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Warring to Harvest

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A word from Rebecca:

For three years I prayed earnestly asking the Lord to call someone to help me. I had reached the point in the ministry where I could no longer get everything done that needed doing. I desperately needed help. Throughout the many years I have worked in this ministry a number of people have been called to help me. Unfortunately, every one of them ended up getting jealous, wanting to travel, and despising all the many things that need doing here at home. Always they became angry with me because I did not have them travel and minister with me. Eventually they all left and most turned against us and tried to destroy us. I needed someone truly called by God who would understand the importance of the home front. I cannot successfully travel and minister unless a multitude of things are taken care of here at home.

About the time I started praying God started working in Jami's life and eventually she chose to make Jesus Christ her Lord and savior. A little more than a year ago God called Jami and brought her into our lives. She is my personal assistant and does a multitude of different things to help me. I don't know what I would do without her! Jami and I have talked a great deal about the subject of servant hood. After I wrote last month's newsletter on the topic, Jami felt she had some things to add out of her own experience of becoming a servant here. I am glad to give her the opportunity to do so. The following comments are from Jami.

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I don't know about you, but when I stand before God to give an account of my life, I want to hear Him say " ... Well done, good and faithful servant! ... " Matthew 25:21. In the last newsletter, Rebecca talked about jealousy as being a hindrance to servant hood. In this newsletter I want to continue the topic of servant hood, but I am going to discuss some of the important qualities of a servant of God. I have watched Rebecca model being a servant, and strive to be one myself.

Faith

The first and most important quality is faith! This is a big one! I know it is the most important quality because, "... without faith it is impossible to please Him..." Hebrews 11:6

"Now <u>the just</u> shall <u>live by faith;</u> But is anyone draws back, My soul has <u>no pleasure</u> in him." Hebrews 10:38

The dictionary definition of **faith** is: *confidence or trust in a person or thing; belief that is not based on proof.* The Bible says that, "... faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 Both the dictionary and the Bible agree that faith is trusting in what we can't see and have no proof of. I have to tell you that this is a big one for me

because I am an analytical thinker. Prior to making a decision I need to reason through it. It has to make sense or I won't do it! This was my biggest hindrance to accepting Christ. Because of this, God has always asked me to do things without giving me all the details. He gives me one step at a time and I don't get the next step until I have fulfilled the previous one. I have to say this is nerve racking for someone who has to have all the details prior to making a decision. For example, the Lord called me to move here to be a helper for the Yoders. He was asking me to sacrifice a career, an income, a way of life, and leave family and friends behind. He gave me little to no details as to where I would live, work, or exactly

what I would be doing for the Yoders. Talk about a leap of faith! Once I got here a lot of things started falling into place but I had to take that first step before the Lord would provide any answers and He continues to require me to walk in this way. It is just human nature to reason through things and when the Lord asks us to do something, we have a natural tendency to stop and ask questions like "Why?," "How?," "When?" "What's in it for me?" I am reminded of the following scripture:

"Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.' And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' The

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centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go, and he goes; and to another, come, and he comes; and to my servant, do this, and he does it.' When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!'" Matthew 8:5-10

When God asks us to do something, we should do it without hesitation because we have put our faith in Him. We should trust that He is in control and that He works all things for our good.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

> For me, it is hesitation that gets me! I ultimately do what God asks of me but I hesitate by asking God a lot of reasoning questions. I continually thank God for His patience and mercy because I'm definitely a work in progress! I've also been guilty of picking and choosing. This is straight out disobedience and is something the Lord convicts me of. Usually it is something I don't want to do or I'm uncomfortable with. So, I act like I didn't hear God. We all have done this at some point with our parents or spouse or boss. We can't just pick and choose where and when we want to obey! It's partial obedience and for that God took the anointing away from Saul. It's like your boss giving you a

list of things to do and you just run down the list picking and choosing which tasks you will and won't do. That kind of work ethic will get you fired! God needs servants who are going to fulfill their assigned tasks, fight the good fight and run the race with perseverance. We need to think above our flesh and have a kingdom mentality!

How do we increase our faith? God has an answer for that:

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

You have to get into the word of God and plant it in

your spirit, so when you're getting low in the faith department, the Holy Spirit will quicken to you the appropriate scripture to boost your faith.

Humility

The next quality a servant of God should exhibit is humility. The dictionary definition for **humble** is: *not proud or arrogant; modest*. There are several scriptures about humility and being humble.

"For You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks." Psalm 18:27

"When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom." Proverbs 11:2

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" 1 Peter 5:6

Jesus is the ultimate example of the kind of servant we need to be. Not only did He come to this earth so that we may have life but He also left us an example to follow. The following scripture is a wonderful example of humility.

"So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his

master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, <u>blessed are you if you do</u> them." John 13:12-17

Here is Jesus the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and God in the flesh washing His disciple's feet. He was serving them! I have to tell you my response would have been the same as Peter's: "...Lord, are You washing my feet?...You shall never wash my feet!" John 13:6,8. Peter is saying, Jesus, you shouldn't be washing my feet, I should be washing yours! Sometimes it's not what people say but what they do that

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speaks volumes! The Lord first started reminding me of this scripture while working in the office one day. Both Rebecca and I were busy working and she asked me if I wanted a cup of hot chocolate. When she brought me the hot chocolate, I became convicted and I thought "She should not be serving me! I should be serving her! After all that is what I'm here for!" The Lord was showing me that no matter how high He takes me, I should always be willing to serve others.

"... but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28

Most of you don't realize that Rebecca has one of the lowest positions at the drag strip. It turns out my position is actually higher than hers a lot of the time because I am the manager of the strip. Every weekend I watch this General in Spiritual Warfare serving others. Sometimes she is checking in racers, working

> admissions, or working in the concessions stand. Sometimes she is emptying trashcans! She is always filling in wherever there is a need. I watch her serving hotdogs to people and I think, "If these people had any idea who was serving them!" 99% of them have no idea that she is an author of five books and has a worldwide ministry! She is a constant reminder of the servant that God desires for me to be. I should always be willing to step down from my position to serve others.

Wholeheartedness

'The next quality of servant hood is wholeheartedness. A servant of God has to be willing to serve the Lord with their whole heart. The definition of **wholehearted** is: *fully or completely sincere, enthusiastic, energetic, etc.; hearty; earnest.*

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God <u>with</u> <u>all your heart and with all your soul</u>." Deuteronomy 10:12 There are at least four other scriptures like this one that specifically mention serving the Lord with all your heart. First, I want to talk about serving the Lord with enthusiasm. There are certain things the Lord asks me to do that I'm just not enthusiastic about and it shows in my attitude and facial expressions. The Lord always convicts me of my lack of enthusiasm and reminds me that it is not a good witness for the Lord and I'm not serving Him wholeheartedly. I'm just serving out of obligation not desire. This doesn't please the Lord because we aren't serving with a willing heart.

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever." 1 Chronicles 28:9

I know it is hard sometimes especially when you are tired and run down but joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit and we should do everything as though we ware doing it for the Lord. God expects us to serve Him completely and with a sincere heart. There are many things that can take up space in our hearts and they can prevent us from serving the Lord wholeheartedly but the one I want to mention here is money.

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

Our society today is money driven. We all have bills to pay and debts to meet but we should never allow money to be the vehicle that drives the ministries that God has put us in charge of. It is not about the money! It is about winning souls to Christ, setting the captives free and advancing the Kingdom of God. I believe that if we keep this in proper perspective that God will do more than meet our needs.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." 1 Timothy 6:6-10 It is so easy to focus more on money but when money drives you, you are serving money instead of money serving you and if you are serving money you're not serving the Lord wholeheartedly. Remember our job is to <u>serve</u> the Lord <u>not money</u>!

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve." 1 Peter 5:2

Stewardship

The last quality of a servant that I want to talk about is stewardship. Stewardship is: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward, the conducting, supervising, or managing of something especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. God has given us giftings and talents for a reason and we should be using them for the glory of His name and His kingdom. When the Yoders told me they were building a drag strip, my first thought was, "I don't want to work at a drag strip!" I didn't understand how working at a drag strip had anything to do with what God called me to do. God has yet to show me all the details, but I had to realize that I had created my own agenda and a drag strip just didn't fit into my agenda. Little did I know that God was asking me to use my giftings and natural abilities to advance somebody else's vision. God will ask us to be faithful in another man's work before He will give us our own. I have the gift of administration and organization. Most of the things I do at the track are skills that I have already developed and God needs my abilities to compliment the Yoder's giftings. In the beginning, when the track was being built, I tried very hard to hide my abilities. Finally the Lord convicted me and reminded me of this scripture:

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five

talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lors said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look there you have what is yours.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 25:14-30

So, don't hide your gifts! The body of Christ needs you. When one part fails, we all fail. God uniquely designs us all with certain gifts and talents that should be used to advance the kingdom of God. You must first learn to work hard to help someone else build his or her vision before God will let you work on a vision of your own. Rebecca and I have talked about this many times. It may seem like Rebecca is not working in a ministry when she works at the track doing all the things that need to be done to keep it open and operating smoothly. But no matter how mundane those things seem to be, they are all helping to build Daniel's vision of bringing the youth in our area to the Lord. Once Rebecca told me, "Jami, it is my joy to see my husband grow and prosper in God's kingdom. I will do anything to help him accomplish that, no matter how boring it may be for me. All the things we do are simply to enable Daniel to build relationships with the youth and bring them to the Lord. He is uniquely gifted to do this in the setting of a drag strip." I now see that it is only as I am faithful to use my gifts to help someone else that in the end God will eventually give me a vision of my own to fulfill. *It is equally important to God for us to work to help someone else as it is for us to work in a ministry of our own.*

I earnestly pray that you will grow to be the servant that God has called you to be and I ask that you pray for me in the same manner.

New Resource Offer

We are offering a new *Resource Offer* this month. It is a combination of a 2-CD set by Rebecca titled *Healing From Fear and Emotional Pain* plus a wonderful book by Paul Billheimer titled *Don't Waste Your Sorrows*. We will send both to you for a gift of \$30 or more. This includes \$5 for shipping.

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You are welcome to copy any of our newsletters to give to other people. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, if they live inside the U.S., please send their name and address to us. We will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

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Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.



We are sorry to announce that the publishers have just increased the prices on most of the books. Please note the change in prices below.

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comes to about \$5 per CD.

This may sound like a lot, but remember, there are 18 CDs in the set. That

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