

The Spiritual Life and Discipleship of the Pastor

Calling

Acts 2:40-47

v. 40- Be saved/ separate yourself from the world.

v. 41- The believers were baptized

Baptism is more about God than about the people being baptized.

What disciples do...

- ✓ Bible study. 42
- ✓ Fellowship with other Christians. 42
- ✓ Prayer. 42
- ✓ A spirit of unity. 44
- ✓ Sharing materially. Vv. 44-45
- ✓ Doing ministry. 45
- ✓ Meeting daily for worship and teaching. 46
- ✓ Communion. 46
- ✓ Praising God. 47

What God does...

- ✓ Gives the Holy Spirit. 4
- ✓ Forgiveness of sins. 40
- ✓ Fills us with awe. 43
- ✓ Signs and wonders. 43
- ✓ Granting gladness of heart. 46
- ✓ Adding disciples. 47
- ✓ Granting favor with others. 47

Growing as a Christian and Church: Acts 4:32-37

Christians are unified in heart and mind. 32

They shared their wealth. 32

- ✓ Eliminated poverty
- ✓ Met needs

Because of this...

- ✓ Apostles had authority. 33
- ✓ They could bear witness to the resurrection. 33
- ✓ God could work in and through them. 33

Identifying a Call: Jeremiah 1:1-10

Intro- God has a plan.

He knew you before you knew him.

He called you before you were born.

How to know if you are called:

✓ Ability

Do you have the gifts that are necessary to fulfill the call?

God gifts those whom he calls. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

✓ Energy

Do you have a passion for what God is calling you to?

Seeing needs that no one else is meeting is a call. (Mark 5:25-34)

✓ Interest

Are there things that always capture your attention?

If you are called, God will fill you with compassion and empathy. (Matthew 9:36)

✓ Opportunity

Are there doors opening to you for ministry?

God will give you ministry opportunities. (Ephesians 3:7-8 and Exodus 3)

✓ Anointing

Has God spoken to you and used you in ministry?

God speaks through you in ministry. (Matthew 10:19-20)

Operating In Your Call: 2 Kings 4:1-7

1. Listen to God speaking. V. 2
2. Obey what he says. V. 5
3. Keep going until the end. V. 6
“pour until there is no more”

Being Available to God

Christians are born. John 3:7

This is the work of evangelism.

Gospel is for all people.

There is no partiality with God; God loves everyone.

Disciples are made. Matthew 28:19

A disciple is a learner.

Everyone is qualified to learn, but not everyone chooses to be a disciple.

A disciple is a “doer of the word” (James 1:22)

Intentionality/ purposeful change

Participatory

Discipleship

Called to be Planted: Psalm 92

The righteous will...

- ✓ Be planted in the house of God. V. 13
- ✓ Flourish there. V. 14
- ✓ Bear fruit in old age. V. 14
- ✓ Stay fresh. V.14
- ✓ Proclaim God's Word. V. 15

Called to Holiness: Hebrews 12:14-17

To please God pursue:

- ✓ Peace
- ✓ holiness

But beware because Satan uses...

- Affliction (pain) to pull us away from the Lord.
He makes us focus on bad things instead of the Lord.
God provides healing from our pain (now and/or in eternity)
- Temptation (pleasure) to pull us away from the Lord.
Distracts us from the things that are important.
God provides deliverance from temptation

We must be on the lookout for both.

The Results of Temptation: James 1.13-18

First, remember that temptation is not from God.

Desire leads to temptation

Desire comes from Original Sin,
Which we inherit from Adam.
We think only of ourselves.
Original Sin = Selfishness.

Temptation leads to sin.

Temptation is not the same as sin
But sin, when we dwell on it, leads us to sin.
We must focus our thoughts on God and good. (Philippians 4.8)

Sin leads to death.

When we live in sin we die.

There is a solution (1 John 1.9)

We must confess (admit our sin)
Apologize (I'm sorry/ make amends)
Repent (turn from sin- 180)
Receive God's grace (forgiveness)

A Christian Lifestyle

Being a Christian is not about social standing...

- Being a Christian is about our position- our lifestyle. (activities)
How we act and what we say
- Being a Christian is about our priorities- our values. (relationships)
Church/ Faith/ Marriage/ Family
- Being a Christian is about our perspective- our beliefs. (faith)
What the Bible says
What the church teaches
How God leads

Abiding in Christ- John 15:7

Starts with prayer

Abide in Christ.

Sometimes nothing seems to happen while we abide.

It takes a long time for the vine and branches to mature

It is years before there is fruit on some vines

But as we abide, his word abides in us.

Getting God's word in us sometimes takes years

- ✓ Listen to his voice in your prayers
- ✓ Read his word daily
 - Plan to systematically read the Bible daily
 - Read/ study/ meditate on the whole Bible each year
- ✓ Hear God speaking through others

Prayers are answered.

Stay connected to God to grow in him

We get closer to him

He makes us more like him

I will begin to want/ desire God's will.

My prayers will be in God's will because he has changed me

I will become worthy of his blessings.

I will become more like him

God Doesn't Give Us Fear: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

God does give us:

- ✓ Power- overcomes the powerlessness of the world
- ✓ Love- balances our insecurities, bigotry and hate
- ✓ Sound mind- grants us victory over paranoia and anxiety

All of these are the opposite of fear and lead to:

Faith- God fills us with faith.

Faith is a spiritual gift. 1 Corinthians 12:9

Faith is present at conversion. Ephesians 2:8

Faith grows as we use it. Matthew 13:31-32

Favor

Jesus grew in favor. Luke 2:52

Christians are favored by the people. Acts 2:47

Fulfillment

Jesus offers us an abundant life. John 10:10

This includes a sense of purpose.

The Practice of Ministry

Being called means ministry is part of our spiritual life and obedience to God

How to be a Shepherd: Ezekiel 34:1-12

- ✓ Make the weak strong
Encourage others by feeding, clothing, sheltering
- ✓ Make the sick well (healing)
Pray for healing (James 5)
Advocate for appropriate medical care
- ✓ Bandage the injured
Care for the hurting, oppressed, hungry, etc.
- ✓ Reclaim the wandering
Take care/ heal those who are emotionally hurt or driven away
Guide those who are wandering
- ✓ Find the lost
Be active in the search for those who don't know Christ
"do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5)
- ✓ Be kind
Christians are always Christians
Ephesians 4:32
- ✓ Treat the sheep well
Golden rule- "Do unto others"
Sheep are a gift—Our calling is a treasure
- ✓ "Not take advantage"
Three general rules
 1. Do no harm
 2. Do good
 3. Stay in love with God

How to not be a Shepherd

- Feed only yourself, or feed yourself first. V. 2
- Enriching yourself at the expense of the flock. V. 2
- Sacrificing the flock for your own glory. V.2

What We Do In Ministry: Romans 15:14-33

1. We have a mission to unbelievers. 14-22
 - Paul ministers Jesus to Gentiles
 - We are called to reach pre-Christians
 - Go where Christ is not known. V. 20
2. We have a ministry to believers. 23-33
 - Longing to support those of faith
 - Making plans to do ministry
 - Without a plan, nothing will happen
 - We must be purposeful in praying, visiting, teaching, etc.
3. Our message is the good news. 16
 - John 3.16- Holy Spirit works through the gospel message
 - God loves
 - God gives
 - We believe
 - We live
4. Our motive is to bring glory to God. 17
 - Lifting up Jesus draws all people. John 12:32

Feed, Feeding, Fed: John 21:15-19

1. Feed my lambs.
 - Nurture those who are new in the faith.
 - Be patient
 - Care for them
 - Advise and teach them
 - Know and remember that they will stumble sometimes
 - Don't lose heart
2. Shepherd my sheep.
 - Bring in those who are wandering.
 - Use the rod and staff of the shepherd- Psalm 23
 - Do the work of an evangelist- 2 Timothy 4.5
 - Admonish, rebuke and correct the flock- 1 Thessalonians 5.14-15
3. Feed my sheep.
 - Help all to grow to spiritual maturity.
 - Teach those who are firmly planted in the church
 - Be an example of faithful commitment to God

A Ministry Manifesto: Colossians 1:28

- ✓ Him we preach.
 - Jesus is the key and central focus of our message
 - “Every man” is used three times
 - The message is universal
 - Everyone needs Christ
 - And anyone can receive Christ
 - Winning souls- we have an imperative to do evangelism
- ✓ Warning Every man.
 - Prophetic warnings
 - Exhort to holy living
- ✓ Teaching every man
 - Discipleship training
 - Pointing them to Christ
 - Helping them to know Christ
 - Living the Christian faith with others
- ✓ Perfecting everyone in Christ
 - Living in faith leads to holiness
 - Strengthening and encouraging faithfulness among believers
 - Leads to ‘perfection’
 - Leads to others coming to Christ

The Example of Paul

All leaders and pastors in the Christian faith should imitate Paul- 1 Cor 11.1

He teaches- 2 Timothy 3.16-17

He evangelizes- 2 Timothy 4.5

He writes-

He wrote 13 letters that we have

And at least two that we don't

He plants churches

The Bible refers to at least 14 churches started by Paul

He trains leaders

Timothy, Titus, Silas, Barnabas, John Mark, Gaius, Epaphroditus...

Disciplines of a Disciple

Prayer and Fasting: Isaiah 58:5

What is it?

Abstinence from food to pursue God more deeply in prayer

Why do we fast?

- ✓ Humility before God (Ezra 8:21)
- ✓ Repentance and prayer (Joel 2:13)
- ✓ Concentrate on God's Word (Exodus 34:28)
- ✓ Regain spiritual health (Joel 2:13)
- ✓ Help in major decisions (Acts 14:23)
- ✓ Break daily worldly routine (2 Chronicles 20:15)

When should we fast?

Times of great spiritual need

How do we fast?

Discretely (Matthew 6:16-18)

Pure motives

Varied lengths

“Unto the 9th hour”

Typical prayer time (Acts 3:1)

24 hour fast (beginners)

3 day fast

1 week fast

Varied Styles

Nothing at all (Esther 4:16)

Water allowed (Luke 4:1-2)

Certain foods only (Daniel 1:8-15)

No solids

Daniel fast (Daniel 1:8-15)

Fruits and veggies only

Good for beginners

Rice in small amounts

Memorization

Why do we memorize verses?

Conformity to Christ (1 Samuel 3:21)

Triumph over sin (Psalm 119:11)

Resist temptation (Matthew 4:3-11)

Comfort and council (Proverbs 25:11)

Communicating the Gospel to unbelievers

Encouragement (Psalm 103:8-14)

Helpful tips

Learn topic and reference first

Start with verses important to you first

Learn one phrase at a time

Meditation: Psalm 1:1-3

What is Christian meditation?

Reflection on God, His Word, and His works

Detaching from hindering influences; attaching to God

Why do we meditate?

Worship (Psalm 27:4)

Instruction (Psalm 49:3)

Encouragement (Joshua 1:7-8)

Transformation (Romans 12:2)

Journaling

Why do we write?

Remember thoughts

Release our emotions

Pray

What do we write?

Biblical insights

Prayers

Sermon notes

Daily events

Singing: Psalm 95:1-2

Why do we sing?

Worship with your voice (Psalm 103)

Thankfulness (Colossians 3:16)

Joy (James 5:13)

Humble ourselves before God (Psalm 100:1-2)

More in-depth during worship class

Listening (John 10:27)

- ✓ For instruction (Proverbs 19:27)
- ✓ To receive wisdom (James 1:19)
- ✓ To hear God's voice (Revelation 3:20)

Godly Living

Consistency (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Accountability (Galatians 6:1-5)

Prayer partner (James 5:10)

Someone trusted

Someone **not** in your congregation

Possibly others in your class

Helps keep your life holy

You are the example (Matthew 7:3-5)

1 Timothy 3 Model

- ✓ Above reproach (blameless)
- ✓ Husband of one wife (faithful)
- ✓ Temperate (self-controlled)
- ✓ Respectable (honorable)
- ✓ Hospitable (welcoming)
- ✓ Able to teach
- ✓ Not given to drunkenness
- ✓ Gentle and humble
- ✓ Manage his family
- ✓ Spiritually mature
- ✓ Good public reputation