

Welcome to the Real World

Gene Warr

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Joshua 3:1-4.
- B. If we want to know where we are going, the Bible gives a roadmap. (Psalm 119:19)
- C. We can count on tribulation. (Leviticus 26:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:4)
- D. Jesus has promised us tribulation. (John 16:33; Luke 9:23)

II. Emotional.

- A. One must operate within an emotional margin.
- B. Recognize that change drains emotionally.

III. Time. (Ephesians 5:16-17)

- A. Redeem the time, which means do not waste time.
- B. Do not be a slave to time.
- C. Operate with a margin.

IV. Authority.

- A. When we resist government authorities, we resist God. (Romans 13)
- B. The Bible is an authority.
- C. We are to submit ourselves to every civil authority as to the Lord. (2 Peter 2:9)

V. Humility.

- A. We need shepherds for our souls and another like-minded couple. (Jeremiah 3:15)
- B. Remember that you are young.
- C. Boast in God who gave everything good to you. (2 Corinthians 10:17; 12:5; 3:5; 1 Corinthians 4:7)

VI. Your own walk.

- A. Protect your walk with God zealously. (Psalm 27:4; Philippians 3:10)
- B. A personal walk makes us more like Jesus every day. (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Acts 4:13)

VII. Witness.

A. We are to be wise and harmless about our witness in the world. (Matthew 10:16)

B. Win the right to be heard.

1. By the quality of your work.
2. By exhibiting genuine care for people.
3. By being helpful.
4. By your language.
5. By your pleasant personality.

VIII. Your ministry.

A. The ongoing of the kingdom of God does not depend on you. (Psalm 127:1)

B. We are running the long run.

IX. Your fellowship. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; 4:12)

X. Your finances.

- A. Make a budget.
- B. Spend less than you make.
- C. If you do not have the money do not buy it.
- D. Whatever else you do, work with a financial margin.

XI. Question and answer.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to work with a margin, and why is it important in so many areas?

2. What are some ways you can improve your witness?

3. What growth area will you work on this week? How will you go about it in a practical and measurable way?
