As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, churches have a life cycle that is not ordained by God.

Matthew 16:17-19 tells us…

God has given the believer the keys to the kingdom! What shall we do with them??? What kind of people ought we to be???

Do you remember a time in your life when you were entrusted with so a lot of power or huge responsibility?

What did you do with it? Some may have acted selfishly, irresponsibly & foolishly and got themselves into trouble…

Some may have been fearful of acting selfishly, irresponsibly & foolishly, so you played it safe and did nothing… to prevent something bad things from happening!

Some may have seized the moment to prove that you could be trusted and that trusting you was a wise choice… therefore others can feel at ease about entrusting you with more.

Is it me or is this starting to sound like a parable of Jesus… talents, minas, etc…?

That’s because when a person is born again and God gives us the keys to a brand new Kingdom life that we’ve never lived before… We are faced with those same kinds of choices…

We can live for ourselves or live in fear (neither of which shows responsibility) or we can choose to seize the moment… day by day and show God that we are grateful for our new life in Christ and that He can entrust us with more.

The “Good News” of the Gospel ISN’T that Jesus died to make us ordinary & mundane… we don’t see that in Jesus, or His disciples after they had received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost…

What we see is the abundant life that Jesus promised to those who followed Him. John 10:10

The thief comes to steal and destroy… So what’s left when the thief is allowed to do that? The ordinary, ineffective, mundane…

Christians do not sanctify themselves holy (set themselves apart) to just exist or survive, but to thrive and grow in kingdom effectiveness, bearing fruit for God’s kingdom.

The word abundant means excessively (violently/super) abundant!

Very High… beyond measure! Is your life showing the abundance of such Kingdom fruit? It can!

You can thrive instead of just trying to survive… until Jesus takes you home?

Every Christian wants a good homecoming! Amen?!

Do we get there by remaining the same and being ordinary?

What does Jesus want to make His followers? Matthew 4:19

Is witnessing in the Christians Job description? Acts 1:8

How “good” is the “Good News”? Mark 8:38 Too good to remain quiet!

Why does God want us to be fishers of men? 2 Peter 3:9

God loves the lost! Therefore so should we!

What is witnessing? 1 Peter 3:15

Witnessing is living! Showing and if you must… tell others about Jesus.

There are three cores values of the Church of the Nazarene;

1. We are a Christian people
2. We are a holiness people
3. We are a missional people

Characteristics of a fisher of people…

* Saved!
* Luke 4:16 – attend church regularly as Jesus did.
* Matthew 28:19-20 – Give yourself to discipleship, so that you can make more of the same.
* Mark 1:35 Matthew 6:10– Be a praying Christian who seeks God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done.
* Acts 8:35 & 2 Timothy 2:15 – Know and share the Word.
* 1 John 2:15-17 – Don’t love the world and things of the world more than God.
* What kind of person are you?
* Would the world around you consider you ordinary?
* Are you a “non-ordinary” “fisher of men”?

God saved you to be… You can be… will you choose to be?