

# The Journey

“Day by Day”

Part 4

## Review:

**Matthew 4:19 (NIV)**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

**John 15:4-5 (NLT).**

Remain in me, (**abide**) and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing

## God's General Will

**1<sup>st</sup> He wants to save a lost world (see 2 Peter 3:9)**

**Luke 19:10 (NIV)**

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> He wants to bring glory to Himself through us**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

## God's Specific Will

**Our purpose:** God directs us to work specifically to accomplish His task through us.

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in **advance for us to do.**

**So how do I know what to do? Remember: The Holy Spirit speaks in four ways**

**1<sup>st</sup> Through the Word**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Through prayer**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Through circumstances**

**4<sup>th</sup> Through the church**

## What does the Journey look like?

**The truth. The possibilities. The ups and downs.**

**Successes and seeming failures**

**Both groups were used and loved**

**Both had to walk in faith while dealing with pride and seeming failure**

**Hebrews 11:32-40 (NIV)**

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again. **Others** were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup>God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

## Finishing the Journey

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**1<sup>st</sup> Keep an eye on reality, on what is really going on.**

**Colossians 3:1-3 (NIV)**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Run the race marked out for you.**

- Remember, if you are in God's will, He loves you and you are doing something significant**

### **2 Timothy 2:3-5 (NIV)**

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairshe wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Focus on Jesus. Get rid of what keeps you from running the race.**

### **Galatians 2:20 (NIV)**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### **Matthew 16:24 (NIV)**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Run with endurance**

- You will need it**
- God will teach and discipline you**
- He loves you**
- Don't give up**

### **Hebrews 12:4-8 (NIV)**

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

## **The Truth**

- So many have the wrong expectations. They think it should be easy, have a quick fix and be successful.**
- We are in a war and God will direct you to fight the right fights if you let Him.**

### **Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV)**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.

Quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.