DO WHAT JESUS DID

Do you know why I do what I do? The love of Jesus compels me. I don't have to do this, but I have encountered the risen Jesus and I can't but want to. I can't help myself, as I said in the past, "Hi, my name is Andrew and I am a Jesus junkie." Think of the disciples in the upper room, Jesus was crucified and they were scared. What could make a bunch of ragamuffin people change the world? What made them serve out their remaining days advancing the Gospel? All but one gave up their lives in the most brutal way, being martyred for Jesus. They didn't have to do this, they wanted to. For the love of a person, Jesus Christ.

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **John 20:19-22 NIV**

Jesus says, guys, I am sending you out into the world to create a new humanity. A humanity that will change the world, a new creation humanity… They begin to recognize just Who He was as Messiah.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Everything depends upon knowing the person in order to recognize the work."

When you know the person of Christ, you recognize his work. His work expresses the fullness of the gospel. Which includes Healing, as SOTERIA means salvation, wholeness, deliverance, Preservation, Welfare, and restoration, as the total result of His work. **John Wimber**, in speaking of healing, mentions physical health , mental health, spiritual health, social health, and emotional health as part of the healing Christ brings.

But we must recognize His Presence and listen and obey His prompts. But Andrew, do you know how busy I am? What I have to do each day? We live in Gauteng you know, it's a rat race! But you know what the problem with the rat race is? Even if you win, in the end you are still a rat. **So you are too busy?** The ultimate for Moses was the presence of God with His people. Moses didn't view seeking the presence of God as a luxury afforded by the contemplative life once they were more settled, work was less busy, with a house in the burbs, and the kids were grown, when things were less busy.

Moses was over 80 so age is no disqualifying factor. Moses was personally responsible for a refugee resettlement project involving over two million people in the desert... None of us have faced the pressures and demands that Moses must have faced in those days. But he left everything and for forty days and forty nights contended for being a "People of the Presence." Moses was desperate for the presence of God.

Brother Lawrence, "It is possible for us to live in the very sense of the Lord's presence, under even the most difficult circumstances. **If** you and I are going to enjoy the peace of paradise during this life we must become accustomed to a constant, familiar, humble, and very affectionate conversation with the Lord Jesus"

The eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, (WHY?) *so that he can show his great power in helping them.* **2 Chronicles 16:9** TLB

God is looking for your heart toward Him when it is, He displays his power through us…

And then I heard the voice of the Master: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" I spoke up, "I'll go. Send me!" **Isaiah 6: 8** MESSAGE

When you hear His voice will you respond with "Send me…" - If God deems people worthy of Christ pouring out His life on their behalf, they're certainly worthy of us pouring out our lives.The treasure is in the risk. We are willing to die for Jesus, but are we willing to look foolish for Him?

Let's pray this prayer out loud right now: "Father, my power is not enough. Come fill me and envelop me with Your Holy Spirit and with fire. Give me the power I need from the Holy Spirit. "Help me pay attention to all the ways You're working around me, Lord, and join in with what You're doing." In Jesus' name, Amen."

A Question: WHO SITTING HERE NOW WOULD LIKE GOD TO USE THEM? FOR GOD TO USE YOU, YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO BE **INTERRUPTED** AND **AVAILABLE.**

Yes, we need to be intentional about reaching out to people, but we also need to be "naturally supernatural" people. This requires a willingness to be interrupted. We need to lay down our need to defend or prove ourselves, and instead look to the Father for direction... **Spirit-led life** forces us into a place of dependency on God to do the impossible, even working through us… Our boldness comes not from

confidence in ourselves, but from believing Him and declaring the things that only He is capable of fulfilling. We say "**God if You'll show, I will go**" - "GOD SAYS, 'YOU GO AND I'LL SHOW.'"

Do you know who the greatest evangelist of all time is? Billy Graham? Smith Wigglesworth? The Apostle Paul? THE ULTIMATE EVANGELIST is the Holy Spirit, He is a confident evangelist, even when you and I are not... Sometimes if you just have a sense that God wants to say something to someone, I would encourage you to step into that in faith. You might not even be comfortable with the idea of saying something, praying for someone, or stepping out in faith, but the Holy Spirit is comfortable with it... The Holy Spirit is the ultimate evangelist, constantly pointing people to Jesus. As we step out in dependence on Him and follow those small promptings, He teaches us how to reach people. The problem is as Christians, we're often in danger of becoming THEORETICIANS RATHER THAN PRACTITIONERS of the Kingdom. God hasn't called us to be theoreticians alone;

I know that persuasive words won't cut it. A slick presentation alone won't cut it. **We need a demonstration of God's power so people can see that God is real and is pursuing them.**

1Co 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

Living in the Kingdom is living in the gap between the "here" and the "not yet." No matter what level of faith you're living at, it's still a risk-taking lifestyle... Taking risks is the very definition of living by faith; we live not by our past experiences or by what we see, but by what we believe and what God's Word says is true about us— that we'll actually do what Jesus did.

We tend to say, "God, if You'll anoint me, I'll go." God says, "If you'll go, I'll anoint you."

God is looking for people who are willing to be **interrupted and available.** All through the New Testament, Jesus told us to go heal the sick without any qualifications… I think waiting on direct orders with the kind of thinking that says, I have to have a word or a directive to go, is slavery mentality… Jesus made us joint heirs with Him... Break the chains of slavery thinking and just go do the things He did! **Do you have to wait for a "word" or prompt** to give a thirsty child water… feed a hungry person… care for a sick person? This is the same deal! Just do it… God is love, and we want whatever we're doing to demonstrate and glorify His love… The world is dying to hear the message that Jesus loves them, and they don't even realize how much they long for it until you say it.

"DOUBT IS NO DISQUALIFIER," but let me mention here that we don't have control over the results. When we pray for the sick to be healed, we're agreeing with heaven. Jesus was the perfect model of what a life dependent on the Father looks like, yet we never see Jesus' questioning God about His will to heal someone. Healing is available to the Church as part of God's blessing to those who put their faith in Jesus... You don't have to be an expert at it— it's not for the spiritual elite…

Paul tells us God has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ" (**Ephesians 1: 3 NLT**).

That doesn't mean healing happens all the time. It sometimes does involve spiritual warfare… Yet even in Nazareth, where only a few of the sick were healed, the implication was still that this is not what God would have wished Healing is one of the basics of the Kingdom message; it's just part of our lifestyle as believers.No one wins a war by firing a single bullet; it usually takes many shots. Persevere in praying for sick people, and I guarantee you'll see healing happen. But I can't, I am too… Let me say this "GOD'S STYLE OF REVENGE IS TO RESCUE THE BROKEN AND THEN TURN THEM INTO RESCUERS" GOD'S GIFT TO US IS ABILITY; OUR GIFT TO GOD IS AVAILABILITY. You may be thinking to yourself, "But Andrew, I don't have that 'spiritual gift'… Remember Paul's words in Corinthians?

"… it is the same Holy Spirit who distributes, activates, and operates these different gifts as he chooses for each believer." **1 Corinthians 12:11**

In other words, if you are available, He will use you… He will give you the gift you need at that time. We don't possess spiritual gifts!He says to us, "You go. You be available and step out, and I will empower you in the moment."

We are not going to move this world by criticism of it nor conformity to it, but by the combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God. —**Vance Havner**

SO WE GOING TO DO THIS THING?

When I pray for people, first and foremost I invite the Holy Spirit, “Come a Holy Spirit” which is the same as praying “Your Kingdom Come on earth as it is in heaven” I ask, “Lord, let Your presence come.” I have learned to wait on His presence— to give Him room— and to expect that His presence will move mountains of illness, hopelessness, discouragement, anger and unbelief in people’s lives. Then pray along the lines of… “God is about to make Himself real to you … ” God has pursued us and revealed Himself to us so that we become carriers of the Kingdom. The Gospel is a message of love and humility from beginning to end— even as we carry and minister the presence and power of the Almighty God. Remember that “Love is a weapon”

When you’re ministering to someone, you already know the message. When you pray for people, look them in the eyes and tell them, ‘Jesus loves you.’ Try it. Watch what happens. The Church has become nonchalant to the power of those words. **As we step into a lifestyle of loving-risky faith, we can use many creative approaches that work in different ways with different people…** We’re simply available to go and do what Jesus did, and the Holy Spirit is the ultimate healer and evangelist as we permit Him to work through us.

His promise to us is that we will reap where we did not sow... God is the one in pursuit of His people, and we simply walk in the expectation that He is present with us and is at work.

Good questions to ask the Lord when you pray for a person are:

- How do You want to ENCOURAGE this person?
- How do You SEE this person?
- What do You LIKE about this person?”

Two simple questions will open the door for interaction with people:

1. What would you like Jesus to do for you today?
2. How can I pray for you?

Tips for Praying for People

When you pray for people you don’t know, it’s good to remember that the concept of being prayed for can take some people by surprise… Most times I say something reassuring like, “God’s here, and He wants to bless you. I’m going to pray, and you’ll feel His presence come on you so that you can experience Him. He’ll also give me words or encouragement for you.” Even if people don’t believe in God, it can help them to know what it is you think you’re doing. Gauge where people are at, and help them be as comfortable as possible with the situation so they can relax and feel more natural. Ask questions about what they’re experiencing. Be kind and be accessible. It’s okay to be yourself and be sensitive, but speak boldly. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

What if healing doesn’t happen?

A helpful tip is to FOCUS ON WHAT GOD IS DOING, NOT ON WHAT HE ISN’T DOING. KEEP PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

James 5:10 “Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God.” MSG

We don’t stop praying for those we love if they’re not immediately healed.

In **Luke 18: 1**, Jesus told His disciples that they should always pray and not give up.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE LACK OF A POWER SUPPLY IN HEAVEN, BUT THE SUPPLY OF FAITHFUL WORKERS WILLING TO GO OUT AND SPEAK OUT IN RISK. At work, at school or almost anywhere, people complain about symptoms or illnesses they’re experiencing. Make it a habit to stop and pray for them.

1 John 3:8 says, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s works.”

How do we destroy the devil’s works?

- Every time we share the Gospel and lead a lost person to Christ,
- every time we heal,
- every time we forgive,
- every time we bring freedom through deliverance,

- every time we encourage people or speak truth and freedom and God's love to them,

Every time we do these things we are destroying the works and lies of the enemy. When we step out in Kingdom work, we're reclaiming what was stolen from humankind after the fall and extending the Kingdom of heaven.

DO WHAT JESUS DID, remember:

- Doubt is no disqualifier
- God's gift to us is ability – Our Gift to God is availability
- It does take a willingness to be interrupted
- God says YOU go, and I will show

Freely you have received, freely give…