



## **DARING TO GIVE MY BEST TO GOD**

***Daring Faith: The Key to Miracles***

***March 19 & 20, 2016***

*“DO YOUR BEST to improve your faith. You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. If you keep growing in this way, it will show that . . . Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful.” 2 Peter 1:5-8 (CEV)*

*“Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the BEST part of everything. If you do this, your barns will fill with grain and your barrels will overflow with wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10*

### **HOW DO I GIVE MY BEST TO GOD?**

(2 Timothy 2:3-7 NIV)

**I must be like...**

#### **1. A SOLDIER.**

- I must define what I would die for.

*“The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 LB).*

- I must sacrifice my comfort.

*“Live a life of sacrificial love just like Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice for us” (Ephesians 5:2).*

- I must eliminate distractions.

*“As Christ’s soldier, do not let yourself become entangled in the affairs of this life, wasting time, for then you can’t please your commanding officer who enlisted you in his army” 2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV/NLT).*

#### **2. AN ATHLETE.**

- I must intend to win.

*“In a race everyone runs, but only one person wins the prize. So run your race to win!” 1 Corinthians 9:24 (LB)*

- I must discipline myself.

*“All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize” (2 Corin 9:25 NLT).*

- I must stay focused on the reward.

*“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in...” (Heb. 12:2 MES).*

### 3. A FARMER.

- I must plant generously in faith.

*“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. **Then God will generously provide all you need**, and you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others . . . For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you! Yes, you will be enriched SO THAT you can give even more generously! . . . You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts, AND your generosity will prove you are obedient to the Good News of Christ!” 2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (NLT)*

### 2 PROMISES OF JESUS

*“Give, and it will be given back to you. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.” Luke 6:38 (ICB)*

*Jesus said, “I guarantee you this: Anyone who gives up anything for my sake and the Good News—whether a home or a family member or property—will get MORE THAN THAT BACK, multiplied a HUNDREDFOLD, and in the world to come they will be given life forever!” Mark 10:29-30*

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. What does giving your best to God mean to you?
2. What is important enough to you to die for? Who would you sacrifice for? Why would you sacrifice yourself for others?
3. What distractions are you caught up in that you can you live without? What can you let go of to spend more time giving God your best?
4. What do you wish you were more disciplined about?

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