



GROWING INTO MATURITY (Part 2) Overcoming Obstacles

In this lesson, you will learn of obstacles that keep people from serving and doing the work of the ministry. You will also discover three key things that will cause people to minister to others. Key Scripture for this lesson is Ephesians 4:11-16.

- I. Three things that cause people to minister.
 - A. Compassion – Matthew 9:36.
 - B. Surrender/Obedience.
 - C. Sense of responsibility.

- II. Ask yourself these three questions in regard to serving.
 - A. If not me, who?
 - B. If not here, where?
 - C. If not now, when?

- III. Obstacles that keep people from serving.
 - A. Fear – 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - B. Self-focus.
 - C. Distractions.

- IV. It is time to get out of the cave.
 - A. Judges 6:11-15 – Gideon was hiding in the winepress when God spoke to him and said He was with him and called him a mighty man of valor. Gideon told God his clan was the weakest and he was the least in his father's house. God once again told Gideon He would be with him and he would defeat the Midianites as one man.
 1. Do not get in a cave and hide because of fear, shame, guilt, comparison, or distractions.
 - B. Exodus 3:11-12, 4:11-17 – Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" – v.11. God told Moses, "I will certainly be with you" - v.12. God told Moses to take the rod that was in his hand and with he would do signs.
 1. You need to use what is in your hand for ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How have the obstacles of fear, self-focus, or distractions kept you from serving?
- What has God put in your hand to reach people?
- Share how you are doing your share and carrying your load.

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

This week you may want to contact an area of ministry where you would like to be involved and begin the volunteer approval process. Don't let fear, self-focus, or distractions keep you from serving others.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:16 – "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."