

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Introduction:

We all face tomorrow. It comes with great regularity. It brings with it change, some good, and some bad. However, if we begin to know who we are, what we're called to, and how connected we are, we can embrace our tomorrows with confidence and peace.

### I. To embrace the future we must know that we are called by the Lord Himself.

I Peter 2:9-10 *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*

- A. God's looking for those who will take their place as his priests.
- B. A priest represents God before people and people before God.
- C. We're something now, which we were not before.

### II. To embrace the future, we must know that God has gifted each of us with that gifting which is specially designed for us.

I Corinthians 12:4-11 *"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup>But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup>for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by <sup>10</sup>the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. <sup>12</sup>For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."*

- A. Each of us has a responsibility to the rest of us.
- B. Sometimes I need a word of wisdom, which I am unable to get until you give it to me.
  - 1. This demonstrates the love God has for me. He makes you available to me when I have need.
  - 2. God has made us dependent upon one another.
- C. Your faith will sometime help me through a bad time in my life.
- D. Each of the spirit operations benefits me when I have a healthy regard and respect for the body of Christ.
- E. If I do not move in the realm of my gifting, I may cheat someone else of the thing that God desires to do in his or her life.

Romans 12:4-8 *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*

### III. To embrace the future, we must know that we are ministers to the Lord and His body.

I Peter 4: 10-11 *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

- A. Our lives are interconnected not only in spiritual matters, but also in the natural needs and resources we have been blessed with.
- B. When we are in the Kingdom of God, we are under His Lordship in regard to every aspect of life.

Acts 11:27-30 “*And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. <sup>29</sup>Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. <sup>30</sup>This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.*”

- 1. There is an important truth here that must not be overlooked.
- 2. God never asks us to do more than we are able or capable of.
- 3. God knows what our spiritual and natural resources are because He has given them to us.
- 4. God also knows what we are going to need tomorrow. Many times, He has us plant a seed today for the tomorrow that we are entering into.

**IV. To embrace the future, we must be willing to embrace the change He brings our way and begin to function as His priests.**

Isaiah 43:18-19 “*Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.*”

- A. To get God’s new thing for our life, we have to leave the old, some good, some bad.
- B. When we do leave the old to embrace the new, we have God’s promise of direction in those places where we didn’t know what to do.
- C. We also receive His living water in those places where we death, distress, lifelessness and the frustration of hope has run rampant.