



# THE NOBLE HEART™

## Discovery through Deprivation

December 2, 2009 eLetter

I realized and discovered something during the Calling Intensive I did last month. Though I speak at and facilitate these calling retreats, my heart also needs God's intervention during these times of sharing as well.

As I was driving to the facility, I was asking God for instruction, understanding and guidance. He told me that I was to give my small-group facilitator spot to one of the men on the alternate facilitator list - which I did gladly, but with a little reluctance. For you see, the Calling Intensive is 40% teaching and 60% small group interaction.

After opening the retreat with a recap of the Calling Retreat material and giving instructions for the first small group time, the men went into their groups for two hours. During those hours I was able to listen in on three of the groups that were in open areas of house. I was excited about what I knew was taking place in the hearts of these men.

The next morning, I took the men into their journey in terms of life development stages. Then I released them into their small group to continue what they had begun the night before. And once again, I was only able to eaves-drop on the movement of God within these men during their small group time. When the men finished their group time that morning, I sent them out to be with God under a "discipline of silence". With my journal, Bible and my heart, I went to an alone spot. As I asked God what He wanted to talk to me about, He asked me what was going on in my heart. "Sadness," I said. Though I was doing what I love, I felt sadness for some reason. Then I sensed God ask me, "Why?" Without having to give the answer much thought I said, "Because I wanted to be in a group of men - listening, seeing, probing, and offering." Then God followed up with, "Then what does that reveal about who you are, what I've put in your heart?" My heart answered, "I love to teach on calling, but there is more -What is it God?" The name "Outfitter" rose up in my heart. I wasn't even sure what an "Outfitter" was, but I knew this was a new level of clarity for me.

An "Outfitter" is... "an individual or company that provides equipment, supplies and guidance for the pursuit of certain activities".

I realized that my true desire in teaching and writing is to equip and supply people with the ability to interpret life as God instructs them in the way chosen for them. (Psa. 25:12) AND, I want to help them read the topographical map that God has placed in them. I desire to be an "Outfitter".

What was missing at this event was my opportunity to help a few men read the map written on their heart in the form of story, desire and journey. For me to see this more clearly, God had to extract it from my experience so that I could understand it more clearly.

Sometimes a desire can only be understood in the absence of its fulfillment. We have moments when everything seems right – we are doing what we were made for and our actions are creating meaningful results. But most of the time we really aren't clear as to what this specifically reveals about who God has made us to be – about the true glory of our life. So...God will remove an element, and in its absence, we discover our deepest desires – and come to understand their place in our lives more fully.

Through God's invitation, I came to understand the importance of staying alert to my heart and my life through conversation and intimacy with God.

Your every-discovering friend,

Gary