## You're Wearing the Uniform, Now Get in The Game Pastor Rodney Keyes Sunday, June 28, 2020

On Saturday, May 30th, I told Vicki that I needed to get away to pray and have some needed quiet time with The Lord based on the 1) prayer needs of church members, friends, and family, 2) Corona Virus/COVID 19, 3) 40+ million unemployed, 4) racial tensions and unrest, 5) wrongful deaths of African American US Citizens, and 6) seeing Christians spending more time on social media than in prayer and reading their bibles and 7) more. The load was heavy, and I needed time with God to talk with Him and to hear from Him. Our 3-hour time together in my Peaceful Place was fruitful, and He had much to say.

Although these issues are real and significant in and of themselves, as Christians, we must remember that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds *(2 Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV)*. Satan can and is working through this season as many Christians have stopped praying or are not praying as fervently and reading their Bibles less. Prayer remains a powerful weapon and should not ever be laid down or dismissed if we think the issues are too big *(2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV)*.

I believe in this season that as we pray, God will speak to each one of us so that each of us can be part of the solution where unifying our nation is concerned. God needs each of us to act! For some, 1) it's peaceful persistent protest, 2) it's fervent daily prayer, 3) for others it's creating and bridging relationships with people that do not look like you 4) for others it's hiring a qualified person of color to join your business or your team, 5) demonstrating acts of kindness towards a person of color, 6) opening your home for a visit to someone who doesn't look like you, 7) getting to know more intimately the life, challenges, hills and valleys of that persons' life of color to learn and encourage and befriend, 8) for some having a meal in your home or with you and your favorite restaurant or coffee shop, 9) for others attending an event with you, 10) inviting someone who doesn't look like you to visit your life group or church, 11) getting to know a family that doesn't look like your family, 12) influencing your children and grandchildren's thinking where their thinking maybe limited or hostile towards people who don't look like them, 13) Launching that ministry, writing that book, equipping young and older people (James 2: 14-26 NKJV).

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While in the park, my PP (Peaceful Place), on Saturday, May 30th, The Lord shared many things with me. However, today I want to share a portion of this. There were three words He spoke to me about and defined for me. **Believe**, **Stand**, **and Love**.

**Believe** – We must continue to believe that Jesus is still the solution to the issues of today. The Lord spoke to me and said, programs such as Affirmative Action, EEOC, and Equal Rights Laws have all been necessary. However, these laws cannot change a person's heart that's full of hatred, bitterness, anger, and lies. Only a relationship and acceptance of Jesus Christ will change man's heart and thinking. Legislation cannot change a heart. However, Jesus can! Without Jesus, all our hearts are evil, and we can say or doing whatever the flesh says (*Proverbs 21:1 NKJV; Romans 10:9-13 NKJV*).

**Stand** – As Believers, we must be willing to stand, even if alone. God told me that even if there are 100 people in a room, and you've heard from God, and you're the only one with the instruction from The Lord. He firmly spoke to me and told me that He created me; I am not my own, and that I've been bought with a price. As a result, I am to live for Him, Stand for Him, and Yield my life to Him. It's a deeper place a deeper personal sacrifice to serve Him this way (1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV).

Love – Last month, the prolific and anointed Christian Apologist, Ravi Zacharias's Homegoing Service, was broadcast from Passion Church, and The Lord told me to watch this service. This was a true celebration of life service even though Ravi will be missed by his family and throughout the world. His ministry, however, will continue as he rose up and discipled other Apologists to carry out this work of defending the faith and leading the strongest intellectual unbelieving minds into curiosity and/or relationship with Jesus Christ. A quote from Ravi moved me powerfully as it epitomized God's love and Ravi's humility. The moving statement was, "Don't seek to win the argument, seek to win the soul!" Love must be demonstrated as Believers like never with Christlike humility (1 Corinthians 13 NKJV).

Never in my lifetime has there been a more fertile time to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many are frustrated, angry, hurting, discouraged, struggling financially, unemployed, processing the passing of loved ones from COVID 19, dealing with other sickness and disease, businesses permanently closed, unsure when school will resume, picking up the pieces of life, and more. Society needs us to be active with our Faith. We must put our Faith-In-Action and get in the game of healing our nation and doing a work for The Lord.

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Despite the season that we are in, God is not on vacation and is still answering prayers, providing, and caring for His children. Jesus remains at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us. And, the Holy Spirit is still comforting and bringing all things back to our remembrance! So, understand that prayer is vital, and the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much (James 5:16-19 NKJV). However, family, as we pray, God will give instruction to us to become part of the solution in this season!

NCC, visitors, pastors, let's move out on Team Jesus.

- Be Encouraged
- Be the Light
- Be Active in your Faith
- Be part of God's solution
- Ask God how He wants to use you and say, "Yes" to His assignment for your life.

Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV