

# Found

## MINISTRIES

September 2024

I'm so excited for you all to read the newsletter this month! There are at least two reasons for this: the writer is one of my longest friendships I have; it's REALLY good!

James Doss and I met at Fellowship Youth Camp in the late 90s. At the time, he was a camper coming from Scott Depot Christ Fellowship and a student at their Christian school. We both loved soccer (and still do), but we loved Jesus more—and there was the foundation for a friendship that has extended over decades and many, many miles. When we would see each other at corporate gatherings, or the annual church camp, we could pick up right where we left off; a hallmark of Kingdom friendships.

I had it in my heart this summer to invite James and Elizabeth to come back to camp only this time as ministers, not as campers. I was over-joyed when they accepted—their presence at camp was significant for many campers and staff. A few days after camp had ended, I received an email from James in which he was pondering the topic he writes about in this newsletter. I was headed into a sabbatical, so I assured James I would pray about and ponder this as I rested.

Over the weeks that I was on sabbatical, I turned my heart to this and was pleasantly surprised at the answer I found waiting from the Holy Spirit and in the written Word. I was able to share my thoughts with James and Elizabeth when they were in town just a few weeks ago. I have included

some of my thoughts after James' writing. Once you have finished James' contribution, please go back and read it again, and again...and maybe one more time.

I believe if we can fully receive the truth of what James is bringing us, we will see the Father answer the prayer Jesus taught us to pray—"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done **on Earth** as it is in Heaven."

### The Post-Meeting Blues

In recent conversations I found several folks discouraged, or fighting off discouragement, following some meetings where they experienced a great encounter with God. Coming off a spiritually high moment—like a revival, youth camp, or retreat— and returning to everyday life can often leave us asking, "Is this all there is?" We long for the joy and closeness to God experienced in those high moments, but life quickly returns to its daily grind. The transition from those spiritual peaks back into normal routines can often feel disheartening. I have been there, and I would imagine you have as well. This led me to ask a question: how do you reintegrate into the everyday grind of life following a great spiritual encounter? Or to put it another way, how do we deal with the post-meeting blues? My study has led me to believe that our perspective may be incorrect and that a slight shifting may bring joy into what we have called "the grind of life."

Sometimes it is best to start in the beginning when addressing a subject. Genesis will teach us a couple things if we listen to the whole of it. God's first instruction to humanity was: "Be fruitful, multiply, subdue, and have dominion" (Genesis 1:28). And later that God put man in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). Interestingly, these commands were not about spiritual endeavors, as commonly defined, but rather these are natural assignments on earth—an important distinction. Genesis 3 goes on to say that God would come and walk with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. It is not clear if this was God's regular custom, but what is known for sure in the text is that there were times that God walked with man and times when man was left to his work. There was time set aside for spiritual encounters with God as well as time set aside for the assignment that was given to man from God. This begs the question, "which was more important, the encounter with God or the assignment that God gave?"

Before answering, consider Jesus' statement to that He made to the disciples during the story of the woman at the well. The disciples asked if He wanted some food, but Jesus responded, "I have food to eat that you do not know about... My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish his work" (John 4:32, 34). What fed the soul of Jesus was walking out the assignment that was given to Him by God. Jesus certainly made time for the encounters with God, but His joy was found in doing the work that was assigned to Him.

We often think of spiritual encounters as the pinnacle of our relationship with God because the supernatural is found to be real and tangible. But we may be overlooking the profound joy that can be found in simply walking out our God-given assignments on the earth. The daily tasks and jobs

we perform—whether in the workplace, at home, in school, or in ministry—are opportunities to partner with God and serve His purpose. Paul encouraged us that, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23). It doesn't matter what place you find yourself. What matters is what you do in that place.

God created Adam, gave him his assignment, and let him work. God did not step in and say, "Now when you are keeping the garden and working, do it this way and do thus and such..." No, God put within Adam the very thing that he needed to accomplish the assignment. So too has God put within you the very thing you need to accomplish your assignment. You may begin to ask, "But how do I know if I am in my assignment?" Where you find yourself is where your assignment is. If you go somewhere else, there is your assignment. If you do it as unto the Lord as Paul instructed, your inheritance is the same as any other in any other call who is also working as unto the Lord. Many times, God will use life's circumstances to place you precisely where He needs you, which is a comforting thought. In another place Paul encourages us that in whatever condition each was called, remain there. Even if you came to Christ as a bondservant, do not worry about it. Obtain freedom if the opportunity arises, but no matter what condition or place you find yourself in, do it to the best of your ability as unto the Lord (see 1 Corinthians 7:17-24). Sometimes life's circumstances dictate much of our lives, and that should not discourage us. We can live for Him wherever we find ourselves. Our lives can be holy unto God if we do all things as unto the Lord.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12), as well as, “You are the light of the world” (Mt 5:14). When we gather in meetings and experience the presence of God it can be likened to Adam’s experience of walking with God in the cool of the day. In the same way, living out our daily lives, working heartily as unto the Lord, can be likened to Adam fulfilling his assignment to work and keep the garden. When we are together, we are lights lightening up the lit place. Jesus called us to be lights lighting up the darkness, and to put that light on a stand that it would give light to all that is around. Even letting that light so shine before others that they may see our good works and give glory to the Father.

Perhaps a perspective shift is needed. The “grind of life” may be a declaration influenced by our adversary the devil to taint our view of our God-given assignment. We tend to seek the spiritual encounters over fulfilling our daily assignment. But what if... what if... we can find the joy in fulfillment of our assignment in the same way that Jesus did in doing the works the Father assigned to Him? What if the encounters with God and the assignment of life were never intended to be separated out as natural and supernatural, greater and lesser?

In closing I would quote one more partial verse from Paul, “Brothers, I count not myself to have apprehended...” this teaching, but I am stirred that God is revealing this to us. Since the beginning man was not always in a high, supernatural encounter with God, but rather, it was fitting to God to give an assignment where joy could be attained. I believe God is teaching us that there can be great joy in our daily lives, and to refocus our perspective that He is with us and will use us to accomplish His purposes more so in the assignment than in the encounter. Keep your

hearts lifted and encouraged knowing that everything we do is for His glory. Let men see your work and glorify God.

P.S. I would counsel to quickly review the great 'God stories' that you have in your life. Bring them to mind and hold them there. Did they take place in some great church service, or did they take place walking out your assignment in life? While both are sure to exist, I have found that most of our God stories take place in the everyday assignments. And that is something to think about.



Peter, like so many of us, did not fully understand re-entry into the “daily grind” as James put it, but Jesus—in His infinite kindness—showed abundant grace (see John 21). But then we must consider what Jesus said to *all* the disciples just before he ascends to the right hand of the Father, “it is better for you that I go away.”

What?! How could it be better for me to live in the mundane of life than the mountain top of walking side-by-side with the Creator of everything? This brings to mind a quote from one of my favorite movies, *The Princess Bride*. Upon one character using the same word incessantly, another character looks at him and says, “I do not think that word means what you think it means.”

How often have we felt that way towards Jesus when we consider that He left us, and told us it was “better” that he go? Take heart, **Jesus created the better.**

The Holy Spirit **in us** is as close to the Garden of Eden—where the Father walked with Adam and Eve, like Jesus walked with Peter—as we can get until the new Jerusalem. With a *true* understanding of this, there is **never mundane.**

Eventually, Peter figured it out. In the grand scheme of things it didn’t take him long at all. His understanding of this truth came on the backside of waiting on the Father to send the Holy Spirit.

In the Kingdom, there may be great spiritual encounters, and there may be days when the axe head doesn’t float. But the constant—the great equalizer—is the Holy Spirit in our lives and accepting and entering into fellowship with the Trinity as we live out God’s purposing for us every day.

## A Couple Notes from the Executive Director

I am recently returned from a month-long sabbatical. My body, spirit, and soul were rejuvenated during this time of rest and I’m so thankful for a community who supports and encourages Biblical rest. That being said, there are many things happening and we are excited to let you know about a few of them. First, if you would like to send a note of encouragement to James for his contribution to this month’s newsletter, please send them to James Doss, 22 Corey Way, Travelers Rest, SC 29690.

- We are excited to pass on information about a time of gathering in October. Our friends at Plainfield Christ Fellowship, in partnership with Hand to the Plow Ministries, will be hosting an outdoor, camp meeting style gathering in Plainfield, Indiana. October 18, 19, and 20. For more information, please visit <https://www.gopcf.com/sukkot>
- Some of you may have seen the previous email we've sent or the social media posts, but in case you missed it we wanted to make sure you know about the RFOD Newsletter Archive. Every newsletter we had (we believe we got them all) from 1963-2006 have been digitized and are available as free downloads at [foundministry.org/newsletter](http://foundministry.org/newsletter) so please enjoy!