

# REFLECTIONS FROM REST

ANNE CAROLYN MAE FELIPE

**T**he end of the matter; all has been heard.  
Fear God and keep his commandments,  
for this is the whole duty of man.  
*Ecclesiastes 12:13*

My recent six-month sabbatical was about taking time off from the rigors of the ministry. This is my first intended season of rest in almost 29 years of being a full-time worker (1993 to the present). As such, I take to heart the lessons the Lord has taught, confirmed, and affirmed.

This season is about three things namely: REST (physical Rest), RE-ALIGNMENT, and RECREATION. I pray that I will be able to properly elaborate on each point as to what the Lord has taught me in these three areas over the past six months.

The following are some of the things the Lord deposited in my heart in this season of rest:

**1. REST - true rest** is the result of restedness in the Lord and vice-versa. Rest is not idleness. Rest is not about being lazy and the momentary cessation of the rigors of life to listen, ponder and engage with the One who is the author of rest. Rest is actively waiting on the Lord so that we can lovingly surrender to His good, holy, and peaceable will; rest is also a gift from the Lord. Enjoy it. Learn from it.

**2. REALIGNMENT** in the Word and prayer is necessary for the disciple of the Lord. Coming to the Word is always a time of preparation - a 'preparation for battle'. Knowing that our daily life is a battle, opening the Word of God is His way for me to be prepared for the battle either today or tomorrow. I would like to believe that the Lord has spoken and would gladly share my top three gleanings from the Word and prayer time as He continually prepares me for the battle.

**A. The Awesome Grace and Mercies of God.** Jonah, though a very short book, is about God's grace and mercy towards the *Jonahs* of the world. Twice, the Lord showed His grace and mercies towards Jonah.

Through this study, the Lord truly impressed in my heart that He is loving, gracious, and merciful. As His disciple, this, too, is the way I should live. He is a God who loves, cares, and the One who Saves. He saved me. And as His child, I need to

be His hands and feet – obeying the Great Commission of making disciples.

Make Disciples. Show and Share the Love and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

**B. The HAND OF THE LORD is key to life and ministry.** The Lord used both Nehemiah and Ezra to rebuild. For Nehemiah, to rebuild the walls, His place, and for Ezra, to rebuild His people in the faith. But as they carried on with the work, challenges were present. And during those times, these men yielded to the Lord and lived out the wisdom that was the fruit of their quiet abiding in Him.

In challenging times, the Lord showed and proved faithful to see through His work and his people so that they may see the glory and power of God over time. Only because of the Lord's hand in our life and ministry are we able to accomplish anything for HIS NAME, IN HIS NAME, AND FOR HIS GLORY! It is my prayer that the hand of the Lord will always be evident in my life as His child. abiding in his bidding, seeking his guidance, and living in the power of the Spirit at all times.

**C. The Lord calls us to be faithful servants.** In my reading and study of the book of Philippians, the Lord turned my attention to the kind of life Timothy and Epaphroditus (Philippians 3:19-30) lived as they served the Lord. Both men served alongside Paul in the ministry.

Reflecting on this, the only way Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus and even myself can be found faithful is when we always put to heart and mind the work of Christ—the cross, in Philippians 2:6-11. Only the cross enabled Paul and the great men of the faith to be found faithful. And only the cross will keep me faithful until the end. I need to always be looking and be confronted by the CROSS.

How to be confronted by the Cross? I need to be in the Word and be confronted by it daily. I need to open my heart and mind to the Word that transforms that changes will be evident. I need to rely on the Spirit of God to do the things He wants done. So help me God.

**D. The work is always challenging.** Challenges in the ministry will always be present. The Lord uses challenges to test our patience and endurance, to strengthen

our faith and reliance on Him. The Lord Jesus gave us His greatest resource – the Holy Spirit who is our Helper, our Intercessor. Thus, when challenges come, we can be certain that we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is always with us!

Because I have the Holy Spirit to guide, lead, empower, and transform me, the challenges I face, should be surrendered unto Him! Looking back at the challenges I have been through in the past has allowed me to know and trust in the power of the Holy Spirit. And now, I am certain that He will do it again! As such, I will be able to walk in His calling for me at such a time as this.

**E. The work is an UNPARALLELED privilege and a CALLING.** While we are all called to make disciples, being a Christian worker serving fulltime is a special calling to me and even a greater privilege to consider. It is such a great privilege for me to be up and center as to how the Lord is leading and growing His church to be like Him and for His glory. This season made me appreciate the calling to be the Lord's worker in the field, specifically here in GCF South Metro. **Our service will always be seasoned with challenges that should allow us to look to Jesus instead of asking the whys!** I believe, more than looking at the challenges at hand, I should praise God for the calling and desire to enjoy the given privilege for whatever season I am in. With the privilege I have to serve, to lead is the responsibility to do the God thing at the right time, the right way producing results that only God would be glorified. And the only way I will be able to live out this calling faithfully is to be in God until the end. To press on, to stand firm until the end, all by His grace.

Six months came and passed so swiftly, but so meaningfully. The season of rest is over but its yield - restedness in the Lord should always continue. The Lord closes this privileged opportunity of sabbatical with a great reminder of His great love for me. Truly, His love is eternal and will see me through all seasons of my life. Thank you, Lord, for the work that you have put in my heart in this season of rest.

*I have loved you with an everlasting love therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 31:1* ✠