that on that occasion he tarried there for three months. In his letter to Rome, written at this time, he sent salutations from some of the principal members of the church to the Romans.

2 CORINTHIANS (continued)

III. An Outline of 2 Corinthians

I. Paul's Explanation 1:1-7:16

II. The Collection taken for Jerusalem 8:1-9:15

III. Paul's Authority 10:1-13:14

Questions on 2 Corinthians

1. When was the second letter to the Corinthians written?
2. What led to Paul boasting and of what did he boast? How did he feel about such boasting?
3. What does Paul's life indicate about knowing and doing the will of God? Is God's will easy and pleasant? Do things going well or badly have anything to do with indicating whether you are doing God's will?
4. What does Paul have to say about forgiveness and restoration?
5. What was Paul's "thorn in the flesh"?
6. What does Paul have to say about Satan? How does this relate to false teachers?

2 CORINTHIANS - Some Key Verses

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4:4

"It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak" 2 Corinthians 4:13

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

"Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Scripture Memory Verse

"Since, then, you have been
raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at
the right hand of God.
Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.
For you died, and your life
is now hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-2

Hearts on Fire is about living in REVIVAL

When we think about revival, we quite often think about what happens to us and in us at a special meeting we attended or are attending somewhere, for instance maybe a youth camp. However, revival is meant to be something that is going on in us on a daily basis. To have revival in our hearts on a daily basis will take a daily investment on our part in the following three areas:

- 1) time in the bible
- 2) time in fellowship
- 3) time in prayer

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

To expect Radical growth and power without these elements is foolish thinking.
If you invest the effort God will respond and bring the desired results!
More love, more power, more joy, more peace, more confidence, more direction.
Less anxiety, less worry, less unforgiveness, less compromise, less sin

Look at these two verses.

Hebrews 11:6 "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Luke 11:9-10 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

More than 200 years ago members of John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves questions every day to help spiritually tune up their hearts, to keep their Hearts On Fire. Wesley also used these questions in small group settings where participants asked one another the penetrating question, "How is your soul?"

Bible Study Notes

Bible Study Notes

