

The Very Next Thing
April 15, 2018

I Focus

A) Before we continue with Timothy....

- 1) Last week Carol asked the Lord to show us the next step
- 2) Carol & several others went to hear Casting Crowns that evening
- 3) She sent me a song that really touched her
- 4) When I heard it, it touched me as well
- 5) I feel it is a word for us

6) **PLAY SONG**

7) I spend all my time

Dreaming what the future's gonna bring

When all of this time

There's a world passing by right in front of me

Set my sights on tomorrow

While I'm tripping over today

a) Who says big things

Are somewhere off in the distance

I don't want to look back

Just to see all the times that I missed it

I want to be here and now

Starting right here, right now

b) With the very next words of love to be spoken

To the very next heart that's shattered and broken

To the very next way you're gonna use me

Show me the next thing

I'll do the next thing

c) Let my very next breath

Breathe out a song of praise to you

With my very next step

Be on a road that was planned by you

Lord, wherever you're leading me
That's where I want to be

d) With the very next words of love to be spoken
To the very next heart that's shattered and broken
To the very next way you're gonna use me
Show me the next thing
I'll do the next thing

e) Eyes wide open I see you working
All around me you're on the move
Step by step I'm running to meet you
In the next thing, in the next thing

f) With the very next words of love to be spoken
To the very next heart that's shattered and broken
To the very next way you're gonna use me
Show me the next thing

g) Eyes wide open I see you working
All around me you're on the move (I'll do the next thing)
Step by step I'm running to meet you
In the next thing, in the next thing

B) **SLIDE** For us...today

- 1) The messages over the past several months have been to prepare us to be a light in the darkness, the salt that adds flavor to life
- 2) Our voices are to be the voices of truth in a world desperately running from the truth
- 3) We need to strengthen ourselves for the days ahead because they will be trying days
- 4) Yet, the Lord showed me that we can become so focused on what is to come, that we miss the opportunities He gives us today
- 5) We can concentrate so much on being prepared that we are not prepared for right now
- 6) We are to be Agents of Restoration today

- 7) **SLIDE** I spend all my time/Dreaming what the future's gonna bring/When all of this time/There's a world passing by right in front of me/Set my sights on tomorrow/While I'm tripping over today
- 8) **SLIDE** Who says big things/Are somewhere off in the distance/I don't want to look back/Just to see all the times that I missed it/I want to be here and now/Starting right here, right now
- a) Carol - Sunday school
 - b) We still need teachers - today
 - c) Carol is combining classes to teach them praise and worship
- 9) **SLIDE** With the very next words of love to be spoken/To the very next heart that's shattered and broken/To the very next way you're gonna use me/Show me the next thing/I'll do the next thing
- 10) **SLIDE** Let my very next breath/Breathe out a song of praise to you/ With my very next step/Be on a road that was planned by you/Lord, wherever you're leading me/That's where I want to be
- C) **SLIDE** Paul's Advice
- 1) Paul's advice to Timothy is also his advice to us
 - 2) His advice to Timothy was not to prepare him for the terrible times that were coming
 - 3) Paul's advice to Timothy was to prepare Timothy for today despite the terrible times that were coming
 - 4) Paul's advice is preparing us in the same way.
 - 5) His warnings of what is to come are very real
 - 6) Yet, those warnings are not meant to distract us from today
 - 7) I feel I may have been focusing so much on the "terrible times" that are coming and not enough on today

II **SLIDE** Advice to Timothy

A) Advice for today

- 1) **2 Timothy 2:1, 3 (NIV)** ¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
 - a) Be strong: to be strengthened morally and spiritually; to be established; to make stable
 - b) **SLIDE** Grace: that which causes joy, pleasure, acceptance, gratification, favor (not of the flesh); favor done without explanation; absolutely free expression of God's loving kindness to all of us; unearned and unmerited favor
 - c) Endure hardship: sustain afflictions; withstand hardships
 - d) Soldier: warrior; figuratively - a Christian minister
- 2) Words for today, so we will not stop telling truth of the gospel
- 3) **SLIDE 2 Timothy 2:8-13 (NIV)** ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, **[Is it our gospel?]** ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

B) **SLIDE** When we do step out, we must be on our guard

- 1) **2 Timothy 2:14 (NIV)** ¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.
 - a) Keep reminding people of these things:
 - i) Jesus became flesh and lived among us
 - ii) He became sin for us; He suffered and died
 - iii) He rose from the dead, conquering sin and death
 - iv) He sits on the throne as a descendant of David

- b) This is our focus
- c) We are not to quarrel about words that have no real purpose
- 2) **SLIDE 2 Timothy 2:16 (NIV)** ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.
- 3) **2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV)** ¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."
- 4) **SLIDE 2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NIV)** ²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.
 - a) Foolish and stupid arguments: lacking understanding; trifling (like what this person wore; mother, PBJ sandwich in WalMart;)
 - b) Produce quarrels: controversies; hostilities; insurrections
 - c) We are not Agents of Provocation; we are Agents of Restoration
- C) **SLIDE The Very Next Thing is Today**
 - 1) We are to put this advice into practice TODAY
 - 2) We are to teach our children to live this life TODAY
 - 3) Instead of dreaming about what the future is going to bring, instead of waiting for a time when we feel we are ready, instead of waiting for a time when we will have more time, instead of tripping over today....
 - 4) Let the change begin with our very next words, let us touch the next life we encounter, let Jesus use us today, let our next breath & every breath that follows be praise to the King of kings
 - 5) God doesn't want us to feel condemned, guilty, pressured to act
 - 6) He wants us to go through each day with Eyes Wide Open so we can see the very next thing He wants us to do
 - 7) Because the next big thing that God wants to do is the very next thing He wants us to do. **PLAY SONG**