KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
- Isaiah 6:5-8

Title:

AVAILABLE!

- His Heart His Part
- You Heart Your Part

{August 15, 2022} I was dreaming and I was somehow aware I was dreaming. And in the dream there were two of me. I saw myself in the dream and I was also in the dream seeing myself, so I guess there were three of me. I was in heaven, and one of me was dead. He was the one sitting at the desk, and the other me was watching from a short distance. It was an ethereal scene with puffy white clouds. It was heaven, but all three of me knew it was allegorical, more like a movie version of heaven.

The me being observed was sitting at a desk being interviewed by an angelic being. The interview had only one exchange, and it was not a question, but rather a directive. It was a simple, yet profound request; "Describe your entire life with one word." The two observers, the me in the dream watching and the me dreaming were completely aware of the magnitude of what he was asked to contemplate. We became excited and curious. What word would he choose? We truly didn't know.

What we did know is that long ago I identified five core values that animated my life: virtue, integrity, justice, innovation, and influence. Each word had deep significant meaning; each, if unpacked, explained an essential element of what I held most dear. Those five words guided my character and commitment. Which word would he choose? Or, would he choose another? We were fascinated as we observed the dead me answer the challenge.

I sat there at the desk. It was a sober moment, a watershed moment. Both onlookers pondered, as the dreaming me laying in bed, and the observing me who watched inside the dream, could feel our racing heart escalate. It pounded with such anticipation. He stared at his angelic Interrogator and without hesitation offered one word with complete confidence... "Available." Available? And then I woke!

I sat straight up in bed, my beautiful bride in a deep restful sleep next to me, and I instantly wrestled with the idea. Available? Immediately, in a sober, self-reflective moment, I sought the Lord. No, not three of us, not the man at the desk, and not the man observing from a short distance, but me—awake, and completely aware of the transaction that just occurred. I confessed, "O God, if you required this of me at this very moment, if I had to give You one word right now, I could not do it. I can't describe my life with one word; I need two words Lord."

I was disappointed in myself, but not in a self-condemning way. It was the type of disappointment that inspires a steadfast resolve to change something, the type that comes when you look in the mirror and admit the unadulterated truth. "Mostly available!" That's what I confessed to the Lord that morning; that's what I confessed to myself. "I love You Lord, and I love Your people, and I want to serve you with reckless abandon! Yet, their is still some small part of me that is holding onto something for myself." God does not want most of me, even if it's 99.99%. He wants all of me.

Something else happened that day. I made a decision that when I die, when I sit at that allegorical desk, alone, with no observers—just me, I will say to my Interrogator, "Available." That's the one word I can use to describe my life Lord. "I am…available!" Let the journey begin!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice. Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that **He will set you high above all nations** which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken." Deuteronomy 26:17-19 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" **Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."**" Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

 This Torah portion begins with laws regarding first fruits and tithes. It goes on to discuss covenant renewal, after which Moses recites the blessings guaranteed to Israel for covenant obedience and warns of the curses for apostasy.

Deuteronomy 26

2. Offerings for Firstfruits and Tithes: Moses reminds Israel what they must do when they come into the land. Offer the first of all your produce to Yahweh. Make this declaration to the priest so you never forget. *"I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us."* Deuteronomy 26:3

- 3. The people must have on their lips, at all times, how they arrived in Egypt few in numbers, became a great nation, were mistreated and afflicted, and then were delivered by Yahweh's power through signs and wonders. They must always remember that they have arrived in the land of promise!
- 4. Every third year lay aside all the tithe of your increase. Take care of the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled (and you will be blessed abundantly for obeying this!)
- 5. A Special People of God: the people have declared that Yahweh is their God and that they will obey Him, and Yahweh has declared that Israel is His special people.

Deuteronomy 27

6. The Law Inscribed on Stones: as Israel crosses into the promised land, they are to set up memorial stones and to whitewash them with lime, and "write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law. (v. 8)" Also build an altar out of whole stones and offer burnt and peace offerings. "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."" Deuteronomy 27:9-10

- 7. Pronouncements after you cross over the Jordan—Blessings from Mount Gerizim and Curses from Mount Ebal:
 - (a) These shall bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin
 - (b) These shall curse the people: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak these warnings to all the men of Israel: It is noteworthy that the people, in marriage-worthy fashion, say "I do" to each of these warnings.
 - (1) Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image.
 - (2) Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.
 - (3) Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.
 - (4) Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.
 - (5) Cursed is the one who perverts justice.
 - (6) Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife.
 - (7) Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.
 - (8) Cursed is the one who lies with his sister.
 - (9) Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.
 - (10) Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.
 - (11) Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.

(12) Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.

Deuteronomy 28

- 8. Up next is Deuteronomy Chapter 28, likely the most famous chapter in the Bible when it comes to Yahweh's definitive statement about His blessings for obeying Him and curses for disobeying Him. **Noteworthy:** The blessings encompass the first **fourteen verses**; the curses, the next **fifty-four verses**, something to really think about!
- 9. Blessings for Obedience: NOTE VERSE 14: "Don't turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them." THAT WOULD BE REALLY BAD! But, if you diligently obey the voice of Yahweh, and carefully observe all His commandments, then He will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you: (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) Blessed you will be:
 - (1) In the city and the country.
 - (2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your livestock.
 - (3) In your basket and your kneading bowl.
 - (4) In your coming and going.

- (5) As He will cause your enemies to be defeated; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- (6) In your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand.
- (7) As a holy people to Himself.
- (8) As all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you.
- (9) With plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground.
- (10) As Yahweh will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season.
- (11) In all the work of your hands.
- (12) As lenders to many nations and not borrowers.
- (13) As the head and not the tail; as above and not be beneath.
- 10. Curses for Disobedience: But, if you do not obey the voice of Yahweh, to observe carefully all His commandments, these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deuteronomy 28:15
- 11. Strap yourself in; the curses are so awful that some of the descriptions create a mental picture and certainly conjure up the feelings of what you might imagine hell is like! Cursed you will be:
 - (1) In the city and the country.

- (2) In the fruit of your body, the produce of your land, and the increase of your livestock.
- (3) In your coming and going.
- (4) In confusion and rebukes of all that you set your hands to do.
- (5) With plagues that will cling to you until you are consumed.
- (6) And stricken with consumption, fever, inflammation, severe burning fever, the sword, scorching, and with mildew; until you perish.
- (7) As the heavens over your land shall be as powder and dust and the land will produce as if it were iron!
- (8) And defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them.
- (9) As you become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.
- (10) As your carcasses become food for birds and the beasts, and no one shall frighten them away.
- (11) With the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.
- (12) And stricken with madness, blindness and confusion.
- (13) As you grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness.
- (14) As all your ways will be unprosperous.
- (15) As you are oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.
- (16) You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her.

- (17) You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it.
- (18) You shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.
- (19) Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it.
- (20) And your donkey will be violently taken from you.
- (21) And your sheep given to your enemies.
- (22) And your sons and your daughters given to another people.
- (23) Your eyes shall look and fail and there shall be no strength in your hand.
- (24) When a nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be oppressed and crushed continually.
- (25) As you are driven mad because of what your eyes witness.
- (26) While you are stricken with severe boils which cannot be healed, from the sole of your feet to the top of your head.
- (27) You and your future king will be sent to a nation, which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods.
- (28) And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.
- (29) You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.

- (30) You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.
- (31) You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.
- (32) You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.
- (33) Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.
- (34) The alien who is among you shall rise higher and you shall come down lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.
- (35) These curses shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of Yahweh.
- (36) The curse shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever because you did not serve Yahweh.
- (37) You shall serve your enemies.
- (38) You will be in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything.
- (39) As Yahweh puts a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

(40) Nations from afar shall take from you every resource, all livestock, and all your produce, grain, wine and oil.

(41) They shall besiege you at all your gates and starve you out.

- (42) In complete desperation, you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters in the siege.
- (43) The sensitive and very refined man among you will turn hostile toward everyone as he consumes the flesh of his own children in desperation!
- (44) The tender and delicate woman among you will refuse her husband and children and consider only herself in her desperation.
- (45) If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law and fear the glorious and awesome name of Yahweh, then He will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues —great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses, including all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid.
- (46) Even sicknesses never written in the Book of the Law will come upon you until you are left few in number, in contrast to the stars of heaven.
- (47) "And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall

be plucked from off the land which you go to possess." Deuteronomy 28:63 NKJV

- (48) Then you will scattered from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, and you shall find no rest, but instead a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.
- (49) "Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life." Deuteronomy 28:66 NKJV
- (50) In the morning you'd wish it were evening, and in the evening you'd wish it were morning because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of what your eyes have witnessed.
- (51) Back to Egypt you will go! And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies.

Deuteronomy 29

- 12. **The Covenant Renewed:** *"These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb."* Deuteronomy 29:1
- 13. Moses reminds the people all that happened in Egypt and yet they still have no eyes to perceive the magnitude.

- 14. "Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day." Deuteronomy 29:4 NKJV
- 15. **Reminder:** Your clothes and sandals never wore out. Your every need was provided for supernaturally, so you knew it was Yahweh who provided for you continuously.
- 16. Last two year's teaching on this portion: <u>Looking Good</u> & <u>Self-</u> <u>Inflicted Wounds</u>

HIS HEART HIS PART

1. What He did for you!

A. Yahweh does what He promises!

- (1) Acknowledgment
 - (a) The first thing you must do when you receive what the Lord has promised is to take some of what He has given you, and give it back to Him. Think about it. It's all His anyway; giving the firstfruits of the whole simply shows that you acknowledge that He was responsible for the whole in the first place. "I declare today Lord that I have received all that You had promised. Here, I give a small token back to you God, as proof I recognize that You provided everything."
 - "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance,

and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall **take some of the first of all** the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, '**I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the country which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.'**" Deuteronomy 26:1-3 NKJV

(2) Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises

- (a) If you think a land inheritance is good, just contemplate what promises He has offered you!
 - "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:2-4 NKJV a) Exponential Grace!

- b) Divine Power!
- c) Everything you need to live a godly life!
- d) Access to the Divine Nature!
- e) Escape the world's corruption!

B. <u>He is your deliverer!</u>

- (1) Appreciation
 - (a) Do you have any real appreciation for what God does for you? Life has its ups and downs, no doubt. And when things are going great, do you forget who is your provider? And when things fall apart, when you are mistreated, afflicted and feel trapped, do you remember who is your deliverer? He takes on our enemies when we have no strength to take them on ourselves!
 - 1. ""Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall answer and say before the Lord your God: 'My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. Then we cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and looked on our affliction

and our labor and our oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey"; Deuteronomy 26:4-9 NKJV

- (2) When I am weak, then I am strong!
 - (a) Think about human nature. It is very easy for us to forget how much we need God when life is going great. In those times, God often allows challenges, sometimes severe, to enter our lives, so we have no choice but to depend on Him. His grace is always enough and His strength is on full display when our strength is gone! Because this is ALWAYS true, you might as well take pleasure in the trials.
 - 1. "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will

rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong**." II Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV

C. Everything good comes from God!

- (1) Rejoice
 - (a) You should not only acknowledge that everything good comes from God, but you should rejoice in that reality, and take pleasure in giving your first of everything back to God. The idea of firstfruits is that we don't wait to give God what belongs to Him; we do that before we do anything else, including the firstfruits of our very lives.
 - "and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me.' "Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you." Deuteronomy 26:10-11 NKJV
- (2) We are His firstfruits...

- (a) All good things come from God. This truth never changes. It was true when God fulfilled every promise to Israel; it was true when He fulfilled every promise Y'shua's disciples; and it is true today.
 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures." James 1:17-18 NKJV

D. God defines your ministry!

- (1) Ministry
 - (a) It is of no use to talk about taking care of others, unless you actually take care of others. This is the heart of God, to use your resources to pour into His institution and into people in need. It should be a joy to obey the voice of the Lord on this matter.
 - 1. ""When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in **the third year—the year of tithing** and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled, then you shall say before the Lord your God: '**I have removed the holy tithe from**

my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me." Deuteronomy 26:12-14 NKJV

(2) Ministry to others...

- (a) True religion is one of action. Don't just talk about serving God; do something about it! Live a pure life and pour out your life for others: your money, your time, your talent, and your resources. Stop talking about it and do it!
 - 1. "But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only,** deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a

doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. **Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**" James 1:22-27 NKJV

(b) When you see a need, fill it, don't just talk about it.

- 1. "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:14-17 NKJV
- (c) How can you say you have God's love in you if you see a brother in need and don't try to help him?
 - "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart

from him, how does the love of God abide in him? "I John 3:16-17 NKJV

- (d) Give and it will come back to you in multiples! Of course, this is NOT the reason to give, but it is a benefit!
 - 1. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."" Luke 6:38 NKJV

E. God answers your prayers!

- (1) Prayer
 - (a) Bless us from heaven Father.
 - "Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey." '" Deuteronomy 26:15 NKJV
- (2) Everything by Prayer...
 - (a) Pray, earnestly ask, and thank God in advance! Then have peace.
 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

F. God has made you His special people!

- (1) Your Destiny
 - (a) You have openly acknowledged your allegiance to God and your desire to obey Him. He will keep His promise to you as His special people. You are to be known as a nation of praise, great reputation, honor, and holiness!
 - 1. ""This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice. Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken."" Deuteronomy 26:16-19 NKJV

- (2) Greater Things
 - (a) If you identify yourself by His name, His authority, and His reputation, you will be a "great nation" above all other nations. You will do great things!
 - ""Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:12-14 NKJV

G. God has made you to remember!

- (1) Memorials
 - (a) Each time God does something in your life, catalog it.Mark it down; tell others about it so you never forget. I like to think of it like this. When you tell your testimony, God gives you more testimonies to tell.
 - "Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today. And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash

them with lime. You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the Lord God of your fathers promised you." Deuteronomy 27:1-3 NKJV

- (2) Remember
 - (a) I can think of no better area in the New Testament in which we are reminded about the importance of reminders. *"I will not be negligent to remind you; I think it is right to stir you up by reminding you; I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder."*Why? It is easy to forget what God has promised, what He has done, and what we should do.
 - "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease." II Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

- (b) Easy to forget! It's like the man who looks in the mirror and then walks away and immediately forgets what kind of man he is. Or, the disciples who scattered after Y'shua's arrest. Or, how they all hid themselves after the crucifixion. Or, the men "slow of heart" on the road to Emmaus who could not connect the dots about what just took place! We need to be reminded, so we NEVER FORGET!
 - "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was." James 1:23-24 NKJV
 - "Then they all forsook Him and **fled**." Mark 14:50
 NKJV
 - 3. "Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."" John 20:19 NKJV
 - "Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!" Luke 24:25 NKJV

H. You are God's obedient people!

- (1) God's people must obey God's voice!
 - (a) If you wish to enjoy all the benefits of being the people of God, you must also enjoy all the responsibilities of hearing His voice and obeying His commands!
 - "Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.""

Deuteronomy 27:9-10 NKJV

- (b) You can't just hear His law, you must do His law!
 - "'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV
- (2) Legal Perspectives
 - (a) A proper understanding of what it means for a Christian to obey God's commands is essential to your walk of faith. You must obey, not just think about obeying. If you believe you can hear and not obey, you are deceived. under those conditions, your faith is dead. And you must understand what it means to be "cursed" by

disobedience in both the Old Testament and New Testament.

- "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22 NKJV
- "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17 NKJV
- 3. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead** also." James 2:26 NKJV
- 4. "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."" Galatians 3:10 NKJV
 - a) First you must understand what "works of law" means. It means you are NOT obeying the law by faith (grace-empowered faith-based obedience), but by legalism (human-powered check-list obedience). Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
 - b) Simple Translation: "Works of Law" means you are disobeying the law!

- c) That is why as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse, because it means they are disobeying.
- d) And cursed is every one who does not obey all that is written in the book of the law, just like it says in Deuteronomy 27:26. "Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them."

I. You are a covenanted people!

- (1) Covenant
 - (a) God makes all agreements by covenant!
 - "These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb." Deuteronomy 29:1 NKJV
- (2) Covenants are permanent
 - (a) A latter covenant does not override a previous covenant; it only builds upon it.
 - "Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, **no one annuls or adds to it.**" Galatians 3:15 NKJV

2. "And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect." Galatians 3:17 NKJV

J. You are a people of vision!

- (1) Sight with no vision...
 - (a) You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes...
 - "Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land— the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders." Deuteronomy 29:2-3 NKJV
 - (b) But, you still don't get it! You don't have the heart to perceive the magnitude of it.
 - "Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day." Deuteronomy 29:4 NKJV
- (2) Sight with vision...
 - (a) Prophets and kings wish they had what is available to you as a Christian. You have the vision to see and perceive the deep mysteries of God.

- "Then He turned to His disciples and said privately,
 "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."" Luke 10:23-24 NKJV
- 2. "But we speak the **wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for **our glory**, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written *[Isaiah* 64:4]: **"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."** But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." I Corinthians 2:7-10 NKJV

K. You are a people of supernatural provision!

- (1) Supernatural Testimony
 - (a) God supplied your food and water. God gave you clothing and shoes that did not wear out. It's should be hard not to notice such things!

- "And I have led you forty years in the wilderness.
 Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 29:5-6 NKJV
- (2) God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory..."that you may know that I am the Lord your God."
 - (a) Know this—you should be content in every circumstance because God supplies all you need all the time!
 - 1. "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my

necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. **Indeed I have all and abound.** I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. **And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." Philippians 4:11-20 NKJV

L. You are a protected and prosperous people!

- (1) Conquerers: Walk in Obedience—Walk in Victory
 - (a) God goes before you to conquer your enemies. Stick to your covenant with Him and you will prosper! Nothing can defeat us when we walk in obedience.
 - "And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us to battle, and we conquered them. We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh.
 Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do." Deuteronomy 29:7-9 NKJV
- (2) Conquerers: Walk in the Spirit—Walk in Victory

- (a) Your obedience to God is achieved by walking in the Spirit, not in the flesh!
 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4 NKJV
- (b) We are not just conquerers; we are more than conquerers. Nothing can defeat us when we walk in the Spirit.
 - 1. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is

even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:31-39 NKJV

M. His Heart His Part: What He did for you!

- (1) Yahweh does what He promises!
- (2) He is your deliverer!
- (3) Everything good comes from God!
- (4) God defines your ministry!
- (5) God answers your prayers!
- (6) God has made you His special people!
- (7) God has made you to remember!
- (8) You are God's obedient people!

- (9) You are a covenanted people!
- (10) You are a people of vision!
- (11) You are a people of supernatural provision!
- (12) You are a protected and prosperous people!

Summary: HIS HEART HIS PART

1. What He did for you!

A. <u>Yahweh does what He promises!</u>

- (1) Acknowledgment
 - (a) The first thing you must do when you receive what the Lord has promised is to take some of what He has given you, and give it back to Him. Think about it. It's all His anyway; giving the firstfruits of the whole simply shows that you acknowledge that He was responsible for the whole in the first place. "I declare today Lord that I have received all that You had promised. Here, I give a small token back to you God, as proof I recognize that You provided everything."
- (2) Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises
 - (a) If you think a land inheritance is good, just contemplate what promises He has offered you!
 - 1. Exponential Grace!
 - 2. Divine Power!
- 3. Everything you need to live a godly life!
- 4. Access to the Divine Nature!
- 5. Escape the world's corruption!

B. <u>He is your deliverer!</u>

- (1) Appreciation
 - (a) Do you have any real appreciation for what God does for you? Life has its ups and downs, no doubt. And when things are going great, do you forget who is your provider? And when things fall apart, when you are mistreated, afflicted and feel trapped, do you remember who is your deliverer? He takes on our enemies when we have no strength to take them on ourselves!
- (2) When I am weak, then I am strong!
 - (a) Think about human nature. It is very easy for us to forget how much we need God when life is going great. In those times, God often allows challenges, sometimes severe, to enter our lives, so we have no choice but to depend on Him. His grace is always enough and His strength is on full display when our strength is gone! Because this is ALWAYS true, you might as well take pleasure in the trials.

C. Everything good comes from God!

(1) Rejoice

- (a) You should not only acknowledge that everything good comes from God, but you should rejoice in that reality, and take pleasure in giving your first of everything back to God. The idea of firstfruits is that we don't wait to give God what belongs to Him; we do that before we do anything else, including the firstfruits of our very lives.
- (2) We are His firstfruits...
 - (a) All good things come from God. This truth never changes. It was true when God fulfilled every promise to Israel; it was true when He fulfilled every promise Y'shua's disciples; and it is true today.

D. <u>God defines your ministry!</u>

- (1) Ministry
 - (a) It is of no use to talk about taking care of others, unless you actually take care of others. This is the heart of God, to use your resources to pour into His institution and into people in need. It should be a joy to obey the voice of the Lord on this matter.
- (2) Ministry to others...
 - (a) True religion is one of action. Don't just talk about serving God; do something about it! Live a pure life and pour out your life for others: your money, your time,

your talent, and your resources. Stop talking about it and do it!

- (b) When you see a need, fill it, don't just talk about it.
- (c) How can you say you have God's love in you if you see a brother in need and don't try to help him?
- (d) Give and it will come back to you in multiples! Of course, this is NOT the reason to give, but it is a benefit!

E. <u>God answers your prayers!</u>

- (1) Prayer
 - (a) Bless us from heaven Father.
- (2) Everything by Prayer...
 - (a) Pray, earnestly ask, and thank God in advance! Then have peace.

F. God has made you His special people!

- (1) Your Destiny
 - (a) You have openly acknowledged your allegiance to God and your desire to obey Him. He will keep His promise to you as His special people. You are to be known as a nation of praise, great reputation, honor, and holiness!
- (2) Greater Things
 - (a) If you identify yourself by His name, His authority, and His reputation, you will be a "great nation" above all other nations. You will do great things!

G. God has made you to remember!

- (1) Memorials
 - (a) Each time God does something in your life, catalog it.Mark it down; tell others about it so you never forget. I like to think of it like this. When you tell your testimony, God gives you more testimonies to tell.
- (2) Remember
 - (a) I can think of no better area in the New Testament in which we are reminded about the importance of reminders. *"I will not be negligent to remind you; I think it is right to stir you up by reminding you; I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder."*Why? It is easy to forget what God has promised, what He has done, and what we should do.
 - (b) Easy to forget! It's like the man who looks in the mirror and then walks away and immediately forgets what kind of man he is. Or, the disciples who scattered after Y'shua's arrest. Or, how they all hid themselves after the crucifixion. Or, the men "slow of heart" on the road to Emmaus who could not connect the dots about what just took place! We need to be reminded, so we NEVER FORGET!

H. You are God's obedient people!

- (1) God's people must obey God's voice!
 - (a) If you wish to enjoy all the benefits of being the people of God, you must also enjoy all the responsibilities of hearing His voice and obeying His commands!
 - (b) You can't just hear His law, you must do His law!
- (2) Legal Perspectives
 - (a) A proper understanding of what it means for a Christian to obey God's commands is essential to your walk of faith. You must obey, not just think about obeying. If you believe you can hear and not obey, you are deceived. under those conditions, your faith is dead. And you must understand what it means to be "cursed" by disobedience in both the Old Testament and New Testament.
 - First you must understand what "works of law" means. It means you are NOT obeying the law by faith (grace-empowered faith-based obedience), but by legalism (human-powered check-list obedience). Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
 - 2. Simple Translation: "Works of Law" means you are disobeying the law!

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YOUR HEART YOUR PART

2. What will you do for Him?

A. His Will and Your Will

- It begins in the mind (heart), but ultimately what you do comes down to whose will you will submit.
 - (a) Choose God first and He is ready to fulfill what He has placed in your heart. But, you must be completely committed to Him and trust that what He has for you is better than what you have for you. Then step into action and God will direct your every step!

- "Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:4-5 NKJV
- "Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established." Proverbs 16:3 NKJV
- "A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9 NKJV
- (b) In the end it will come down to whether you choose His path for your life (in all things), or your own. Y'shua's model demonstration was to submit, even if it will cost you your life. This is what it means to be a disciple.
 - "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42 NKJV
 - 2. ""If anyone comes to Me and **does not hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and **his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.**So likewise, whoever of you **does not forsake all** that he has **cannot be My disciple**." Luke 14:26, 33 NKJV

B. <u>His Equipping and You Equipping Others</u>

(1) He will equip you to equip others.

- (a) You have access to God's divine power (grace) which is all you need to live a godly life.
 - "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:3 NKJV
- (b) You have access to God's Word which will thoroughly equip you for every good work.
 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV
 - 2. Tools at your disposal in Scripture
 - a) Doctrine: access to correct theology and prophecy.
 - b) Reproof: the proper approach to express disapproval and to reprimand those with bad theology and prophecy.
 - c) Correction: the proper approach to disciplinary action for those with bad theology and prophecy.
 - d) Instruction in Righteousness: we are empowered to live a Godly life (II Peter 1:3), and what that looks like is taught to us in the Holy Scriptures.

- (c) Godliness is not just something we achieve at some moment in time; it is something we practice continually. The benefits of such are both temporal and eternal.
 - "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." I Timothy 4:8 NKJV
 - a) Godliness is wholistic integrity. This is a state in which all aspects of your triune being, Spirit, Soul and Body, are in complete alignment with the will of God. *"Not my will but Your will be done..."*
- (d) Every ministry in the Church (the Body of Christ, not a building or location), is designed to work together in perfect coordination to equip God's people for one ultimate purpose. They are to be built up until they look like Christ in every way (Spirit, Soul and Body).
 - 1. "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,** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to**

the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-13 NKJV

- (e) Wash—Rinse—Repeat: teach others to do these things, so they can, in return, teach others to do these things, and on and on it goes. It is a person-to-person play book and that is why Y'shua had such a small inner circle of disciples.
 - "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV
 - 2. And that is why the growth of the Church was from house-to-house, not stadium-to-stadium.
 - 1. "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47 NKJV
 - "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." Acts 5:42 NKJV

C. Willingness to be Sent and You Going

- (1) Send me, I'll go!
 - (a) It's a simple formula, but not easy. You were not even remotely worthy and then God took away your iniquity. Then He asked a simple question; *"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" "Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans."* Now, it is up to you? Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?
 - 1. "So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."" Isaiah 6:5-8 NKJV
 - (b) It's a simple formula, but not easy. How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless

they are sent? "Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans." Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?

- "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"" Romans 10:14-15 NKJV
- (c) Go make disciples! Immerse others in the Divine
 Family. Teach them to obey God! *"Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans."* Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?
 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV
 - See: <u>Seeker Friendly</u> for a deep teaching on the Divine Family as the Image of God.

D. <u>What more do you need?</u>

- (1) "Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans." Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?
 - (a) If it was up to me I would do something else. I have other plans. However, I have come to realize that there is no better life than the one in which I make myself completely available for God. So, I will choose that path because it is what God wants me to do for the benefit of others. *"Here am I! Send me. I am available!"*
 - "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again." Philippians 1:21-26 NKJV
 - (b) Use all of me God. I will not even complain about it, even if it ruins all the plans I had for myself. And when I

commit all of me God, I mean total and complete. Let my life be as if I was a glass of water being poured over a raging fire, evaporated into a vapor. *"Here am I! Send me. I am available!"*

- 1. "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me." Philippians 2:14-18 NKJV
- (c) If you want a perfect example of how to do this, consider the quintessential disciple Timothy. Whereas others seek their own plans, he has proven that he will go all-in for God. Use him as the perfect role model of... "Here am I! Send me. I am available!"
 - "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will

sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly." Philippians 2:19-24 NKJV

- (d) Just like I am encouraging you today to step in boldly to what God has called you to do; Paul inspired Timothy to fulfill his ministry. And He showed him precisely what level of commitment that will take. *"I am already being poured out as a drink offering."* I am nothing more than a glass of water being poured over a raging fire, evaporated into a vapor. That is the level of commitment it takes to be available. *"Here am I! Send me. I am available!"*
 - "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:5-7 NKJV

(2) Are you available?

- (a) Available: able to be used or obtained; at someone's disposal; not otherwise occupied; free to do something; ready for use; unoccupied; not busy; present, in attendance; contactable; contractable; at hand...
 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is **at hand**!" Matthew 3:2 and 4:17 NKJV
 - 2. At Hand: to make near; to come near; I bring near; approach; has drawn close; extreme closeness, immediate imminence; even a presence; because the moment of this coming happened!
 - 3. Are you available for the kingdom of heaven to be at hand, because the moment is now? Or, are you otherwise occupied?
- (b) The last paragraph of today's introduction...
 - Something else happened that day. I made a decision that when I die, when I sit at that allegorical desk, alone, with no observers—just me, I will say to my Interrogator, "Available." That's the one word I can use to describe my life Lord. "I am...available!" Let the journey begin!
 - 2. Will you make yourself available?

E. Summary: What will you do for Him?

(1) His Will or Your Will?

- (2) You are equipped—Will You Equip Others?
- (3) Willingness to be Sent—Will You Go?
- (4) What more do you need?

Summary: YOUR HEART YOUR PART

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A. <u>His Will and Your Will</u>

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 - (a) Choose God first and He is ready to fulfill what He has placed in your heart. But, you must be completely committed to Him and trust that what He has for you is better than what you have for you. Then step into action and God will direct your every step!
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 - Godliness is wholistic integrity. This is a state in which all aspects of your triune being, Spirit, Soul and Body, are in complete alignment with the will of God. "Not my will but Your will be done..."
- (d) Every ministry in the Church (the Body of Christ, not a building or location), is designed to work together in perfect coordination to equip God's people for one

ultimate purpose. They are to be built up until they look like Christ in every way (Spirit, Soul and Body).

- (e) Wash—Rinse—Repeat: teach others to do these things, so they can, in return, teach others to do these things, and on and on it goes. It is a person-to-person play book and that is why Y'shua had such a small inner circle of disciples.
 - 1. And that is why the growth of the Church was from house-to-house, not stadium-to-stadium.

C. Willingness to be Sent and You Going

- (1) Send me, I'll go!
 - (a) It's a simple formula, but not easy. You were not even remotely worthy and then God took away your iniquity. Then He asked a simple question; "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" "Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans." Now, it is up to you? Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?
 - (b) It's a simple formula, but not easy. How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? *"Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans."* Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?

(c) Go make disciples! Immerse others in the Divine
 Family. Teach them to obey God! *"Here am I! Send me.* Or, don't ask me! I have other plans." Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?

D. What more do you need?

- (1) "Here am I! Send me. Or, don't ask me! I have other plans." Are you available, mostly available, or not available at all?
 - (a) If it was up to me I would do something else. I have other plans. However, I have come to realize that there is no better life than the one in which I make myself completely available for God. So, I will choose that path because it is what God wants me to do for the benefit of others. *"Here am I! Send me. I am available!"*
 - (b) Use all of me God. I will not even complain about it, even if it ruins all the plans I had for myself. And when I commit all of me God, I mean total and complete. Let my life be as if I was a glass of water being poured over a raging fire, evaporated into a vapor. "Here am I! Send me. I am available!"
 - (c) If you want a perfect example of how to do this,consider the quintessential disciple Timothy. Whereasothers seek their own plans, he has proven that he will

go all-in for God. Use him as the perfect role model of... "Here am I! Send me. I am available!"

- (d) Just like I am encouraging you today to step in boldly to what God has called you to do; Paul inspired Timothy to fulfill his ministry. And He showed him precisely what level of commitment that will take. *"I am already being poured out as a drink offering."* I am nothing more than a glass of water being poured over a raging fire, evaporated into a vapor. That is the level of commitment it takes to be available. *"Here am I! Send me. I am available!"*
- (2) Are you available?
 - (a) Available: able to be used or obtained; at someone's disposal; not otherwise occupied; free to do something; ready for use; unoccupied; not busy; present, in attendance; contactable; contractable; at hand...
 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Matthew 3:2 and 4:17 NKJV
 - 2. At Hand: to make near; to come near; I bring near; approach; has drawn close; extreme closeness, immediate imminence; even a presence; because the moment of this coming happened!

- 3. Are you available for the kingdom of heaven to be at hand, because the moment is now? Or, are you otherwise occupied?
- (b) The last paragraph of today's introduction...
 - Something else happened that day. I made a decision that when I die, when I sit at that allegorical desk, alone, with no observers—just me, I will say to my Interrogator, "Available." That's the one word I can use to describe my life Lord. "I am...available!" Let the journey begin!
 - 2. Will you make yourself available?

E. Summary: What will you do for Him?

- (1) His Will or Your Will?
- (2) You are equipped—Will You Equip Others?
- (3) Willingness to be Sent—Will You Go?
- (4) What more do you need?

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. How does Deuteronomy 26:1-3 speak to the fulfillment of one of God's promises?

A. What five promises are you be assured of in II Peter 1:2-4?

2. Do you have any real appreciation for what God does for you?

- A. Use Deuteronomy 26:4-9 to describe why the Israelites should be so appreciative.
- B. Use II Corinthians 12:7-10 to describe why you should be so appreciative.

3. Everything good comes from God...

A. Use Deuteronomy 26:10-11 and James 1:17-18 to craft a personal declaration of this truth in your life.

4. Use the following passages to support each statement:

- A. *God defines your ministry!* (See: Deuteronomy 26:12-14; James 1:22-27; 2:14-17; I John 3:16-17; Luke 6:38)
- B. God answers your prayers! (See: Deuteronomy 26:15; Philippians 4:6-7)
- C. God has made you His special people! (See: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; John 14:12-14)
- D. God has made you to remember! (See: Deuteronomy 27:1-3;II Peter 1:12-15; James 1:23-24)
- E. You are God's obedient people! (See: Deuteronomy 27:9-10, 26; James 2:17-26; Galatians 3:10)
- F. Bonus: why can we be sure "works of law" means disobedience according to Galatians 3:10 and Deuteronomy 27:26?
- 5. Use the following passages to support each statement:

- A. *You are a covenanted people!* (See: Deuteronomy 29:1; Galatians 3:15-17)
- B. You are a people of vision! (See: Deuteronomy 29:2-4; Luke 10:23-24; I Corinthians 2:7-10)
- C. Bonus: What promise do you have as a Christian, about your ability to see, as compared to those in the wilderness?
- D. You are a people of supernatural provision! (See: Deuteronomy 29:5-6; Philippians 4:11-20)
- E. You are a protected and prosperous people! Deuteronomy 29:7-9; Romans 8:1-4; 8:31-39)

6. Service to the Lord begins in the mind (heart), but ultimately what you do comes down to whose will you will submit.

A. Use the following passages to create a personal "willingness statement." (See: Psalms 37:4-5; Proverbs 16:3, 9; Luke 22:42; 14:26, 33)

7. You are equipped by God to equip others...

- A. How are you equipped by God? (See: II Peter 1:3; II Timothy 3:16-17)
- B. How and for what should we equip others? (See: I Timothy 4:8; Ephesians 4:11-13; II Timothy 2:1-2)

8. God is calling you; are you willing to go?

A. Meditate on and journal about what God is calling you to do.It need not be something thought of as formal ministry. Your

job is to hear God's voice and follow, no matter where it leads. (Use Isaiah 6:5-8; Romans 10:14-15; and Matthew 28:19-20 to help formulate your journal entry.)

9. It is tempting to choose your own path...

- A. What would Paul have rather done, and what did he instead choose? (See Philippians 1:21-26)
- B. Use Philippians 2:14-18 to support this statement: "Use all of me God. I will not even complain about it, even if it ruins all the plans I had for myself."
- C. How is Timothy a perfect example of such a man and how was he encouraged by Paul? (See: Philippians 2:19-24; II Timothy 4:5-7)

10. Bonus: this is what it means to be available for God...

- A. ...able to be used or obtained; at someone's disposal; not otherwise occupied; free to do something; ready for use; unoccupied; not busy; present, in attendance; contactable; contractable; at hand...
- B. Are you available?