

Equipping the Saints #1

AT Snacks-- March 9, 2025

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Monday:

Elements of Our Spiritual DNA – Our Product – What is our Focus?

- The Kingdom – When you begin to understand the Kingdom of God, everything begins to fall into place. *“Seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you”*.
- Relationship with the Father – Our first and foremost commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.
- Grace – If you live in the Bible Belt, you live where the people are being taught a mixture of law and grace. The New Testament is all about breaking the law off of us. Everything that Paul wrote addressed and contrasted law and grace, and he says, *“We’re not under law anymore”*.
- Family and Relationships – The second foremost commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. This is a church built on relationships.
- Equipping the Saints – What we do around here is we’re preparing people not for something that’s off in the future, but for something that’s happening right now. *“Verily, the works that I do, you will do also, and even greater works than these will you do, because I go to the Father”*.
- Signs and Wonders
- The Poor

Get out of the Bible Belt mindset where people think that only the pastor and a few elders do all the ministry in a church, and get into a kingdom mode, or mindset, and start finding your place, so that you don’t miss your destiny.

Ephesians 4:11-13 says, *“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the Body of Christ. Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”*.

Jesus gave some, not everyone, but some to be apostles. This ministry is still alive and in effect today.

Tuesday:

Trinity is not exclusive. On Wednesday mornings, we pray for other churches and other pastors. We’re all on the same team. We’re not in competition. Competition is just a dumb mindset. There’s one church and we are a part of it.

The body of Christ has made an institution out of the word pastor, and the Bible only mentions it one or two times in the New Testament. But the word “shepherd” is mentioned around 17 times. Shepherd is a better word.

My chief responsibility is to equip you for the work of the ministry, because we are all called into ministry. We are going to get you into a place where you can figure out what you’re called to do, so

you can be a functional contributor to the whole body of Christ. That's why you need to know your gifts, talents and anointing.

If you don't find your place and don't receive what this word's trying to get across to you, the body of Christ will never take shape like it's supposed to. We need to get the body of Christ working like it's supposed to work, with all the body parts in their specific place. God has a specific place for you.

I've never seen the moving of God and the Kingdom of God being manifest to the degree anywhere close even to the degree that I'm seeing it now. So, the stuff that we're talking about is not something for you to store up and use somewhere down the road. It's something that's needed in you now, today.

Being conformed into the image of Jesus is what God wants to do with you. That's His responsibility. That's His mandate for us.

Equipping the saints is a revolutionary concept. It's extremely Biblical. But in the church today, it's either not known about, not talked about, or not taught. It's not prioritized, it's over looked, it's ignored, it's misunderstood, but it's one of the best kept secrets in the kingdom and the church.

Wednesday:

The church that Jesus is building will never be the church until we embrace this truth. This has been a revelation that God has entrusted to us. Receiving a revelation and not doing anything with it is just as bad as not ever receiving the revelation at all. So we are trying to be a good steward of it.

Finding your place in the body is happening in grassroots, little places like Sayre and other places, where people are open to it. They're hearing about it, talking about it, teaching it and it's beginning to happen.

If you haven't been around here, it sounds exclusive, but that's not it at all. This is how we make our contribution to the whole body of Christ in our area. If you are faithful in a little, God will bless you with a lot. I'm putting a lot of importance on it and you have to put some importance on it also, or nothing really happens in you.

If you have been around here a long time and you're not maturing in some of these kinds of things, something is blocking the way for you to fulfill your destiny.

God has a plan for our life and He's not called any of us to be mediocre. He's called you to be exceptional. He's called you to have an unfair advantage over the world. You've been given that advantage to help change the world in a positive way.

The gifts and callings are irrevocable, which means they're not able to be changed. If you have a call on your life, you might have rejected that call. You might have walked away from it. You might not even know about it till today. But the call on your life remains, whether you do anything with it or not.

There's a call on your life, but what are you going to do with it?

Thursday:

Do all of you bring your Bibles to church? You should. You should mark in them, because that word is pretty important. You have to get into the word until the word gets into you, which makes you dangerous. You're armed and dangerous, and you're a threat to the enemy.

You're not just joining a church. That's kind of Bible Belt mentality. You need to have some conviction that this is where you belong, because if this is where you belong, it gets more serious. There's some responsibility involved.

You're not just joining a church. We don't even talk about church. We don't even have a church membership. Being a part of this kingdom family is different. There is a huge difference between joining a church versus being born into a kingdom family.

You are only on the planet at this time because God put you here at this specific time. Don't try to make it logical, because it's not logical.

You have to start asking the question, "*Why am I here*"? "*What is my purpose*"? If you don't know, you should be asking the Father. This is serious business. You're responsible for what you do with the stuff that we talk about.

We don't do sermons here. We're training up people to walk in the kingdom, and fulfill the destiny that God has for them.

1 Peter 2:9 says that we are a chosen generation. You're related to the King and are hand picked for this generation as sons and daughters. You're a royal priesthood. So, talk about it, walk in it, that you may proclaim the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, if you are born again.

The only way you got saved and came out of darkness is God drew you out. "*No man comes to the Father unless the Father draws him*". That's how it happens.

Friday:

The Bible Belt definition of ministry: The traditional religious mindset is preaching, pastoring, church leader or missionary. That's kind of how the Bible Belt mentality sees it. It happens inside the church building on Sunday mornings, Bible studies, and worship teams.

A job or a position, rather than a lifestyle, reserved for a select few who are called to ministry. It's attendance, titles and church programs focused on maintaining tradition and upholding the church statement of faith.

The Kingdom definition of ministry: Ministry is serving God and serving people. You share in the same inheritance that Jesus has. It's a lifestyle of obedience and love. It's focused on advancing the Kingdom of God in real life, not just inside the church. Your vocation is your ministry.

A true kingdom business is not about the money, but about the people. If that's the true focus, the money will come. If your priority really is about the people, the Lord will bring the ones for you to speak into, to serve, and to minister to.

"Now go out there and tell everybody about Jesus". No, we don't do that around here, but if the Lord opens the door, we train our people to step through the door.

Anytime someone starts telling you their problems, there's two things at work. One is, there is a level of trust they extend to you. And two, they are asking for help. It's the easiest entry level there is into ministry. If you do that, ministry will come to you.

I never go looking for it. I never try to hem somebody up and get the conversation around to Jesus. That's not what this family does. If you are approachable and are not pushy, people will kind of lean in and come to you.

Saturday:

If you're engaged at all, you have more than you think you have. But you gotta be open to when the door opens, to step through the door. If you are open and you understand what God wants, He's going to open doors for you very quickly.

With the disciples, people knew that they had been with Jesus because there's something different about you if you've been with the Father, I mean recently.

All we are trying to do around here is get you in a place where your life takes on the value and takes on new life. There's no adventure like the adventure that I'm talking about right here.

Your life was intended to be an adventure... I mean, ups and downs, mountains and valleys. It's got danger, drama and all kinds of stuff. There's no adventure like the adventure that you're called to. Ministry is not about a title, or position, or a building. It's about living out the gospel and demonstrating God's love in everyday life.

You carry a lot more than you realize. You're called. What are you going to do with it?

Go back and listen to this word again. Take some notes. Get into those AT Snacks.

The Father likes to hear *"Thank you, Lord"* and give Him a little bit of thanks. *"Thank you for what you have done in my life"*.

All you have to do is say, *"Lord, I give You permission to do whatever You want to do in my life and in the thing You're dealing with me about right now"*.