

## GET READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

January 18, 2015 Various Texts by Bob Branch  
The Springs Vision for 2015

---

**MAIN IDEA:** Today I want to talk about God's vision for The Springs for 2015, the biblical mandate it embodies and call us to jump aboard something much bigger than ourselves.

### 2014: From Cruise Ship to Aircraft Carrier Mentality

#### Mobilizing for God's greater purposes

*Involvement Culture; Training & Preparing; Outside 4 walls*

#### What's Next? Preparedness

**EQUIPPED**... the right equipment for the job

**TRAINED**... know how to use the equipment

**READY**... in right position, attitude/location

**ENGAGED**... focusing it into purposeful action

#### War/Battle Metaphor in The Bible

"we're not struggling (hand-to-hand combat) with flesh..."  
**Ephesians 6**

"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer." **2 Timothy 2:3-4**

"Fight the good fight of the faith." **1 Timothy 6:12**

"... a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out." **Matthew 16:18-19** Message

#### Every soldier is equipped and trained!

"The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher." **Luke 6:40**

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17** ESV

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" **Eph. 4:11-12** ESV

#### In Basic Training *every sailor/soldier gets...*

**Discipline** (developing of habits); **Brotherhood** (family); **Courage** (fear not); **Commitment** (follow through); **Honor** (living to honor the Lord); **Breaking prescribed limits** (finding your own personal stopping point and breaking through it); **Discipline to persevere**, overcome obstacles; **Total commitment** to the mission

#### Dedicate 2015 to Equipping and Training for Readiness to Engage in God's Purposes!

#### Vision '15: Preparing for Mission

Change the world, by bringing heaven's kingdom to earth  
Mobilizing for God's Greater Purposes; Going!

#### Personal... what we see happening in *Individuals*

**RightNow Media** All-Church Web-based training resources

**Training Focus Events/Series** (Sunday AM & Workshops)

**Antioch Bible College**

Cultivate a **Culture of Learning**, Equipping and Training

#### Corporate... what we see happening as a *Body*

**Children Ministry Focus**

"The Well" **Optimized**

**Small Group** Growth & Participation

Discover/mobilize **Administrators & Helps** to help build...

#### Outward... what we see happening thru us *Outside Our 4 Walls*

**Lighthouse** Development

**Come Back To Me**

**YouthForce Hot Dog Outreaches** (3x)

**Spanish-speaking Ministries** launched

**Partners in Witness** (hand-carry into reach zone, Mk. 2:1-12)

Get **involved**. Get **connected**. Get **equipped**, trained & engaged

## WAR-BATTLE DIMENSIONS OF FAITH

---

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our **struggle** (*hand-to-hand combat*) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground” **Ephesians 6:10–18**

“Join with me in suffering, like a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.” **2 Timothy 2:3-4**

“Suffer together with me as a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. No one who serves as a soldier is entangled in the activities of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him.” **2 Timothy 2:3-4** LEB

“Share in suffering as a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” **2 Tim. 2:3-4** ESV

“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which **wage war against your soul**.” **1 Peter 2:11** ESV (Rom. 7:23)

“...who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, **became mighty in war**, put foreign armies to flight.” **Hebrews 11:33–34** ESV

“For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. The **weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world**. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.” **2 Corinthians 10:3–6**

“from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, **the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing**, and violent people are attacking it.” **Matt. 11:12** NLT

“And now I’m going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, **a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out**.

“And that’s not all. You will have complete and free access to God’s kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven.” **Matthew 16:18-19** Message

The Book of **Joshua** (esp. Ch. 1)

“**Fight the good fight of the faith**. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” **1 Timothy 6:12**

“I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” **2 Timothy 4:7**

“if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will **get ready for battle?**” **1 Cor. 14:8**

“Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them **you may fight the battle well**” **1 Tim. 1:18**

## TRAINED-EQUIPPED-READY DIMENSIONS OF THE FAITH

---

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has **been trained for the kingdom of heaven** is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” **Matthew 13:52** ESV

“The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is **fully trained will be like their teacher**.” **Luke 6:40**

“If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly**. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” **1 Tim. 4:6–8**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches **(trains) us** to do what is right.” **2 Timothy 3:16** NLT

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” **Titus 2:11–13** ESV

“But solid food is for the mature, for those **who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice** to distinguish good from

evil.” **Hebrews 5:14** ESV

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to **those who have been trained by it.**” **Hebrews 12:11** ESV

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ” **Ephesians 4:11–12** ESV (thru v. 16)

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped **for every good work.**” **2 Timothy 3:16–17** ESV

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will**, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” **Hebrews 13:20–21** ESV

“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, **useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.**” **2 Timothy 2:20–21**

“Preach the word; **be prepared in season and out of season**; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” **2 Timothy 4:2**

“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to **be ready** to do whatever is good” **Titus 3:1**

“with your feet fitted with the **readiness** that comes from the gospel of peace.” **Ephesians 6:15**