

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

## July 20, 2007— Six Month Checkup—Part II

6:00 – 6:05	1) Coffee & Donuts  2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	1) Review Eph 4:11-16. a) Who are the saints?  b) What is their work?  c) For what proximate purpose is this work performed?  d) How are the saints equipped for this work?  e) What is the consequence of not being properly equipped?  2) Read Gal 2:20 a) What does this mean to you? b) Do you want this?  <i>We, you see, are terribly prone to settle for less than what God desires for us. We are glad enough for God to remove an irritating behavior from our personality (a sour disposition, for example), or a destructive addiction (like alcoholism), but it is a very different thing for him to begin restructuring our inner affections. We may be willing to give up honors and possessions and even friends, but it touches us too closely to disown ourselves. And yet we simply must understand that God is seeking not to improve us but to transform us. As C.S. Lewis writes, “The goal towards which [God] is beginning to guide you is absolute perfection; and no power in the whole universe, except yourself, can prevent Him from taking you to that goal.”<sup>1</sup></i>  3) Effort vs. Works a) Foster notes that “ <i>effort</i> is not the opposite of grace; <i>works</i> is.” <sup>2</sup> b) We expend effort to <i>do</i> for God by taking thoughts captive, actively turning from sin, serving others; however we can do no “works” to further ourselves (see Gal 3:3)

<sup>1</sup> Foster, 85. Lewis quote from *Mere Christianity*.

<sup>2</sup> Foster, 84.

	<p>4) Is it going <i>doing</i> for God?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Obeying his commands</li> <li>b) Taking thoughts captive</li> <li>c) Turning from willful, continuous sin</li> <li>d) Serving</li> <li>e) Loving neighbors</li> <li>f) Fasting</li> <li>g) Etc.</li> </ol> <p>5) How is it going <i>being</i> with God?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Spending time with God <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 minutes meditating on the reading, 5 minutes praying</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) Quite listening</li> <li>c) Keeping a Sabbath</li> </ol> <p>6) Is it going well? Why or why not.</p> <p>7) <i>Doing</i> for God will only take you so far down the path of apprenticeship with Jesus. If you are seeking God by also <i>being</i> with him, he will begin to work in your life.</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- Foster, Richard J. *Streams of Living Waters*.