# **Moving Onward**

Countless hours have gone into developing this class, coupled with nearly two decades of ministry experience. If the class seemed well-thought-out, you now know why.

The initial concept for this training occurred after spending a handful of years in full-time residential ministry. The traumas that we faced daily, mixed with the residual pain of those who had experienced these horrors, were too much for my soul. I needed to find a way to allow the Lord to carry the heavy burden, or I would have checked out of the ministry and maybe life. Learning my identity in Christ allowed me to co-labor with Christ and put the heavy burdens on His shoulders. Learning listening prayer (Inner Healing Prayer) allowed me to walk with people in their brokenness and point them to Christ for healing.

A few times in my journey, I felt suicidal, although thoughts of my family and those I was ministering to reminded me my job on earth wasn’t done. Moreso, our Heavenly Father’s tender and loving voice beckoned me to have hope: an eternal hope not from myself but God Himself.

I can say my journey has been very messy, but in that weakness is where I often encountered the goodness of God. I’ve prayed for years, asking Him to do what Jesus told us to pray. “Send workers into the fields” (Matt 9:37-38). I believe this class is an answer to that prayer. I hope this class has developed leaders who can take the Gospel message far and wide.

Matthew 9:37-38

*“37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”*

My desire was for this class to be straightforward and practical. Today, there is a greater need for lay ministers who can re-present Christ well in all spheres of society. There is a huge need for loving people who come alongside others in their pain. The Church hasn’t been able to do this by and large because the Church itself hasn’t been deeply rooted in Christ or His Word. The Church hasn’t been emotionally healthy or spiritually mature. As such, the world has been losing its opportunities to experience the “salt” and “light” of the Gospel. This community, your community, seeks to remedy this problem. First by each individual embracing their own sanctification journey and secondly by embracing an intimate community. To the extent that you embrace these two things is the extent to which you can become a healing agent, both inside and outside the church.

1 Corinthians 15:58

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.”*

*John 10:10*

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have [it] abundantly.”*

Phillippians 1:21-30

*“21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if [I am] to live [on] in the flesh, this [will mean] fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both [directions,] having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for [that] is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again. 27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by [your] opponents--which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that [too,] from God. 29 For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear [to be] in me.”*

Will you embrace the call on your life?

Will you intentionally and continually commune with God and others?

Do you believe those around you and outside the walls of the Church are worth fighting for?

There is no other Gospel but the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the King that has come, Jesus Christ. The choice is yours. Choose wisely, brothers and sisters.

*Proverbs 27:19 (NIV)*

*“As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.”*

*John 13:35*

*“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*