

ARE YOU READY FOR MORE? Part 3

Radically Responsive

→ *When you hear the expression 'radically responsive' what immediately comes to mind? What's the difference between responsive and radically responsive?*

RESISTORS or YIELDERS?

Danger: We inadvertently act as RESISTORS & over the course of time:

* Build WALLS for our own PROTECTION.

* Wear MASKS designed to HIDE us from what we FEAR.

* Guard our WOUNDS, if we think they might be EXPOSED.

→ *Why do people erect walls, wear masks or guard their wounds?*

→ *Do you have any walls you've built for your own protection? Any masks you hide behind? Any wounds you're carefully guarding? How are they potentially keeping you from what God has for you?*

But, if we want MORE, instead we need to become YIELDERS:

* Offer the Lord a WIDE-OPEN door.

* Present a SOFT, SURRENDERED heart.

* Need to stop FIGHTING, RETREATING, HIDING from the Lord & give Him our unqualified YES.

→ *Why does the finished work of Jesus on the Cross mean we should be unrestrained yielders & radical responders?*

Personal Inventory Questions

Do you consider yourself open or closed to the work of the Spirit?

* Would you say your heart was heart hard or soft?

* Are you, by default, quick to respond or do you tend to dig your heels in?

* Which best describes you? Let me hide right here in the safety of the back-row seat or I'm gagging for opportunities to run to the front & fall on my knees?

→ *How would you answer each of those— perhaps on a scale of 0-10?*

THEORY: The MORE of God you have, CLOSER to Him you walk, QUICKER you run in His direction, the BETTER OFF you'll be.

* In our culture: Responding should be seen as an ACT of STRENGTH, rather than an ADMISSION of WEAKNESS.

* Response is the DOORWAY to MORE; resistance & reluctance will KEEP you locked in LESS.

* The question shouldn't be why SHOULD I respond, but can I think of any good reason why I SHOULDN'T?

→ *Is responding an act of strength rather than an admission of weakness, & if so, why? Why do reluctance & resistance keep us locked in 'less?' Should our default position be to respond or hold back, & why?*

BIG STATEMENT: God's ability to move is in DIRECT PROPORTION to our willingness to respond.

→ *Do you agree with this statement? How does it work?*

The Bad News: Our RESISTANCE is the PROBLEM.

The Good News: Our YIELDEDNESS is the SOLUTION.

Why DON'T we respond?

a) FEAR: Makes us RETREAT.

b) PEAR PRESSURE: Fear of man is a SNARE & it KEEPS us from responding.

c) PAST HURTS: Actually the PRECISE reason to run to God.

d) PRIDE: Should be, "Look at so-and-so, they're always the VERY FIRST to respond."

e) Let FLESH lead, not SPIRIT: Don't MISS what God is doing.

f) IGNORANCE of what's on offer: If we truly TRUST God & GRASP the power of His Word, nothing would stop us running.

g) Bad HABIT: UNWITTINGLY unresponsive.

→ *If you're honest, do any of these tend to hold you back? If so, why? And what could you do about it? Ironically, isn't responding the solution to the reasons you don't respond?*

8 Excellent Reasons to be RADICALLY RESPONSIVE

1. You have God's lavish INVITATION (Prov 19:10, Matt 11:28, Heb 4:16)

2. God can do SO MUCH MORE in your life than YOU can.

3. God longs to take you on a JOURNEY of TRANSFORMATION: Don't MISS your ENCOUNTER.

4. God WAITS for YOUR invitation, and, in general, won't FORCE Himself upon you: YOUR response is HIS opening.

5. God can do so much more in a WILLINGLY BROKEN vessel (Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 66:1,4).

6. Though GRACE freely GIVES, it takes FAITH to RECEIVE.

7. Every time you come forward to respond, you step out of PRIDE & into HUMILITY (James 4:6-8, 2 Chron 7:14).

8. There is breakthrough power AVAILABLE when the Holy Spirit is on the MOVE.

9. We all have the opportunity to be a CATALYST.

→ *Which of these reasons jump out at you & why? Any others you'd add to the list? Any that still need your attention?*

WRAP-UP: "There is nothing God cannot do in a fully-surrendered, humbled, responsive heart. There is nothing God cannot do in a fully-surrendered, humbled, responsive church." Discuss!