

Get Off the Sidelines, Step into Action

Ready:

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." -- 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Set

As athletes, we train our bodies because we understand that what we do on a daily basis has a cumulative impact on the results we produce in competition. When we are part of a team, whether we train with others or not, there is an accountability we have to the team. The strengths and weaknesses of the individual have an impact on the team overall. I think that sometimes we can forget this when it comes to our role as Christians.

God's charge in 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 is clear on the expectation of His people:

"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place."

The Church should be shaping culture. Instead, the Church is in danger of being shaped by culture. As Christians, we find that we insulate ourselves from the outside world, surround ourselves with people who think like us and disconnect from those who challenge our faith. We often serve where we want instead of where we are needed. Then, we pray for God to move and then wonder why He is silent. Many think they are in the game, taking action, but are really on the sidelines due to a lack of spiritual discipline.

We need to get off the sidelines and get in the game with renewed energy, hope and discipline because the world needs us! We should be at the forefront of our communities, schools or workplaces living out our faith. It won't be easy. That's why we are told to put on the full armor in Ephesians 6. Armor isn't necessary unless you are in a battle. The battle requires perseverance.

Galatians 6:9 tells us, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Church, we can certainly pray for God to move in our nation and the world but remember that it starts with us! Take heart, we are not fighting FOR victory, we are fighting FROM victory. Jesus Christ already conquered sin and death. It's our mission to bring that truth boldly to a

world in urgent need of this truth!

Go

- Where are you currently serving others?
- What spiritual disciplines, such as reading the Bible, prayer, worship and so on do you need to strengthen?
- How do you, or can you, keep yourself accountable to these spiritual disciplines?

Workout

Romans 12:2; Matthew 24:24

Overtime

“Thank You, Father for the salvation I have through Your Son Jesus Christ. Please show me areas of my daily walk with You that need more attention. I know that You discipline those You love, so help me to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. I know You will help me overcome every challenge and, in every victory, I will give You the glory.”

Bible Reference:

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Romans 12:2

Matthew 24:24



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