

Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship
Pastor William Dawson
Prayer Meeting 1-30-07 "Requirements For The Next Level"

Acts 11:19-22. The believers who came to Antioch seemed to have an unusual strength of faith, boldness, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Note carefully how they progressed in the things of God. You can follow their pattern of success. What led them to leave the comforts of Jerusalem? Why did they break into new territories? What did they have to face as they moved into new territories? One challenge was the lack of role models or examples. No one had moved for God in the past, in the same way, and with the same aggressiveness. What about the religious system, and traditions of their day? After reading the above text, do you sense they had to fight against their own religious traditions?

Very often the new thing from God is viewed as the enemy of what God had already established. When God wants to move ahead into new territories, He has to have believers who are willing to break out of the traditional box? What are some of the traditions that guide your religious behavior? Notice how the Antioch believers had to move for God under pressure.

Take a moment, and do a personal inventory. Are you able to push past your fears and limitations in order to reach your full potential in God? Do you have any fears, or limits that keep you from working for God? Name a few.

Matt. 14:22-23. Notice, **Jesus sent the** people away. He gave His leaders rest, and time away from the people. Jesus took the disciples out of the pressure of the crowd, and brought them into their experience of obeying His word. **Vs. 24-33.** Jesus used the storm as a tool to turn His disciples into breakthrough believers. Jesus had to separate the disciples from the demands of the people in order to teach them further lessons of obedience to His word. **Warning: do not fall into the trap of bearing the burden of the people. Bear the burden of the Lord.** Do not seek to please people. Please the Lord.

Again, consider the Antioch believers, they must have been great Bible students because they were able to take what they had learned, and continue living a faithful life without much hands-on supervision. The real definition of a disciple is someone who is able to do what they have been trained to do without further motivation or prompting. They had been taught well regarding Kingdom principles, and they were able to practice the truth in difficult circumstances. If you were never to hear another sermon, or attend church again, have you learned to practice kingdom principles so well that you could continue in the truth without much supervision? **Phil.2:12.**

It is possible to start in the right direction, and yet not have the strength of commitment to go all the way with God. **Gen. 11:31.** Notice, Terah has plans to go into the land of Canaan. He stops short on the journey. He dwells in Haran.

Gen. 12:1-5. God speaks to Abram and tells him to go further than his father. The original desire of Terah was not enough. The name Terah means, “to Tarry.” Notice God’s purposes would not be fulfilled until He had someone who was willing to go as far as He would lead them. How far are you willing to go with God? Take a serious look at yourself again. Are you living up to all the truth you have been taught? Are there some truths you are ashamed to display or talk about publicly? What are they? Do you know you will not be able to see greater light, and revelation in God’s word until you become faithful with the truth He has already given?

When you are a breakthrough believer you are able to move into present day truths, and progressive revelations because you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading. The Holy Spirit led the Apostle Peter to minister to the Samaritans ([Acts 8](#)) even through the Jews had no dealing with them. God was moving Peter to break his own cultural, and ethnic fears in order to reach a different group of people. ([Acts 10:28](#); [44-45](#); [11:1](#)).

When you have been taught by God to hear His voice, you receive courage to break your limitations. When you have been taught how to move in the Holy Spirit you are more responsive to the plans of God. You become aware that God is sharing progressive revelations for these very days. When you are someone who seeks to follow the Holy Spirit, you become a great source of encouragement to leaders who are hearing from God. You will be used to help your pastor build, and establish what God has placed in his or her heart. Your ability to follow God will bring confirmation to the vision God has given your man or woman of God.