

## First Things First

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### I. Our Unique Great Calling

- A. Reflecting on and celebrating our past series of Walking in our Calling.
  - 1. It is no small thing to be called to carry the torch of a Forerunner in our community or the primary mantle of healing and deliverance. We have been empowered and will be empowered even greater for ministry.
  - 2. It is our destiny to be used of God to powerfully encounter people with who He is through the gifts of the Spirit. We have seen this and will see it more in the days to come.
- B. Because of our culture in American Christianity, we are in danger of getting our priorities wrong. Our unique calling is Great, but it is not Greater than our universal calling as those who have the Spirit of God dwelling on the inside.

### II. The Greatest Calling and Vision (Mat. 22:35-40)

- A. There is no question of the truth words of that Jesus spoke. However often times this truth is unable to penetrate the fascination that coincides with popularity, status, uniqueness, or even signs and wonders.
  - 1. What churches or ministers do you aspire to be like and why?
  - 2. There have been epidemic failures of those who had powerful gifts and callings to walk in Love.
  - 3. My personal Journey.
  - 4. What's your story?
- B. The resounding statement from Genesis to Revelation is that the "Success" of every believer or ministry will not be primarily measured by participants, income, popularity, disciple making, power, or methodology.

- C. Our "Success" will be primarily measured and evaluated from the standpoint of our maturity in the Love of God through Jesus Christ. Are we growing in our Love and passion for Jesus? Is that Love being manifested in an ever increasing way to those around you?

### **III. The Most Excellent Way (1 Cor. 13)**

- A. 1 Cor. 12:31-13:3 The worthlessness of power and service devoid of Love

- 1. Gift of tongues for evangelism and Spiritual prayer (useless noise)
- 2. Gift of prophecy that knows every mystery of God and man (nothing)
- 3. Faith to heal every sickness, and do extraordinary signs (nothing)
- 4. Giving your entire strength to help the poor of the earth (adds nothing to your heart or life in God)
- 5. Being Martyred for Jesus (does not add to your rewards in heaven)

- B. 1 Cor. 13:4-13:8 God is Love and the Character of Love is

- 1. Patient (suffers long)
- 2. Kind (good)
- 3. Contentedness (does not envy)
- 4. Humble (does not boast)
- 5. Modest (not puffed up)
- 6. Gentle (is not rude)
- 7. Benevolent (does not seek its own)
- 8. Joyful (is not provoked)
- 9. Merciful (thinks no evil)
- 10. Abhors evil (does not rejoice in iniquity)
- 11. Delights in righteousness (rejoices in truth)
- 12. Protective (bears all things)
- 13. Trustworthy (believes all things)
- 14. Hopeful (hopes all things)
- 15. Faithful (endures all things)
- 16. Unrelenting (Love never fails)

- C. 1 Cor. 13:8-13 Love is eternal

- 1. The Love that we cultivate in our relationship with Him will last forever.