

Lifelines Offering Skrobot Prayer for President [Slide 2]

1Tim. 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What Are We Waiting For?

I. Change & Opportunity

A. Future Shock – too much change too quickly

1970 Alvin & Heidi Toffler — loss of permanence

Change has become a Constant

Distress (tribulation) or Opportunity

B. Our Deepest Longings Often Lie Hidden

What are we longing for? When are we most alive? What defines us? When are we our truest self?

Your longing for love, your longing for God, your longing to live *your* life as it is meant to be lived in God?

When was the last time you felt a longing for healing and fundamental change groaning within you?

We are not defined by our lusts, our temptations, our brokenness. All those are washed away in his Presence.

Change – instability and opportunity. (skiing in moguls)

What do we want from God, from Life, right now and in the next season?

II. All Growth is Change Not All Change is Growth

AMBITION and SEASON TO SERVE — Superficial Longings

Mark 10:35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, **we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.**” **36** And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” **37** And they said to him, **“Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”**

38 Jesus said to them, **“You do not know what you are asking.** Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

39 And they said to him, **“We are able.”** ... **40** ... **not mine to grant,** ... **41** And when **the ten** heard it, they began to be **indignant** at James and John....

Conflict opens the Door for Transformation

43 ... **But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,** **44** and **whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.** **45** For even **the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

They REALLY WANTED to be great, to be close, to be powerful and involved right at the core of the Kingdom and the Glory! EXTRAORDINARY LIVES!

Thinking as mere humans, in a worldly. They had been on the Mountain of Transfiguration, but it hadn't sunk in!

Self-seeking boldness, but they got a LIFE CHANGING ANSWER!

III. Deep Longings

A. Restoration of Wholeness

Mark 10:46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with **his disciples** and a **great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar,** the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. **47**

And **when he heard** that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he **began to** cry out (NIV **shout**) and say, **“Jesus, Son of David¹, have mercy on me!”** 48 And **many rebuked** him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out (**shouted**) **all the more**, **“Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

49 And **Jesus stopped** (STOOD STILL) and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, **“Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”** 50 And **throwing off his cloak²**, he **sprang up** and **came** to Jesus.

51 And Jesus said to him, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi³, **let me recover my sight.”** 52 And Jesus said to him, **“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”** And **immediately he recovered his sight** and **followed him on the way.**

Everything turned on Bartimaeus’ desperation. Jesus asks him what he wants. J doesn't do something **TO him**, but **WITH him!**

As they stood face to face, Jesus asked Bartimaeus to **name his desire**: “What do you want me to do for you?”

“What do you mean? Isn't it obvious?” Doesn't this get personal, right here **in front of the crowd?** Held back by opinions

But it is a question that **penetrates to the very core** of our being. And it *is* very, very personal. It brings us **face to face** with our **humanness**, our **vulnerability**, our **need**, and it can **strip away** the **pretense** and **superficiality** to **expose what is truest within us**. Very tender place indeed.

¹ Only other time is when Peter called him this.

² His identity, his security, all he had

³ Gk - Rabboni — *My Master*

B. Restoration of Wholeness

Your **desire for more of God** than you have, your **longing for love**, your **need for transformation** is **the truest thing about you**.

You might think - **woundedness** - **sinfulness** - **giftedness** - **personality type** - **job title** - **identity as husband or wife, mother or father**, somehow defines you.

But in reality, **it is your desire for God** — **your capacity to reach for more of God than you have right now** — is the deepest essence of who you are.

A PLACE within each one of us where **God's Spirit witnesses with our spirit about our truest identity**.

Rom 8:15 ..You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. **[Slides 2 & 3]**

Here **God's Spirit dwells with our spirit**, and here our **truest desires make themselves known**. From this place we **cry out to God for deeper union** with him and with others.

C. He SEEKS YOU in order to SET YOU FREE

The stirring of spiritual desire indicates that **God's Spirit is already at work within us**, drawing us to himself.

We love God because **he first loved us**. We long for God because **he first longed for us**. We reach for God because **he first reached for us**.

It all originates with God.

Spiritual life begins with the longing that stirs way down deep.

52 And Jesus said to him, **“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”** And **immediately he recovered his sight** and **followed him on the way.**

IV. Collision and the NEXT SEASON

Acts 1:3 He (Jesus) **presented himself alive** to them.. during forty days and **speaking about the kingdom of God.**

4 And while staying with them **he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father,** which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, **“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”** 7 He said to them, **“It is not for you to know ...** 8 But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** [Slide 4]

Jesus ASCENDS so Holy Spirit can descend

God's descent means man's ascent!

Healing, MORE, OVERFLOWING HOPE



[Slide 5]

**God of Hope! FILL YOU with ALL joy & peace IN believing
By the POWER OF THE Holy Spirit Abound with HOPE!**