

On Sabbatical

May 15 – August 15



Bob & Corinne Keith

Restoration - Re-alignment - Renewal

Sabbatical Reflections

Share my Heart

Deep Desire for this Time to be Fruitful Here

1. Purpose of This Season

- learned we all have spiritual gifts
- some have 'equipping gifts' – that's me
- all gifts take development & care – not all the same

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Three passages for consideration...

- Mark 1:35-38...

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”

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- 1 Kings 19:4-15...

“⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” ⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. ⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it

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And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

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And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.

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Mark 6:30-32...

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves."

Sabbatical Reflections

a) Rhythm and Rest

- daily rhythm – time with God & prayer
- weekly Sabbath – reorienting, hearing, re-alignment
- seasonal markers – Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving etc.
- set apart seasons – poured out/filled up, retreat to meet
- needed for equipping gifts in seasons

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b) Reflection & Renewal

- re-counting what God has done
- renewal of call and participation
- re-alignment of practices and postures

c) Re-charged and Re-focused

- clear on what is important
- hearing what God wants in the next season

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2. Posture and Language

a) posture communicates attitude

- how you feel affects how you act or respond
- time off/holiday vs. invested time, set apart to God

b) language matters

- James 3:3 power of the tongue
- how we communicate often affects outcomes

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3. Participation and Anticipation

a) invitation to Pray

- for us – health, safety, meet with God, listen well
- renewal, refocused, refreshed

b) Serve one Another

- hospitality
- encourage and build up – together

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c) Trust the Holy Spirit

- Christ is the head, Supplies what is needed
- been him doing this all along

d) Anticipate Great things

- those with equipping gifts ready to serve you
- H/S is leading this church, these leaders
- God is going to use this time in preparing all of us

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So What?

1. Embrace the Purpose of this Season
2. Adopt an intentional Posture and Language
3. Dive in – Expectation and Anticipation
4. Celebrate Communion Together

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