

Lasting Results - Part 3

Introduction:

This world is getting more complicated, more troubled, and darker every day. You don't have to look far — in the news, in our communities, even in families — to see the rising confusion and pain. People around us are going to need help. Real help. And not just human wisdom, but the kind of help that brings lasting results.

Therefore, as God's people, we must be prepared and trained. We must come into the fullness of what God has provided for us so that we can be effective.

Romans 15:29 (NKJV): "But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

- Gospel = good news.
- Jesus is the good news.
- And in Jesus is the totality — the fullness — of all that God is.

We should desire this fullness. We need every tool and weapon God has provided so that we can walk in the victory Jesus already secured. Not partial victory — full, manifested victory. In every area: spirit, soul, mind, will, emotions, socially, and financially.

The Call to Fullness:

Ephesians 3:14-19 tells us that Paul prayed for believers to be *"filled with all the fullness of God."*

Ephesians 4:11-14 says the goal is to grow up into *"the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

Fullness isn't optional; it's the standard God has set for His people. Why? So, we won't be children tossed around by every new idea or crisis but will stand mature, steady, and victorious.

Character Quality: Availability

As we talk about fullness, remember that the character qualities of Jesus are part of it. One vital quality is *availability*.

Availability is the opposite of self-centeredness. It's making our plans and priorities secondary to the needs of those we serve.

Think about it: Jesus made Himself available — to His Father in prayer, to His disciples, to the multitudes, to individuals like Peter and the woman at the well, and ultimately, to us.

Our goal is to make ourselves available to the Master, Jesus Christ. If we want lasting results, we must be available. If we're too busy, too distracted, or too self-focused, we will be disappointed with the fruit we see.

Transition to Preparation:

Availability is the first yes. But preparation is what turns that yes into lasting impact.

Preparation:

The dictionary defines preparation as "the process of making something ready for use or service."

We took action when we accepted Jesus as Lord — that's salvation, that's a result. But now, God calls us into deeper preparation.

Isaiah 1:18-19 reminds us:

"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."

Philippians 2:12 says, *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."*

Preparation is work — but it's worth it. Because proper preparation provides a full blessing to those who are in need.

Illustration: Think of a firefighter. He makes himself available, but unless he's trained and prepared, he can't save lives when the fire comes. We are God's responders in this world. Availability + preparation = readiness.

Training:

Training takes preparation a step further.

Training forms us by instruction, discipline, and exercise. It makes us fit, qualified, and ready for real tests.

Our training includes:

- Being a practicing disciple of Jesus (availability needed)
- Being water baptized (understand its power)
- Understanding the power of the Lord's Supper
- Being baptized in the Holy Spirit
- Having the physical evidence of speaking in tongues
- Listening to accurate, effective teaching
- Developing the character qualities of Jesus

Transition to Evangelism:

We've talked about preparation (personal, inward). We've talked about training (personal, inward). We've talked about fullness (personal, inward). We've talked about character (personal, inward).

Now, all of that leads us outward — to effective evangelism.

Effective Evangelism:

We're called to go, preach, and do the works of Jesus.

- Go: Movement — where are we headed?
- Preach: Fullness — not emptiness. We preach out of what's been built inside us.
- Do the works of Jesus: with variety and power.

Mark 16:15 tells us we are already sent: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

But the effectiveness of our going and preaching depends on our **preparation and training**.

Acts 1:8 says, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."*

Without this power (Greek *dunamis* — miraculous, dynamic power), we will struggle to do the works of Jesus. But with it, we become effective.

Illustration: Think of a lamp. It can be beautiful and well-positioned, but without being plugged into the power source, it gives no light. The baptism in the Holy Spirit plugs us into God's power.

Crisis Faith vs. Lasting Faith:

Some people only turn to God in crisis. **I call this crisis faith.** They need deliverance now, and God is merciful — He helps them. But after the crisis, many go back to their old ways.

Romans 2:4 reminds us: *"God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance."*

True lasting results come when people move from crisis faith to steady, obedient, love-based faith. That's when they make themselves available to God daily and continue to receive more results.

Isaiah 1:18-19 says it again: *"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."*

Closing Challenge:

Let's choose today to be more than available in word only. Let's submit to preparation and training. Let's seek the fullness of His blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can **go, preach, and do** the works of Jesus with lasting results.

Closing Prayer Call:

"Father, today we present ourselves to You. We make ourselves available — not part-time, but fully. Train us. Prepare us. Fill us with Your fullness. Baptize us afresh in Your Spirit so that we may go out in power and bring lasting help to those in need. We say yes to Your process, yes to Your power, and yes to being used for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen."

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