

Get Your Life Back - Part 2
"Voices, Voices Everywhere!"
January 17th, 2021

Intro:

- 21 Days... Challenge Men???
- Review last week... Books / Watch Online
 - Date for Zoom Discussion!!!

SIT...

- In December, I was on my Sil/Sol Retreat & the last morning, I had one more thing that I had added to my list to pray about.
 - Officially, I had wrote, *"I feel like I don't know how to pastor people anymore because they are so distracted and busy. I need the Lord to help me see in the Spirit."*
- So I began walking & praying in the room for like 3 minutes, when the Lord just spoke to my heart & said, *"Sit down & get your journal. I'm going to tell you how to pastor them."*
 - So I did...

And, my goodness, in 15 minutes, He spoke!

- & church, I believe it is a **WORD** for our Age!
- I'm going to share it with you in just a minute but first let's talk...

PRAY - Pray for Open Hearts to Hear what the Spirit would say to the Church today.

? Have you noticed how Noisy the world is today?

- I mean, seriously.
- Show of hands...

? How many of you, by the time you get out of bed already have Multiple Texts, Headlines & Notifications waiting for you?

? How many of you, if you sit to read your Bible, find yourself distracted at least more than once, with a text, an alert, an update, or a headline on your phone?

? How many of you have looked at your phone at least once since I started talking???

? *When was the last time you were "Completely Undistracted" in your time with God?*

- I can tell you mine... when I was on that S&S Retreat!
- & even then, looking out the Window was distracting b/c I love Downtown Fort Myers!!!

*** We live in a Distracted World.**

A. And if we don't begin to Fight Back against it, it is going to Clutter our Soul & Rob our Relationship with God!

- And that is what the Devil is Up to in This Generation & Age!!!
- Remember, his whole goal is Steal, Kill & Destroy.

John 10:10 " The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (NIV)

- How Sneaky to put an "Attention-Stealing Machine" in the palm of our hand all the time!!!

(Of course, don't hear what I'm not saying...)

- There's a lot of good that comes from this thing too!

*** Our Souls were not made to endure this kind of Barrage of Input & Information.**

A. 50 YEARS AGO - NEWSPAPER HEADLINES & EVENING NEWS ILL.

- Even 30 years ago, when I was a kid or teen, it was different.

B. ELECTION / INAUGURATION ILL. - Do you know why the Election is in November & the Inauguration is in January? (It used to be April 30th in GW's day!)

- B/c it took that long for the all the votes & results to travel by RailCar to Washington D.C. & then to Alert the Winner that they had won & for them to move to Washington!

C. In Jesus' Day, people lived their entire lives & never traveled more than 30 miles from home.

- And News traveled painstakingly slow!
- And so did they! Their pace of life was slow! (3 mph)

D. We read the Bible as if Jesus went from one thing to the next, but He didn't!

- He did a miracle, then walked a 2 or 3 day journey to the next place.
- It looks like 2 verses of Scripture, but it was 3 days later!!!

E. MIP: Our Souls were not meant to be bombarded with the Amount of Information coming at us today.

- If we don't do something, we are going to lose the fight for our Souls, our Sanity & our Lives.
- I swear this is not Hyperbole or Hype!

*** I believe God is giving us a Warning & a Strategy for how we must now live.**

- In order to Stay Sane & Hear His Voice in the midst of the Chaos that is our Noisy World.

- BACK TO SIL/SOL RETREAT - What God told me...

- PASS OUT THE PAPERS... Read it together.

What must we do?

1. We must Pray.

A. Prayer breaks through & cuts through the noise of the world.

B. Pray what Jesus prayed.

Matthew 11:15 " He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (ESV)

Revelation 2:29 " Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (NIV)

- 8 different times, Jesus said this...

- We must begin praying this every day for ourselves!!!

- ***"God, today, give me ears to hear what You are saying to the church!"***

C. Pray before you Preach. (& before you Listen)

- Shut off the distractions at that point!
- Pray to leave differently than we came.

D. Pray that the Gates of Hell would be pushed back from them.

- Some of us are too weak in the faith to be able to pray for ourselves.
- We who are spiritual must "Pick them up."

Galatians 6:2 " Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (NIV)

E. MIP: Church family, I challenge you to pray before you get here!

- Pray for one another, that hearts would be open & receptive to hear!
- ??? What if the most important thing you do in church isn't about you???

2. We must Drive Deeper into the Word.

A. We must be hearing the Word more often and more consistently.

- This is the year when we must be in God's Word more than any other year before, church!
- SOAP GUIDES / YOUVERSION READING PLANS / ONE YEAR BIB

B. We must be in the Word so much that we begin to Desire it, over the noise of the world!!!

1 Peter 2:1-3 "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (NIV)

C. IOW, Now that you have tasted how Good God is & how Relevant His Word is for your life, Desire IT above every other voice!!!

- MIP: ? What about us???
- ? Do we desire God's Word more than the News or Instagram?

3. We must Learn to Discern the Difference between the Voice of God & the voices of the world.

A. One of the devil's tricks in this age is to make God's Voice EQUAL with every other voice.

- That must not be so!

B. We must Revere & Elevate the Voice of Scripture & the Holy Spirit above the other voices in the world.

1) Scripture.

- This is not just any book!!!
- It is the Living, Breathing Word of God for our Lives!!!

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (NIV)

2) The Holy Spirit's voice.

- He speaks if we will listen.
- He confirms His Word, He never contradicts it.
- He illuminates our path.

Psalm 119:1-5 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (NIV)

3) The Preaching of the Word.

- This is not just a good motivational speech.
- It is God's Word coming alive.

Romans 10:14 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (NIV)

4. We must Learn the Disciplines of Turning Down the Voices of the World.

A. Honestly, this will come naturally, once we fall in love with the Word of God & His Voice!!!

- We won't desire the other voices!!!
- MWK - I HAVE TO TURN THEM OFF AFTER 15 MINUTES!
- I get it! - It's all the same rhetoric.

B. I desire & am Desperate for God's Word for me TODAY!!!

- Everyday, I can't not spend time with Him.
- I'm so hungry for it.

Challenge:

? So what will you do church?

- The Noise of the World is NOT going to stop!
- We can either succumb to it or we can fight it.

Let's fight it with the Word of God!!!

- It's the only way to live in this present, dark age!!!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION TO GOD'S WORD THIS YEAR