

Back to the Basics: A Time to Simplify

If you have read the news headlines as of late, you probably sense as I do that we are in a time of great shaking in the earth, during which there is much concern over the volatility of nations, the unstable global economy and the uncertain times that are ahead. While the church at large all too often gives way to distraction from its true calling, the enemy of our souls is working overtime. He is earnestly vying for control in our regions, cities and families.

Though we face difficulty and uncertainty in this hour, if we will hear the cry of the Spirit, we will know that it is for this time that we have been called—that this is a divine opportunity from the Lord to release the strength of the kingdom to hungry hearts all around us.

In order to do this, to be effective tools in the hand of the Lord, we must learn to simplify: to get back to the basics, to live streamlined lives focused on the kingdom of God, uncluttered by the distractions of this world. The times we are living in demand a renewed focus and purpose so that we may stand firmly in the light of God amid increasing darkness and confusion.

As we simplify, there are three points the Lord has been highlighting to my spirit for us at this crucial time:

1. Sustained Prayer

The first and most important aspect of this call I have sensed is a re-awakening to sustained prayer. And when I say prayer, I mean *prayer*, a lifestyle and not just merely an activity; an awakening and not just a temporary event. This is not just for the few intercessors who especially feel led to pray; this is for all believers!

As never before, our ears must be sensitized through prayer to the voice of the Holy Spirit if we are to be effective in our calling as servants of God. Our men must lead as priests in our homes, our women must rise up in renewed strength and courage, and our children must be introduced to the reality of the Holy Spirit moving through their lives.

2. Effective Discipleship

Second, we must be intentional to the utmost in training the next generation. Scripture says, “One generation will commend Your works to another” (Ps. 145:4, NIV), and this cannot happen solely on Sunday morning.

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