

The Call to Be Pioneers!

I. THE CALL TO GO OUT TO A PLACE OF INHERITANCE

- A. God called Abraham to “go out to a place”— an inheritance from the Lord. He had to face the risks and challenges of leaving the comfort zone to go on a journey, not knowing how it would unfold.

⁷By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith...dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the promise...

²⁴By faith Moses...²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward...³⁹All these, having obtained a good testimony through faith... (Heb. 11:7-39)

- B. Leader and author Larry Tomczak wrote a book called “***Reckless Abandon***,” about being a “pioneer” or “settler.”

1. He wrote, “The Spirit is on the move calling people to be pioneers. Come up to a new level of Christian living by aligning yourself with God’s purpose in your generation. Someone said, ‘If you would do the best with your life, find out what God is doing in your generation and fling yourself into it.’”
2. Here is something else he said: “A pioneer is one that helps open up a new line of thought or action, a trailblazer of a new order, an advance agent that breaks new ground.”
3. ***Settlers*** espouse a form of Christianity that is characterized by comfort and compromise (spiritual boredom). They enjoy the comforts this world offers and seek lives of security and ease without taking risks.
4. ***Pioneers*** live out biblical Christianity that is characterized by total surrender to Jesus as Lord in service, sacrifice, stewardship, and winning people to Christ. They realize life is more than security and stuff and refuse to make this world their home. They deny themselves daily, pick up their crosses, and follow Jesus. They worship the God of holy love and understand that He calls His people to a lifestyle of holiness and repentance, while they enjoy His love and blessings.
5. Although revival brings spiritual refreshment to your life, there is a cost. R.T. Kendall asks pioneers what price they are willing to pay for revival: “Are you willing to bear the stigma of a new move for God? The paramount stigma...is that of being misunderstood.”
6. The pioneers of previous generations “kept step with the Spirit” and paid for it with their lives! Men like John Huss, John Wycliff, and William Tyndale endured torture, ridicule or martyrdom to lead the church forward into new seasons in God’s purposes.”

7. Winkie Pratney, a noted historian on revival and personal friend of the family wrote, “We do not have men and women who are prepared to pay the same price to preach the same message...as those revivalists of the past! Such people do not exist as a majority.”

II. SOME OF OUR CHALLENGES

- A. Economic: both personally and corporately, raising our financial support
- B. Stigma of the message: Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus! The forerunner message (preparing people for the unique dynamics of God’s end-time plan), Support of Israel regardless of world opinion, Jesus as our Bridegroom God (Song of Solomon). The occupation of intercessory missionaries to sustain on-going prayer with worship on a regular, long-term basis.
- C. The stumbling block of praying for revival and awakening continually: It often feels “weak” (we feel ineffective or see “small” results in the natural) yet the Lord calls us to continually contend for a greater breakthrough. It is answered in God’s timing (possibly years later).
- D. A long-term purpose: The journey is long. We must be patient and persevere to see lasting fruit. Some of the “Real” challenges are the need for others to catch the vision and join with you without losing heart. Persecution (attacks – people and demons, financial lack, your motives being questioned, being misunderstood by ministry leaders, etc.)
- E. Being a mission’s base that maintains a weekly, on-going “sanctuary” for worship and prayer, and builds a strong local church (*Ekklesia*) community that enjoys long-term relationships with long-term fellow team members, and is mobilized to impact our city, state and nation for the Lord!

III. SPEAK GRACE TO THE MOUNTAIN (ZECH. 4:6-10)

- A. The Zechariah 4 vision gave instruction and assurance to Zerubbabel concerning overcoming the obstacles to complete the work. God’s provision prevailed as they spoke “grace” (4:6-7). Zerubbabel was assured that he would succeed in finishing the temple (4:9) and that the eyes of the Lord rejoiced in their work and diligence even during his season of “small things” (4:10).
“...Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, ’...’⁷‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”...⁹The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation...his hands shall also finish it...¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD...” (Zech. 4:9-10)
- B. **Mountain:** Speaks of the many obstacles they faced including *civil opposition* (Ezra 4:1-8; 5:6-17); *Israel’s compromise and strife* (1:2-4; 8:10; Hag. 1:2-4, 9); and *economic crisis* (Hag. 1:1-11).
- C. **“Not by might nor power, but by My Spirit!”** (Zech 4:6) Finally, we must rest with confidence in God that He will perform what He has intended to do as we follow and obey Him as pioneers! It is so rewarding when you watch God move in response to what He asked you to do. The Apostle Paul, at the end of his life wrote, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”** (2 Tim 4:6).