

The Pioneer Spirit

Creating A New Road

1. What is a Pioneer ?

a. **Pioneer: Take the lead or initiative in; open up an area or prepare a way.**

2. Characteristics of a pioneer page 5 and 6

3. Crossroads: A crisis situation or point in time when a critical decision must be made.

a. **The scriptures teach that righteousness exalts a nation and the nation is blessed whose God is the Lord (Proverbs 14:34, Psalm 33:12)**

b. **In March, 1863 Abraham Lincoln said: We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become to self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.**

4. The Old Road

a. In Jeremiah 6:16, The Message says this: Go stand at the crossroads and look around. Ask for directions to the old road, the tried and true road. Then take it.

b. America has lost her way. We have left the old road!

c. Our Spiritual leaders have lost their way as well, sold a package of unbiblical ideals, many run toward misdefined goals and are fueled by untamed egos. Quick growth of their churches and sizes of their congregations are standards for success.

d. The true mission statement of Christ is preaching the good news to the poor, releasing captives, opening blind eyes, setting free the oppressed. Casting out demons, healing the sick, and discipling nations (Luke 4:18; Mark 16:16 - 18; Mathew 28:19).

e. Their message has no power because it has no cross and their lives have no anointing because they don't have the Holy Spirit.

5. The Different Ones

a. Different: Unlike in nature or quality; distinct or separate.

b. The first characteristic of a true pioneer is a willingness to be different.

c. Become A Voice. John the Baptist was a pioneer preparing the way for Jesus's earthly ministry.

6. Pioneers are Giant Killers

- a. Caleb one of the 12 spies Moses sent to spy out the promise land, was a pioneer! In Numbers 14:24 God said he had a different spirit!**

- b. the other 10 were settlers which were leaders in Israel (Numbers 13:2), they were more interested in being comfortable then different, which is just like much of the church today!**

- c. If you are going to be a pioneer then you are going to have to kill your giants to take the land.**

- d. Caleb asked for the Mountain of Arba which was the name of the biggest baddest giant around! When he was 85 he took his mountain!**

- e. America and the church has been built on the backs of different- spirited pioneers.**

7. The Cost

- a. Cost: Value measured by what must be given, done or undergone to obtain something.**

- b. Jesus raised up 12 pioneers to change the world!**

- c. In Matthew 10:16-17; Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. “But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues”.**

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d. Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

e. So what was the price the disciple-pioneers pay?

- **Andrew was crucified.**
- **Bartholomew was crucified.**
- **James, the son of Alphaeus, was stoned to death.**
- **James, the son of Zebedee, was beheaded.**
- **John, the son of Zebedee, was banished to Patmos.**
- **Peter was crucified upside down.**
- **Philip was crucified upside down.**
- **Thomas was martyred in India.**
- **Paul and John the Baptist, not a part of the 12 disciples but two of Christ’s early leaders, were beheaded.**

f. The Gospel we preach in America does not require this kind of cost. For us, Jesus paid it all and our salvation is free.

But the hymn says more than Jesus paid it all! The next line is all to Him I owe!