

Care Ministry Spiritual Practice Guide - Week 2

June 5-11

Thirty years ago, I wrote a letter to a guy I admired a lot. He was one of the early contemporary Christian musicians: Keith Green. Of course, when we write someone who is well known, most of us think we'll never hear back from them. At best, I thought I might get a generic response from someone who worked for him. This isn't what happened. Instead, I got a personal letter back from Keith Green. His letter to me was only three sentences long, but the fact that he took the time to write to me made a lifelong impression.

Most of us undervalue the impact our words and our availability can have on the people around us. We don't get to decide how tall or short or rich or talented we are. I'm never the smartest guy in the room, but I learned a long time ago that I can be the most available one. I also learned from Keith Green the massive impact availability can have in someone's life. More than just incredibly validating, the act of extravagant availability says "I see you," "I hear you," "You matter."

Don't be stingy with your time; fill it with words that matter to someone. Release them into the world like they were hundreds of helium balloons and see what happens in the lives of the people around you. You'll be blown away by what you see.

I receive hundreds of e-mails a day. Anyone who e-mails me gets a response from me. Do you know why? Because thirty years ago, Keith Green got a letter from a young guy he didn't know and instead of ignoring it, or staffing it out, or blowing it off completely, he made himself available to send me three sentences. Honestly, I don't even remember what he wrote - but I remember this: I felt like a boss because he decided to be available to me.

So, what do you think? Is there someone you can be available to? You don't need to do it for a whole year. How about in the next ten minutes you don't make a big deal of it but write somebody who has reached out to you a note. It only needs to be three sentences long.

Who do you need to be more available to?

Live In Grace - Walk In Love, Bob Goff

Read

Matthew 19:13-15

Reflect

In what ways is God calling you to be more available? What is holding you back? What steps can you take to be more available to care for others?

Is there someone in our church family that the Holy Spirit is nudging you to reach out to? Take Bob's lead and write that person a note this week.