

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 4: *Participation!*
Slide Notations

Rock Story

The Lord has given us a mission and He deserves simple obedience to the task! He has asked us to tell the world about His love, embodied in Jesus... And we don't have to move men's hearts... just push against them!

In times like these men need to hear the truth that brings help and hope!

Times like these... When so much on the line politically and we only get 14% to vote!

“Know this, that the last times will be dangerous... **2T3.1-5** scoffers walking after their own lusts saying, nothing is going to change... **2P3.3ff** All elections are not created equal. Yrs that end in 0 are apportionment yrs; redistribution of the 435 seats in House. Better know who voting for and how they voted – if you want any real voice

Times like these... When so much happening economically

“Men will say, ‘I’m traveling here and there; I’m buying this and that...’ You don’t know what’s coming! Start saying, ‘if the Lord wills... I will do...’” **Jam 4.13-15** Reign in your CC debt/pay minimums until you get \$1k ER fund/ 2 mortgage payments... www.usdebtclock.org (time bomb!) “What happens in Greece...” coming! MSN: “Biggest outburst of violence since Greece's debt crisis began to escalate”

Times like these... When education is seducing generations

Hear Me! I have a complaint because there is no truth, no mercy, no knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, lying, killing, stealing and adultery they get ahead. Therefore the land mourns and everyone who lives there languishes, yet no one contends or reproves another because all the people struggle against the priests... My people are destroyed for their lack of knowledge. You have rejected Me and now I reject you... now you have shame for your glory! **Hosea 4.1-7**

Times like these... When religious community is corrupted!

“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn to fables... but you be sober, alert, abstinent in all things, enduring afflictions, doing the work of an evangelist, making full proof of your ministry... there is a crown of righteousness laid up for all of those who love His appearing!” **2T4.3-8**

Times like these... When anti-Christian force is building up in American politics! (2009)

Kevin Jennings, avowed GLSEN activist became our safe school czar... Kathleen Sebelius, pro-abortionist, became Secretary of HHS... Chai Feldblum, anti-religious liberty judge nominated for EEOC... John Holdren, pro-population control/abortion. Mitchell “Amanda” Simpson, Sr. Tech Ad... President declared Gay Pride Month...

Times like these... When anti-Christian hatred is building toward material forms of persecution!

Attacks against Christian religious expression; Renee Griffith dropped from grad speech. Owosso, MI: Jim Pullion, killed by man who objected to anti-abortion signs... NH child forced into public schooling because mothers convictions too strong! DHS labels conservative Christians as extremists and potential terrorists! Homosexual raids on churches in service, and promise of more for any resistance...

*No mystery why America is in a time of moral, educational, economic & political upheaval!
Intimacy with God, and the substantial faith that flows from it, is the only thing that can fix us!*

Steps to drawing near...

Step 1: The Presentation! We come boldly to the throne of grace knowing that we are already accepted in the beloved! **E1.3-6** We approach Him w/willingness to accept and obey everything God says to us! Knowing that continual resistance to a loved one breaks intimacy!

Step 2: The Separation! Part 1 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **1J2.15,16** Light and darkness don't mix... so come out from among them and be separate and stop touching what is unclean and I will receive you as My sons/daughters!" **2C6.14-18** "Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity... if you purge yourself you will be a vessel of honor, useable for the Master, prepared for every good work!" **2T2.19ff** "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts, double minded. **James 4.8-10**

We all understand separation from evil for the sake of intimacy with God...

But how about separation from everything else for the sake of intimacy with God?

Step 2: The Separation! Part 2 I am my beloved's and He is mine! **SOS6.3** I am my beloved's and His desire is toward me! **7.9** When it pleased God (who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace) to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him to the nations, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood... but I went into Arabia... and after three years I returned... **Gal 1.12-18**

Separation for love's sake... for Love's sacrifice for us... for the love of your life!

Step 3: The Participation! "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." **J14.23** "Do you love Me? Feed my lambs..." Do you really love Me? Feed My sheep... Do you have any love for Me? Feed My sheep!" **J21.15ff** "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men!" **Mk1.17** *Followers Fish! Rod & Reel, cast net, or trawler... Followers Fish and if there's no fishing, there's no following!*

Without participation, there is no sharing of God's world, work, mind, will, emotions and pleasure... We can't develop intimacy with Him outside of being with Him where He is...And He is in the world, reconciling it to Himself thru Jesus!

In it, with Him!

Finding His lost sheep... **Lk15.4-7** And using anything to provoke them to emulation: to stimulate an effort in them to run alongside, and surpass, my life; to save some of them! **R11.14** Though I am free... I have made myself the slave to all men that I might gain some more... using all means I become all things to all men that in all events I might save some! **1C9.19-22**

In meekness instructing those who oppose themselves, so God can give them compunction: a strong uneasiness, a sting of conscience, a pang of doubt, regarding wrong living... that they may recover themselves out of the traps of the devil having been taken captive by him at his will! **2T2.24-26**

Being built up on our most holy faith, keeping ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life; on some having compassion that makes the difference; the separation complete, on others saving them with fear – pulling them out of the fire – hating even their garments spotted by the flesh! **Jude 1.21-23**

By sound doctrine delivering the grace of God that brings salvation which has appeared to all men teaching that we can have a right and godly life in this world with the promise of His blessed and glorious appearing! **Titus 2.11-13** Bringing the gospel that energizes and affects all who believe it! **1Th2.13** Which comes and bears fruit! **Col 1.6**

My story; meeting with Pat and Shirley... her heart of intimacy caused her to fish... six months of reeling, working, praying...

Every good thing in my life, everything good that has happened in our church the last 25 years happened because she had the heart of God and shared His mission!

The people we serve... have no signs of growing up to do anything great... but God knows what He has put in a person, what plans He has for them... Our job is to fish... or press... and let Him do the rest!

Intimacy with God is our target! To be near to Him, to have His heart and power for the world... Our presentation, separation and participation are the three steps that bring us in close... And drawing near to Him guarantees us the fullness of His kingdom!