



*Sabbatical
Reflections*

*Bob &
Corinne Keith*

A photograph of a fountain pen with a wooden barrel and a silver nib, resting on a white surface next to a glass ink bottle. The pen is positioned diagonally from the top left towards the bottom left. The ink bottle is partially visible at the top left corner.

Sabbatical Reflections

Introduction

Thank You – Bob & Corinne

- for the privilege**
- to the leaders who initiated and gave guidance**
- to those who took extra responsibilities to provide the opportunity**
- to those who prayed and supported us in this season**

Today – Stories of God at Work, Communion

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Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!**

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

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Sabbatical Reflections

Purpose of Sabbatical – asked for prayer

Rhythm and Rest

Reflection and Renewal

Recharged and Refocused

1. Rhythm and Rest

- important information

struggle with sleep and peace

struggle with saying no, disappointing people

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Mk. 6:30-31... “The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.”

Mk. 1:35-38... “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”

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God Provided Rest in 3 Ways

a) Physically

- absence of schedules, deadlines, great places to relax

b) Emotionally

- caring and loving = emotional investment

c) Spiritually

- burden of leadership and care focused in shepherd gifts
- enemy loves to attack the leaders

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2. Reflection and Renewal

- creating space to work through questions and hear from God

a) my calling

- Eph 4:11-13 – gifted and called to build and equip the saints

- called to shepherd a local church

- reminded of the privilege of seeing God draw, sustain, bless, heal comfort and restore people

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b) my gifts

- reviewing and renewing our gifts granted by God for a purpose
- are we arranging our lives to invest them well?

c) ministry patterns

- Sabbath rest and the pastor
- motivations – others expectations vs. God's nudging
- unhealthy ownership – responsibility for what's Gods alone
- people and programs – healthy perspective

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3. Recharged and Refocused

- easy to see things, difficult to change patterns and practices

a) stay in my lane with burdens and needs

- James – every good thing comes from above

- Acts 6:1-5 “Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

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b) Thankful in New Ways

- for our Freedom
- for our Time and Place

Luke 12:48... “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

- community of Faith
- marriage and home

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c) Intentional and Engaged

- giving leadership to disciple making**
- keep simple and direct pathways**
- people and programs in right perspective**
- centrality of Gospel and listening to Holy Spirit**
- responding to the nudging of the Father in disregard to my plans**
- pleasing God not man**

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So What?

- 1. God is at Work – celebrate**
 - faithful to us in the sabbatical
- 2. God uses our stories**
 - will you ask if he is speaking to you
- 3. Check our hearts and prepare for Communion**