CHAPTER THREE -

'I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to his leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and reading the Bible.'

Salvation can only come about through the work of the Holy Spirit. But the work of the Holy Spirit doesn’t end there.

As disciples of Jesus, we should allow the Holy Spirit to direct every aspect of our life – our attitudes, motivation, behaviour, thinking, speech and interactions with other people. For our faith to mature and develop, we need to be continually obedient and responsive to the Spirit, recognise our need for growth and be prepared to change as he works in our lives.
Spiritual disciplines help us to do just that, to allow God’s Spirit to transform us into people of love. Worship, prayer, service, reading the Bible - all spiritual practices are beautiful and helpful in their own way.

They are also a means to an end. They do not earn us salvation or make God love us more.

Spiritual practices are a way of knowing who God is and aligning our lives towards him.

Being responsive and obedient to the Holy Spirit is not always easy. Our relationship with God will grow, change and develop throughout life.

From the beginning of creation, the pattern of obedience, failure and restoration repeats. People fail to obey and attempt to determine their own destiny. Every time, God provides a way to restore the broken relationships.

Far from being an unreasonable demand for control or a demonstration of power, the desire for obedience is a sign of God's love for us.

He is, and always has been, deeply invested in our flourishing.

As we keep learning and growing in our relationship with God, let us be a listening people. People who are alert and ready to respond as the Spirit leads.
We are called to share the life-saving message of Jesus but we don’t have to do it alone.

God has given us the Holy Spirit, the very thing we need to carry out this mission.

This week, we are focusing on Chapter three of Called to be a Soldier, exploring why it is important to be responsive and obedient to the Holy Spirit, some of the challenges we face when trying to listen to his voice and the importance of spiritual disciplines to our growth.

Whatever this week holds for you, invite the Holy Spirit in and let him take the lead.

🔗 Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at https://sar.my/calledfocus or follow the link in our bio

📚 Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

✉️ Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life
In the midst of all you have to do today, take some time to seriously and honestly consider this: Am I willing to be changed as the Holy Spirit works in my life?
To become stronger, faster, fitter takes practice.

A plan might help, a whole lot of training should help and a healthy dose of perseverance will be essential.

The same goes for following Jesus.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul writes this:

'Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle for our hope is in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people and particularly of all believers.'

- 1 Timothy 4:7-10 (NLT)

Just like physical training, training ourselves in godliness takes effort.

It takes time, commitment and consistency. It takes discipline.

Godliness is not achieved in a day.

We are in training. For life.
Jesus knew that the disciples didn’t fully understand who he was or what he was trying to say, but he still sent them out to spread the Good News.

Even though they still had so much to learn, through the power of the Spirit, given to the disciples by Jesus, they were able to minister to others.

How does this encourage you as a disciple of Jesus?
What comes to mind when you hear ‘spiritual disciplines’?

Does the opportunity to grow in relationship with Jesus excite you? Do you feel overwhelmed by the thought of adding to your already busy schedule? Or do you just feel indifferent?

Spiritual practices are each beautiful and helpful in their own way, but they are also a means to an end.

The goal is to spend time with Jesus, to know more of who he is and to become more like him. Spiritual practices help us to do just that, to allow God’s spirit to transform us into people of love.

They do not earn us salvation or make God love us more. They are a way of knowing who God is and aligning our lives towards him.

Spiritual disciplines are not the goal.

Reading the bible 365 days a year is not the goal.
Sabbath every Sunday is not the goal.

Spending an hour in silent prayer each day is not the goal.

These disciplines, practices, habits are an invitation to be more aware of God's presence. And what an invitation that is!

What spiritual habits are part of your everyday?

Are there any areas of your busy life where you need to slow down, to make time to be with Jesus?
There is power in your story.

There is nothing truer or more authentic than your experience of God at work in your life.

You may feel like your story is lacking a dramatic moment of transformation or you may not be able to identify the moment you gave your life to Jesus at all.

But here’s a truth: you still have a transformation story to tell. You are still living a changed life because you are living in God’s grace. You have a story of God’s faithfulness that no one else can tell and it’s yours to share.

God shows up for each of us, every single day.

Let us tell those stories to those we know and love, trusted voices echoing the goodness of God.

We want to hear your story - take a few minutes to share your testimony, your experience of life with God.

Share your story with us - [https://sar.my/calledfocus](https://sar.my/calledfocus) or follow the link in our bio