



WOMEN IN MINISTRY: WHERE DO I FIT”

OVERVIEW:

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH WHAT YOU PERCEIVE IS A DIVINE CALL FROM THE LORD? DO YOU FEEL GOD TUGGING AT YOUR HEART TO DO SOMETHING? DO YOU FIND YOURSELF DRAWN TO SERVE IN A CERTAIN AREA OF MINISTRY? DOES YOUR PASSION RISE WHEN YOU ARE ENGAGED IN KINGDOM SERVE IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA OF MINISTRY? DOES AN ALREADY EXISTING MINISTRY LEADER OFTEN ASK YOU TO SERVE IN A SPECIFIC AREA OF MINISTRY? HAS YOUR CALL TO MINISTRY BEEN CONFIRMED BY TWO OR MORE PEOPLE?

WOMEN ARE UNIQUELY AND COMPASSIONATELY MADE BY GOD. HE HAS GIVEN YOU SOMETHING THAT HE DID NOT GIVE TO A MAN. YOU HAVE A CONNECTION WITH EACH OTHER THAT IS SO DIFFERENT THAN MEN. GOD GAVE YOU THE INATE ABILITY TO LOVE AND NURTURE PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND NATURE DIFFERENTLY FROM A MAN. EVEN IN CHILD BIRTH AND DELIVERY. A MAN DEFINITELY HAS HIS PART TO PLAY IN THE PROCESS, BUT NOTICE HOW THE WOMAN IS THE ONE CHOSEN TO CARRY THE BABY INSIDE OF HER. WHO CARRIED THE WORD INSIDE OF HER AND THEN BIRTHED HIM INTO THIS WORLD? – **A WOMAN!!!** THAT IN ITSELF IS A MINISTRY! GOD HAS CHOSEN WOMEN IN A VERY UNIQUE AND SUBTLE WAY FOR MINISTRY. THE CHALLENGE FOR YOU IS TO FIND OUT HOW YOU “FIT IN”.

HOW HAS GOD SPOKEN TO YOU?



MY DESIRED GOAL FOR THIS PARTICULAR BIBLE LESSON IS TO EMPOWER AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALL, WOMAN OF GOD. SO FOR YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY PRIVATELY RECEIVED AND PUBLICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR CALL OR YOU HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY YOUR CALL, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SIX AREAS THAT WILL HELP YOU TO “FIT IN” WITH YOUR CALL IN MINISTRY.

THEY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- I. THE CALL
- II. THE GIFT
- III. THE FEAR
- IV. THE EXPECTATION
- V. THE CHALLENGES
- VI. THE VICTORIES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

MATTHEW 22:14

JEREMIAH 1:5

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

I CORINTHIANS 12:31

II TIMOTHY 1:7

JEREMIAH 29:11

MARK 6:11

I JOHN 4:4

MATTHEW 28:19-20



—Teaching point one: **THE CALL**

(**JEREMIAH 1:5**) – “BEFORE I FORMED THEE IN THE BELLY I KNEW THEE; AND BEFORE THOU CAMEST FORTH OUT OF THE WOMB I SANCTIFIED THEE, AND I ORDAINED THEE A PROPHET UNTO THE NATIONS.”

FIRST, A CALL BRINGS NEW INFORMATION. SECOND, A CALL BRINGS NEW RESPONSIBILITY. JEFF IORG, PRESIDENT OF GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, STATES IN HIS BOOK ENTITLED, *IS GOD CALLING ME?* “A CALL IS A PROFOUND IMPRESSION FROM GOD THAT ESTABLISHES PARAMETERS FOR YOUR LIFE AND CAN BE ALTERED ONLY BY A SUBSEQUENT, SUPERSEDING IMPRESSION FROM GOD.” HE GOES ON TO STATE THAT THERE ARE THREE DISTINCT ASPECTS OF GOD’S CALL.

FIRST, THERE IS A **UNIVERSAL** CALL TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND GROWTH FOR **ALL** BELIEVERS. (**EPHESIANS 4:1-3**) – “ THEREFORE, THE PRISONER OF THE LORD, BESEECH YOU THAT YE WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED, ² WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS, WITH LONGSUFFERING, FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE; ³ ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

SECOND, THERE IS A **GENERAL** CALL OF **SOME** BELIEVERS TO MINISTRY LEADERSHIP – THIS DOES NOT ONLY INCLUDE “FULL-TIME” CHRISTIAN SERVICE, VOCATIONAL CHRISTIAN SERVICE, GOSPEL MINISTRY, SERVING THE LORD FULL TIME, OR PREACHING – BUT AS YOU ACTIVELY SERVE GOD, HE OPENS YOUR HEART TO FURTHER SERVICE AND EVENTUALLY TO ANSWERING HIS CALL TO LEAD OTHERS...

THIRD, THERE IS A **SPECIFIC** CALL OF AN **ELECT** GROUP TO A UNIQUE MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT OR A PARTICULAR MINISTRY POSITION SUCH AS A FOCUS ON A PARTICULAR GROUP OF PEOPLE OR A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.



HOW MANY NEW AREAS DOES GOD'S CALL BRING TO YOUR LIFE?

WHAT ARE THOSE AREAS?

HOW MANY DIFFERENT AREAS DOES GOD CALL YOU TO?

WHAT ARE THOSE AREAS?



—Teaching point two: **THE GIFT (APOSTLES, EVANGELISTS, PROPHETS, PREACHERS & TEACHERS)**

(I CORINTHIANS 12:31) – “BUT COVET EARNESTLY THE BEST GIFTS: AND YET SHEW I UNTO YOU A MORE EXCELLENT WAY.”

WHEN GOD CALLS YOU, AND HE CAN OR HAS ALREADY DONE SO, KNOW THAT THERE ARE GIFTS WHICH LAY DORMANT INSIDE OF YOU. GIFTS THAT WERE PUT IN YOU BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD WERE LAID; BEFORE YOU WERE CONCEIVED IN YOUR MOTHER’S WOMB; BEFORE YOU HEARD THE CLARION CALL. YOUR GIFTS WERE ALREADY YOURS. WHAT YOU WANT TO DO NOW IS FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE AND BEGIN TO STIR UP THOSE GIFTS!

THOSE SAME GIFTS WHICH YOU POSSESS WERE NOT GIVEN TO YOU JUST SO YOU CAN BRAG ABOUT HAVING THEM. ABSOLUTELY NOT! THEY WERE GIVEN TO YOU FOR KINGDOM BUILDING! EACH PERSON IN THIS UNIVERSE HAS A GIFT. YOU ARE TO TAKE ALL OF YOUR GIFTS AND WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY AND UNITY TO BUILD UP GOD’S KINGDOM FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL!

WHAT GIFTS DO YOU HAVE?

WHAT OR WHO HAVE YOU BEEN CALLED TO?



—Teaching point three: **THE FEAR**

(II TIMOTHY 1:7) – “FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND.”

WHY IS THAT YOU ARE SO QUICK TO DO WHAT THE DOCTOR TELLS YOU TO DO, OR THE TELEVANGELIST YOU WATCH EVERY WEEK WHO TELLS YOU TO SOW A SEED AND YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS ON ITS WAY! AND EVEN YOUR BEST FRIEND WHO GIVES YOU UNGODLY ADVICE? BUT WHEN IT COMES TO MOVING IN FAITH AS YOU ARE COMMANDED, YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL SIGN. YOU PRAY AND ASK GOD TO MAKE IT CLEAR. THEN COME UP WITH SO MANY EXCUSES WHY YOU CANNOT DO WHAT HE COMMANDS YOU TO DO.

WHAT IS THE REAL PROBLEM HERE? DO YOU NOT TRUST GOD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IF HE CALLED YOU TO SOMETHING, HE’S ALREADY GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FULFILL THE ASSIGNMENT? GOD DOES NOT CALL THE EQUIPPED, BUT HE EQUIPS THE CALLED. STOP OPERATING IN A SPIRIT OF UNCERTAINTY, DOUBT, INADEQUACY, PROCRASTINATION, UNPREPAREDNESS, REJECTION, AND FAILURE. UNDERSTAND WOMEN OF GOD, YOU WERE CREATED AND SET APART TO SUCCEED. THERE IS MUCH GREATNESS INSIDE OF YOU!

MOSES WAS FEARFUL! WHEN GOD CALLED HIM TO LEAD THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO FREEDOM, MOSES TOLD GOD HE HAD A SPEECH IMPEDIMENT! WHEN THEY NEEDED TO CROSS OVER THE RED SEA, HE THREW UP HIS HANDS IN SURRENDER. GOD ASKED HIM, “WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND MOSES?” GOD HAD ALREADY GIVEN HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO GET THE JOB DONE.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST FEAR?



—Teaching point four: **THE EXPECTATION**

(JEREMIAH 29:11) - “FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END.”

THERE IS A RIGHTFUL PLACE FOR YOU IN MINISTRY AND YOU MUST HARKEN UNTO THE VOICE OF GOD BECAUSE THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO PAY FOR YOUR DISOBEDIENCE! YOUR EXPECTATION SHOULD BE THAT SINCE GOD WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU, YOU SHOULD EXPECT HIM TO ANOINT YOU, TO FILL YOU, TO DIRECT YOU, TO PROTECT YOU, TO LIFT YOU UP, TO ENCOURAGE YOU AND TO BLESS YOU MIGHTILY.

YOUR EXPECTATION SHOULD ALSO BE THAT GOD’S FAVOR WILL REST OVER YOUR LIFE, YOUR MINISTRY AND YOUR MESSAGE AND THAT THE WORD OF GOD WILL NOT GO OUT AND RETURN VOID BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH THE THING TO WHICH IT WAS SENT. IT DOESN’T MATTER WHAT WEAPONS THE ENEMY THROWS YOUR WAY TO THWART YOUR PURPOSE AND YOUR DESTINY, REST ASSURED. NO WEAPON FORMED AGAINST YOU SHALL PROSPER. IT JUST WON’T WORK!

IF YOU REMAIN HUMBLE AND COMMITTED TO THE CALL, AND RELY SOLELY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOU CAN EXPECT GOD TO USE YOU AS NEVER BEFORE IN KINGDOM BUILDING, TO TAKE YOU TO HIGHER HEIGHTS AND DEEPER DEPTHS, TO WORK IN YOU, THROUGH YOU AND AROUND YOU AS YOU PRESS TOWARD THE MARK OF THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING IN CHRIST JESUS. HE WANTS TO USE YOU TO IMPACT YOUR HOME, YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR CHURCH, YOUR JOB AND THE NATION!

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING?



—**Teaching point five: THE CHALLENGES (OTHERS & YOURSELF)**

(MARK 6:11) – “AND WHOSOEVER SHALL NOT RECEIVE YOU, NOR HEAR YOU, WHEN YE DEPART THENCE, SHAKE OFF THE DUST UNDER YOUR FEET FOR A TESTIMONY AGAINST THEM. VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, IT SHALL BE MORE TOLERABLE FOR SODOM AND GOMORRHA IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, THAN FOR THAT CITY.”

CAN I BE TRANSPARENT WITH YOU? SOME OF THE CHALLENGES I HAVE ENCOUNTERED ARE “OLD SKOOL” PASTORS WHO HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT GOD CAN AND HAS CALLED WOMEN INTO MINISTRY. SOME CHURCHES EITHER CEASE THEIR FELLOWSHIP ALL TOGETHER OR WOMEN CLERGY ARE NOT RECOGNIZED AS SUCH OR ALLOWED TO SIT IN THE PULPIT. ANOTHER CHALLENGE IS DEALING WITH MALE INSECURITIES AND JEALOUSY. THE MALE PREACHERS ARE SOMETIMES INTIMATED BECAUSE THE WOMEN I KNOW WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR CALL ARE ALSO SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR STUDIES AND THEY DON’T PLAY. WHEN THEY MOUNT THAT SACRED DESK, THEY BRING IT!

IT IS TIMES LIKE THIS THAT I COMPARE MYSELF TO APOSTLE PAUL WHO SAID, “I’VE LEARNED THAT WHATEVER STATE I FIND MYSELF, TO BE CONTENT”. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE WHETHER THEY FELLOWSHIP OR NOT, WHETHER THEY INVITE ME TO SIT IN THEIR PULPIT OR NOT, WHETHER THEY EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM A CO-LABORER OF THE GOSPEL, I AM SURE OF THAT I’VE BEEN CALLED. I AM SERIOUS ABOUT MY CALL. I DON’T HAVE ANYTHING TO PROVE TO ANY MAN! MY AIM IS SIMPLY TO PLEASE GOD! SO DON’T GET CAUGHT UP IN COMPETING OR PROVING YOURSELF. BE WHO YOU ARE AND WHO GOD CALLED YOU TO BE... A WOMAN OF GOD WITH A MESSAGE FROM GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT FROM AMONG THE BELIEVERS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, PREPARE TO BE RIDICULED, REBUKED AND REJECTED FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST!



—Teaching point six: **THE VICTORIES**

(I JOHN 4:4) – “YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM: BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.”

THE VICTORY IS KNOWING THAT WHATEVER GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO, HE WILL BE WITH YOU. THE VICTORY IS KNOWING THAT WHEREVER GOD TAKES YOU, HE IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU. THE VICTORY IS KNOWING THAT WHATEVER THE ASSIGNMENT, GOD HAS ALREADY EQUIPPED YOU. THE VICTORY IS KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE HEARD, ANSWERED AND ARE OBEYING THE CALL OF GOD!

IT’S AN AWESOME THING TO KNOW THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BORN IN SIN AND INIQUITY YOU HAVE STILL BEEN CHOSEN TO BE A VESSEL OF HONOR FOR GOD! I STAND IN AWE EVERYTIME SOMEONE ASKS ME TO MINISTER – WHETHER IN SONG OR THE WORD. GOD CAN USE ANYBODY; EVEN ME – A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE WHO DOESN’T EVEN DESERVE TO BE HERE. BUT GOD KNEW THE PLAN HE HAD FOR MY LIFE BEFORE I WAS EVEN CONCEIVED AND EVEN THOUGH I HAVE TAKEN DETOURS AND WRONG TURNS ALONG LIFE’S JOURNEY, HE KNOWS WHERE I AM EXPECTED TO END UP AND I THANK MY GOD THAT HE HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON ME EVEN WHEN I WANTED TO GIVE UP ON MYSELF!

GOD IS STILL PERFORMING MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS IF YOU ONLY BELIEVE! REJOICE IN THE LORD KNOWING THAT:

- SOULS ARE BEING SAVED!
- LIVES ARE BEING TRANSFORMED!
- HEARTS ARE BEING HEALED!
- MINDS ARE BEING RENEWED!
- RELATIONSHIPS ARE BEING MENDED!
- GOD GETS ALL THE GLORY!
- THE VICTORY IS IN JESUS CHRIST!



REVIEW: UNTIL YOU ARE 100% CERTAIN OF YOUR CALL AND WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO, YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN YOUR GIFT! IF AND WHEN YOU ACCEPT YOUR CALL, KNOW THAT IT IS FIRST OF ALL, A CALL TO **OBEY** GOD! HE HAS A SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND A DIVINE DESTINY FOR YOU. SO AS GOD YOUR FATHER SPEAKS TO YOU, YOU ARE TO MOVE WITHOUT HESTIATION AND APPREHENSION.

IT IS A CALL TO **SERVICE**. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST FOUND IN **MATTHEW 28:19-20** INSTRUCTS YOU TO ACTION. IT COMMANDS YOU TO GO! TEACH! AND BAPTIZE! SERVICE IS ACTION THAT SHOULD ULTIMATELY HONOR GOD IN THE END, NOT YOU! DON'T GET IT TWISTED, HAVING A TITLE (I.E., REVEREND, MINISTER, EVANGELIST, OR MISSIONARY) DOES NOT MAKE YOU SUPERIOR, IT ONLY MEANS THAT YOU NO LONGER BELONG TO YOURSELF, BUT THAT YOU BELONG TO GOD – FROM THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD TO THE SOLE OF YOUR FEET.

IT IS A CALL TO **SACRIFICE**. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE UP IN ORDER TO FULFILL THIS ASSIGNMENT: YOUR WILL FOR THE WILL OF GOD! YOUR PERSONAL AGENDA FOR GOD'S DIVINE PLAN. THE THINGS OF THE FLESH FOR THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT! TURN OFF THE TV AND GET IN THE WORD! SHUT YOUR CELL PHONE OFF AND PRESS INTO PRAYER! PUSH BACK FROM THE DINNER TABLE AND FAST AND PRAY FOR GOD TO FILL YOUR CUP 'TIL IT OVERFLOWS! SAY "NO" TO THOSE PLACES YOU USED TO GO AND MAKE YOUR WAY SWIFTLY INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD! REMEMBER ...IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU, BUT IT'S ABOUT GOD AND ALL OF HIS SPLENDOR AND GLORY!

AND IT IS A CALL TO **SUFFER** FOR CHRIST SAKE. SATAN IS NOT HAPPY THAT YOU ARE ON GOD'S TEAM. HE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO THROW YOU OUT OF THE GAME BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.

MY PRAYER FOR YOU IS THAT GOD'S CALL WILL BECOME CRYSTAL CLEAR AND HIS GRACE WILL EMPOWER AND MOTIVATE YOU TO RADICAL OBEDIENCE!