

THE IMAGE by Allison Bown

Chapter 5: Freedom from doing it All.

I guess you can see where Allison Bown is going with this chapter. Looking back on my pre-kingdom (meaning church) life, I can see how we become so willing to fill any role or need within the body of Christ regardless of our age, personality, gifting or talent. The list is endless so I won't bore you. Why does it happen? Because there is a need and because we believe we are being faithful servants. There is probably a little bit of pride mixed in most times I think, besides feeling wanted. One of the most 'desired' servings for a church believer is to go on the 'overseas mission trip' regardless. I do mean regardless!

So how do we as kingdom believers differentiate between what is a God idea or just good idea? Mark Twain's observation to that question was "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." Not bad! As ambassadors of Christ and his kingdom, our role is simply to demonstrate God's goodness and kindness in such a manner that people are drawn to Christ. That's it! That's what Jesus did. There was no hoop-la, religion down your neck or legalism to make a person feel guilty. He only did what he saw the father doing.

Need can never be the determining factor in what we do because the needs of this world are endless. What we do in our daily lives must be a joyful response to our identity in who God is for us, in us, and through us. This is a good way of determining what we should say or do, or if it is to be a kingdom assignment or not. It has to be a relational and identity based choice.

As we understand God's identity more clearly, we will be in a better position to comprehend who he has created us to be and the kingdom assignments he has for us to do. How does this work? Firstly, our actions as said before, should be founded on relational values that reflect our passion for God, people and his creation. Our values for what God values will determine not only what we do but how we do it. Our kingdom assignments will be the specific ways in which we express what God values in the world and people around us. As we behold his joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness and self control, we will naturally express them within what we say or do, and any assignment that we have been given. Rushing around, putting your hand up for everything and anything, giving your money to every need that comes along, is not a healthy kingdom lifestyle to adopt. Drop it!

When you are on target, and it is the work God has prepared for you to do, besides the motivation and passion you have for it, there will be a 'sense of ease' in it because you're aligned with your true identity in Christ. Lastly, don't be afraid of letting go when your assignment comes to an end. We don't lose our sense of identity, because it's not the work that defines us. Rather, it is who we are that defines and gives life to the work. Remember, when one assignment comes to an end....he has another one for you. Do not lose heart.

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Landmark.

New ideas or a fresh perspective from this chapter. Try to identify things in your life that are 'good ideas' rather than God ideas.

eg.

I have been on the cake stall for the last 25 years. I hate making cakes and don't really have any talent for it (so others say). Why not drop it!

Questions for Exploration.

These should act as a compass to give some sense of direction in experiencing Kingdom Freedom.

eg.

For many years now I have known in my heart that I have not followed my dream. May I suggest you first spend time with 'the Dream Giver' to re-confirm you are on target regarding your dream...and then get on with it.

Questions for God.

This is where you are doing the asking and he is doing the answering...hopefully.

eg.

Lord, I am sick to death of all this boring church activity. Will you specifically and only direct me into assignments that are from you and aligned with my identity in you?

New Thought.

This is about actively changing your old 'church' approach to a 'kingdom' approach in representing Christ.

eg.

How about thinking of how you can demonstrate Christ and his Kingdom in your work place. Rule 1. You are not allowed to preach 'the gospel of salvation' ...until they ask 'How do I get into the Kingdom?'

Activating your Discoveries.

How do we activate what we have learned. This is pretty easy.

eg.

After writing down ALL your Christian activities, of which there may be 1 to 20. Talk to the Lord about each one. If you sense he says NO... put a line through it. The ones he says YES to, should be in line with your passion. I suggest you will find here will be only 1 or 2.