

"PROXIMITY VS INTENTIONALITY"

SERIES BREAK

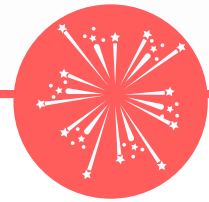


WORD

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:26-27

SPARKS



- Have you ever sat down with someone you do not know?
- Have you ever experienced talking with a family member or a friend who does not understand what you are trying to say?
- Have you heard the idiom "hit the sack"?
- What is your specific role or assignment for this year or season?

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10) God, being an omniscient, all-knowing God, chose your generation, place of birth, and even your specific nationality or ethnicity. Whether you are a member of the Greatest Generation, the Silent Generation, a Baby Boomer, Generation X, a Millennial, Generation Z, Generation Alpha, or Generation Beta, God knows you. He designed this time for you, and He wants us to seek Him and find Him. We are God's masterpiece, and He planned good things for us long ago! Since we believe that God is all-knowing, loving, intentional, and creative, and that He has a great plan for us this year, do we already have a revelation of what God wants us to do to prepare His way? Let's look at three situations in the Bible that show us lessons in seeking God.

1. WE HAVE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Matthew 13:10-13 (NLT)

"His disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?' He replied, 'You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand.'"

Different people came to Jesus because of the miracles He performed. Some had sicknesses, while others had different problems. However, Jesus used parables so that the people who were intentionally listening would receive more. Just like us today, we face different situations that can hinder us from seeing what God wants us to see and hearing what God wants us to hear. Let us make a decision to intentionally listen to God.

1

2. WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON JESUS AND NOT BE DISTRACTED.

Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)

"As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.' But the Lord said to her, 'My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.'"

This story teaches us about the relationship between the sisters and Jesus. They were both in the same room with Jesus; however, Mary was receiving His teaching while Martha was busy preparing for Him. Martha focused on the preparation and felt the burden of all the things she needed to do. Meanwhile, Jesus mentioned that there is only one thing to be concerned about, and that is to focus on Him. Just like us believers who are in ministry or in the different callings that the Lord has appointed us to, we may sometimes feel tired. But God is reminding us to sit at His feet and be concerned only about this one thing.

2

3. WE HAVE TO THE OIL (CLOSENESS) BECAUSE THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM.

Matthew 25:1-4 (NLT)

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. Wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps."

The virgins represent believers who are getting ready for Jesus, our bridegroom. We can rest if we get tired, but it is too costly to miss being with Jesus at the end of the journey.

Just like our theme for the year, "Ready for God's greater move," we must always make sure that our hearts are ready for our Saviour, Master, and Bridegroom. Let us desire to be closer to Him because He commanded that the first and greatest commandment is to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

LIVE IT!

- Commit to intentional communication with God through daily prayer and worship.
- Focus your ministry on knowing and loving Jesus, allowing His love to empower how you serve others.
- Identify any hindrances in your relationship with the Lord and pray for His help to remove them.



PRAYER

- Praise God for His immense love and the intentional plan He has for your life.
- Seek clarity regarding the specific assignments He has appointed for you in this season.
- Ask for grace to keep your heart ready, postured and waiting for the Bridegroom.

