

## THIS IS US Part 3: "We Exist To Grow" "We're All In!"

October 22, 2017 Carissa Fernald

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous <u>God</u> whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends."

Acts 20:32 (MSG)

# WE EXIST TO <u>GROW</u> AS <u>FOLLOWERS</u> OF JESUS AND MAKE MORE <u>DISCIPLES</u>.

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, <u>'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of</u> <u>men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him</u>." Matthew 4:18-20 (NKJV)

# TO BE "ALL IN," I MUST SAY "YES" TO ...

# 1. ...THE <u>OPPORTUNITY</u> TO BE INCLUDED.

"One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there."

Luke 5:1-3 (NLT)

## AVAILABILITY DETERMINES TRAJECTORY.

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. <u>Readily</u> <u>recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to</u> <u>it</u>. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, <u>God brings the best out of</u> you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

## Romans 12:2 (MSG)

# 2. ...<u>SOLIDARITY</u> WITH HIS SPIRIT.

"Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For <u>God is working in</u> <u>you</u>, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

#### Philippians 2:12b-13(NLT)

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, '<u>Now</u> <u>go out where it is deeper</u>, and let down your nets to catch some fish.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But <u>if you say so</u>, <u>I'll let</u> <u>the nets down again</u>.' And this time <u>their nets were so full</u> <u>of fish they began to tear</u>! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking."

Luke 5:4-7 (NLT)

## UNITY DEVELOPS MATURITY.

## 3 ...AN IDENTITY EXCHANGE.

"Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, 'Your name is Simon, son of John—but <u>you will be called</u> Cephas' (which means 'Peter')."

## John 1:42 (NLT)

"When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, 'Oh, Lord, please leave me—<u>I'm such a sinful man</u>.' For <u>he was awestruck</u> by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, '<u>Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for</u> people!""

#### Luke 5:8-10 (NLT)

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ...Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and <u>upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it</u>. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.""

Matthew 16:13, 16-19 (NLT)

## AUTHORITY DICTATES ACCESSIBILITY.

# 4. ...A DIFFERENT <u>DESTINY</u>.

"And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."

Luke 5:11 (NLT)

"From the distant past, His eternal love reached into the future. You see, He knew those who would be His one day, and He chose them beforehand <u>to be conformed to</u> <u>the image of His Son</u> so that Jesus would be the firstborn of <u>a new family of believers, all brothers and sisters</u>. As for those He chose beforehand, <u>He called them to a</u> <u>different destiny</u> so that they would experience what it means <u>to be made right</u> with God and <u>share in His glory</u>." **Romans 8:29-30 (VOICE)**