

### **SESSION THREE: DISCERNING OUR CALL**

**Statement...living by faith requires courage. Knowing when to get out of our boats, to take appropriate risks, requires the wisdom to ask the right questions. It involves time in reflection/ prayer and the ability to know God's will in specific situations. The bible's word for this process: discernment, a spiritual habit nurtured over time. Discernment is bible talk for grasping God's will for our lives There is a difference between FAITH and FOOLISHNESS, determining that difference is a key part of faith. The question is:**

**WAS PETER'S DECISION TO LEAVE THE BOAT AN EXPRESSION OF DEVOTION OR AN IMPULSE-CONTROL PROBLEM?**

**He didn't immediately step out of the boat; he first requested Jesus to give him permission. It wasn't as if Peter had never been impulsive. He was often impetuous, and it is almost out of character for him to stop and take directions.**

**Being Called by God...it leads us biblical idea of "Calling". We all have a God-given, God-driven purpose. We are called not just to KNOW GOD but to SERVE GOD. We weren't born with a calling pre-clarified. It is something WE DISCOVER, not CHOOSE. We didn't give ourselves personalities, talents. A chosen calling is an oxymoron. Our calls from God are not a 1-TIME EXPERIENCE but a lifetime of using our gifts for him**

**Question: what is your MISSION? What does God want you to do?**

**Your mission is what stirs your blood, what excites your soul, what moves you to tears. It is what moves our lives off DEAD CENTER and compels us to GET INVOLVED. God created us WITH PURPOSE and FOR A PURPOSE. God intends to use us for his purposes.**

**YOU ARE A GIFT...what GIFT have you never developed? Your life isn't ABOUT YOU; it's about GOD. you don't just HAVE GIFTS; you ARE A GIFT. Your time on earth, your potential to impact the world is a gift. You are more than all the roles you play. If we don't use our God-given gifts, we will never know the meaning of life. Like Peter, we've had ups/downs. We must be honest about our limits/gifts. Our giftedness isn't just about TALENTS, it is also about PASSION. There's an excitement associated with our gifts.**

**Question: What brings you joy? For what do you have passion?**

**We must distinguish between WHAT WE LOVE DOING for its own sake from what WE MAY WANT TO DO because of the REWARDS it brings. Assessing our gifts/limitations is critical. There has never been anyone like you, nor will there ever be again.**