

PREPAREDNESS STATEMENT

One day I asked the Lord to help me find a word other than training or discipleship to use for what we wanted to do through Joy Mountain Ranch. My spirit had been troubled for a few days concerning using the words “teach and train”. I knew there was a better word to describe what was on our hearts. A few days later I believe God showed me the word to use, “preparedness”.

The word “training” seems to carry a connotation these days that does not reflect the true meaning of what Jesus meant when He said “make disciples”. We are not training people to be like us, to think and act like we do. We are not training them to apply rules or react by rote, like training a dog or a monkey to do tricks. That is not how God makes disciples.

The word “discipleship” as defined by the Collins dictionary means “the state or position of being a follower of the doctrines of a teacher or a school of thought”. This also does not reflect adequately what Jesus meant. We do not follow the doctrines of a teacher; we follow THE TEACHER. We do not follow a particular school of thought, which sounds very much like denominationalism. We follow Him who declares Himself to be the LIVING WORD and who moves us from glory to glory, ever discovering new aspects of who He is. As we move from glory to glory, our doctrine or beliefs necessarily change.

Here is our definition of “preparedness”.

A continuous series of events consisting of planning, training, equipping, evaluating and taking corrective action (moving from glory to glory) in order to be prepared as the Ekklesia to be successful in any Kingdom event where righteousness and justice must prevail in order to advance the Kingdom of God on earth. Preparedness enables us to hear the voice of our Lord continually, encourages us to be obedient to the voice of our Lord, and helps enable us to undergo needed transformations (from glory to glory) as our Lord directs. Through preparing our hearts to hear God and obey Him, we are established, made ready, fixed on Him.

Our God is so BIG and WONDERFUL that not even the earth could contain the books that could be written about Him. We desired to establish a people who have prepared their hearts for Him. We spend our lifetime learning about God and experiencing Him, if we are truly following Him. Even when life on earth is over, there is so much more to learn. Walls cannot be put around this. Over our lifetime, our doctrine will change. Today, if you attend a “church”, you must move from one walled community to another, when your doctrine changes. For many people, they never leave those walls and their doctrine never changes.

We do not desire to indoctrinate or to enable anyone to follow a particular school of thought. We want saints to get to know God for themselves, to learn to hear His voice and then to follow Him wherever He leads them. We desire for their God-given individuality to shine forth in the glory of their God in the freedom that comes for Him alone. That involves far more than “teaching” or “training”.

Only when we understand for ourselves the immenseness of our God and His plan for us individually, can we begin to come together in unity, peace and love to become

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the true Ekklesia as the body of Christ with Him at the helm leading us as a mighty army every step of the way into our inheritance.

Our definition was some-what modeled after what FEMA uses for emergency-readiness. However, we are not being prepared just for emergencies, but for daily life and so much more.