



Part 3: SLOWER IS FASTER

HANDFUL OF Qs to get you thinking

1. Who's setting pace of your life & at what cost?
 2. If you could slow down, would you?
 3. Would your spiritual life be better, healthier, stronger if you slowed down?
 4. Do you make better decisions quickly or slowly?
 5. How many of your life's regrets have been because of hasty over-reactions?
- *How would you answer those questions? Dig into the questions that resonate in a little more detail and ask yourself whether slower really is faster.*

There's a danger in believing that FASTER is FASTER.

- * That the SOONER you get there, the BETTER. As though the DESTINATION is more important than the JOURNEY / RESULTS were more important than CHARACTER.
 - * Running might lead to MORE. It might lead to HIGHER. But does it lead to JESUS?
- *How does the world around you teach that 'faster is faster?' In what contexts do believe it actually is or perhaps get suckered into believing it is? In what contexts is it definitely unhealthy?*

THE BIG IDEA: It all comes down to whether you want NATURAL results, the best YOU can do, or SUPERNATURAL results, the best GOD can do?

- * You can quite possibly get there FASTER if you PUSH & PULL ... but at what COST?
- * Is there a danger of trying to RUN AHEAD of God?
- * INSTANT GRATIFICATION mindset gets people in awful messes.
- * So easy to trade LONG-TERM HEAVENLY things for QUICK-FIX EARTHLY things you can have NOW.

→ *What are the dangers of running ahead of God? Have you ever done so & at what cost?*

→ *What is that 'instant gratification mindset?' How prevalent is it? What affect does it have? How much stronger has it grown over the last couple of decades, why & at what cost?*

→ *Which Bible characters fell into the faster is faster trap? What about the Prodigal Son?*

→ *If we really believe that God has a great plan for each of us, how important is it to allow Him to set the pace on that plan? What could potentially go wrong if we don't?*

WHY SLOWER IS ACTUALLY FASTER

1. FLESH JUMPS, SPIRIT DISCERNS (Gal 6:7-8)

- * FLESH decisions are almost always BAD decisions.
- * Flesh is always in a HURRY ... It JUMPS, REACTS, LASHES OUT.
- * Your spirit is far more MEASURED ... It DISCERNS, PONDERES & PRAYS.
- * Flesh REACTS because it HURTS; Spirit WAITS because it TRUSTS (Gal 5:16-17, James 1:19, Prov 19:2).
- * If often takes time to WAIT, SEEK & HEAR; DIVING in & REACTING is definitely QUICKER ... But do we want OUR best or GOD'S best?

→ *What do we mean by 'the flesh?' Why or how does it get us into trouble? Why does it so often lead to bad decisions?*

→ *What constitutes a 'Spirit-led decision?' What are they slower generally? How do we make sure we're making those rather than flesh-driven ones?*

→ *"Flesh reacts because it hurts; spirit waits because it trusts. Flesh demands you fix it yourself; spirit is prepared to wait for God to fix it. It comes back around to whether you want natural or supernatural results." Discuss!*

→ *How do 'Less is More' and 'Lower is Higher' help with 'Slower is Faster?'*

2. DEEPER BEFORE FURTHER, BECAUSE GOD KNOWS BEST

- * Prov 3:5-6 → WHO are you TRUSTING to direct your path? Do you perhaps have a tendency to MEDDLE rather than TRUST or LEAN on your own understanding?
- *Who are you really trusting? Who's directing your path right now? Do you tend to meddle and, if so, how? What does it mean to 'lean on your own understanding?'*
- *"Pretty sure there's a 'going-further-desire' in your spiritual DNA." Do you agree? Where does it come from? Why is it there? Does it contribute to 'faster is faster' urges?*
- * Talent & charisma might GET YOU THERE, but it will be character & integrity that KEEP YOU THERE (Prov 10:9, Psalm 127:1).

→ *Do you agree? Do you know of people whose talent has accelerated their progress to the top but whose weak character has then resulted in an unceremonious fall?*

2 PETER 1:5-8 → Those qualities don't come OVERNIGHT.

- * The Lord WORKS THEM into our character very skillfully in all sorts of ways.
- * As we FEED OUR RELATIONSHIP with Jesus.
- * As we study His WORD, spend time in His PRESENCE, walk CLOSELY with Him.
- * As we go through TESTS, TRIALS & DISAPPOINTMENTS that CHALLENGE, TEACH, REFINE & MATURE us.

→ *How does the Lord take us deeper first? How does He work those 2 Peter 1 attributes into our character? What part do tests, trials, disappointments & failures play in that?*

JESUS' TEMPTATION

a) There will always be temptations to take SHORTCUTS.

b) Enemy will always attack your IDENTITY.

c) Always be temptations to use your GIFTS for your own ENDS.

- * Jesus faced those DEMONS & won His BATTLES in PRIVATE first before He faced them in PUBLIC every day.
- * Winning key battles SETS you FREE → No longer subject to OVER-REACTIONS ... No more 'CROPS of WEEDS' ... Instead, you'll routinely reap INTEGRITY'S HARVEST & open yourself up to God's SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION.

→ *How does winning those battles set you free? What battles have you personally won and how have they liberated you? What battles / demons would you really like to overcome? Which of Jesus' temptations trouble you the most?*

GOD KNOWS BEST

- * Are you prepared to trust that God KNOWS BEST?
- * Are you prepared to trust your ADVANCEMENT entirely to God?
- * Are you prepared to WAIT for God's best LATER rather than PUSH & MANIPULATE your way to your best NOW?
- * Are you prepared to patiently let God REFINE your CHARACTER?

RESPONSE QUESTIONS: What pace are you running at? Are you pushing or trusting? Are you reacting or praying?

→ *Which of those three questions most strikes a chord for you right now?*