

BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

COURSE: CCM112 - MINISTERIAL CALL - 2

INSTRUCTIONS

Read it thoughtfully and answer all the questions as you go along.

NOTE: If you have any questions or comments (whether you agree or disagree with the author) you may share them on a separate sheet of paper, as we are interested in what you think.

INTRODUCTION

Bethel Leadership Institute is an institution of higher education, whose primary purpose is to provide religious education and ministerial training. It awards Certificate, diploma, and Advanced Diploma on all levels for satisfactory completion of its curriculum. It offers varied programs of study for Christian workers and ministerial candidates.

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INSTRUCTIONS

This is your book to keep for future reference. So please do not go through this note, just answering the questions, without reading the material, because that would be circumventing the purpose of the course.

If you have any questions or comment, whether you agree or not with the author, you may share them on a separate sheet of paper. We are interested in what you think.

YES, the world is getting worse and worse,
But GOD is still on the Throne,
Reigning in HIS Might and Glory

And your heart and life are in HIS Hands
And His timing is perfect.
So just thrust HIM.

TERMINOLOGY

Often people will ask, "What church are you with?", wanting to know what our beliefs are. And we may use terminology that is defined variously and bears different connotations.

If you say you're Pentecostal, someone may think "Holy roller". If you say Charismatic, someone may think you are limited to faith and prosperity. If you say you are Full Gospel, that says you believe in the Baptism in Holy Ghost, and healing --- not faith healing, but Divine Healing.

Sometimes I say we are Christians --- Bible-believing, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled. And all Evangelicals could claim the first two points.

If you say you are:

Un-denominational, it might seem undecided, with no certain doctrine.

Non-denominational, it might seem antagonistic and anti-denominational.

Trans-denominational, it could seem high-minded and far above all the rest.

Inter-denominational, sounds like you can go in and out freely, fellowshiping all parts of the Body of Christ.

PASTOR OR EVANGELIST

What is the difference between a Pastor and an Evangelist?

An Evangelist is a soul winner and a fisher of men.

A Pastor is a sheep feeder and married to the flock.

A Pastor must have a fresh sermon for every service.

An Evangelist may have Just a few main sermons that he delivers over and over again, but probably never the same way exactly.

An Evangelist can be more bold in denouncing sin, rousing, and stirring people out of their complacency.

A Pastor must deal more tenderly, patiently, and tactfully with those who are slow to overcome things.

An Evangelist has a fiery flare that moves people.

A Pastor is a diligent teacher and manager.

Usually, a Pastor has a steady secure salary.

An Evangelist may "eat chicken one week and feathers the next".

A missionary can be a foreign missionary, who travels overseas, or a home missionary such as to the ghetto, college students, the American Indians, the homeless, single parents, etc.

TITLES AND TERMS

The term "clergy" comes from the Greek word "cleros", meaning a lot or portion (as of land); and as God's flock is his possession or heritage, it is translated God's "heritage" in I Pet. 5:2,3 and therefore, originally referred to all the people of God, not just the officers of the Church.

The Word "clerk", one of humble business duties, also descended from it.

But today, the term clergy is extended as a designation of any kind of religious' leader, such as priests, rector, rabbi, etc.---as distinct from the laity.

The word "reverend" is used only once in Scripture, and refers not to a minister, but to God himself; "He sent redemption unto his people; He hath commanded his covenant forever; Holy and Reverend is his Name." Ps. 111:9

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." Ps. 89:7

Reverence means to feel a sense of shame or modesty toward oneself, before another, and thus regard and respect for them. It is translated fear or awe as in Heb. 12:28, etc.

Heb. 12:9 shows that it is proper to reverence your parents. In Eph. 5:33, Paul instructed wives to reverence their husbands. But it is never used as a title of honor for a minister in the New Testament. Heb. 12:28 teaches that we are to serve God "with reverence and Godly fear."

Perhaps we should pray that we might be worthy of reverence. You may not wish to use "Rev." as a prefix to your name, but I am sure that we should not condemn other clergymen for using it in certain instances such as the Yellow Pages.

The term "minister" means a "servant". It is used only of the Levites and Priests in the O.T., as those who attended upon the work of the Lord. Originally it meant to perform some service or render care to others.

In the N.T., it is extended to Apostles (missionaries). Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. It also applies to song leaders. In a sense, every Christian is a minister, because every member of the Body of Christ should function in some kind of service to other people for Christ's sake.

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY: The word doctor just means one who has learned. A doctor's degree is just like an overgrown preacher's card. It's just to establish credibility. I Thess. 5:12 says, "...know them which labor among you..." this means to acknowledge or... publicly recognize ministers as such. If a person has become expertise in Scripture, - -then a formal degree merely certifies it. And of course, Rom. 13:8 says that we are to give credit to whom it is due. But a minister's license or degree is an earthly thing, not heavenly. It is used in this world just to gain an audience that we might teach the Word to them.

The most important thing is not how much Bible we have memorized, but how much love we show to God and others, for Christianity is not a head religion, but a heart experience. It's not an I.Q. thing, but first of the human will, then involving head and heart in balance. It's better to know a little truth and practice it, than to understand great revelations and profane it by living in sins.

We are to be ministers "...not of the letter that killeth, but of the Spirit (that) giveth life." II Cor. 3:6. A speaker may give out an abundance of the academic letter of the law, and yet it contains little of the Spirit of God, which is the warmth and power that produces fruit. For instance, a sermon might be as bright as a clear winter day, but as cold as a winter day when no flowers bloom.

Eph. 4:15 says, "Speaking the truth in love." Prov. 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Gold represents love and silver symbolizes truth. Love is the interior essence, and truth is the external form. I Cor. 13:2 says. Though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge...and have not charity, I'm nothing." Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. V.8.

In Scripture the "pastor" is listed next to last, but in society, the pastor 5 ranks at the top, all other ministers falling below him in respect. But earthly and Heavenly status are usually inverted. Jesus said, "The first shall be last and the last shall be first."

Thus, we see that words change and evolve in their meaning. There is a big difference between the original meaning and the common usage of today. I do not feel that it is improper to use such prefixes as "Rev." or "Dr.", etc. attached to our name today upon our letterhead, certificates, or listing in the phone book or upon religious programs and printed literature. It is more or less just for the benefit of the public, not for our close friends or our brothers and sisters in Christ, who know us.

We may use some religious title such as reverend, out in the world, because it is what they understand; but we don't want the saints to refer to us as chief, boss, or head. Among our brothers and sisters in Christ, the highest, sweetest, most beautiful, and honorable title that we could ever hope to bear is simply, "Brother" or "Sister".

In conclusion, a preacher's license, title, or degree should never be held in pride or vain glory, and neither should anyone else be jealous or envious, for all that would be silly and immature.

CORRUPT CHURCHES CONDEMNED

Many churches, religious groups, and cults have been built up, but not for the glory of God. Any group who claims to be the only true church is not. They are of that great and abominable church, the whore of all the earth, mystery Babylon. When their leaders speak or teach, they do so with their academic learning, but they deny the Holy Ghost which inspires and gives utterance. They deny the miracle working power of God and teach their followers to deny the miracles of God.

But woe unto them that are at ease in Zion. Woe to their leaders who say, "All is well in Zion." The slogan of the anti-christ is, "Peace and safety", but sudden destruction shall come upon them. The devil lulls (lulls - **a temporary period of calm or diminished activity**) and pacifies many church folks into carnal security. They are very morally liberal and puffed up in their hearts.

They may have very fine sanctuaries and clothing, but they rob the poor and persecute the meek and poor in spirit. They are stiff-necked and high-headed and have gone astray from the right way of the Lord. They have been corrupted through pride, false doctrines, and false teachers. Cursed is the man that puts his trust in man and accepts mere human precepts. Those who say there is no hell are bound with the everlasting chains of the devil, from whence there is no deliverance. When they are fully ripe in their iniquities they shall perish. Woe unto all who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell ---that hell, which is a lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment.

FACTORS IN SIZING UP A MINISTRY

We can consider three factors in evaluating a pastor or evangelist:

1. **First**, Personal character, 2. Doctrine, 3. Success.

The personal character of a minister involves righteousness versus corruption, and to what degree their integrity may be compromised. Are they carnal and fleshly or spiritual and innocent?

2. **Secondly**, what is their degree of Spiritual light? Are they operating on limited truth such as some Baptist schools of thought or have they progressed to the full gospel truth, the baptism into the Holy Spirit, divine healing, etc. To what degree do they entertain any Biblical extremisms that are tantamount to error?

3. **Thirdly**, we can consider the worldly success or failure. Is it a big super church or is it a tiny little ministry? Are they just starting out or have they become well established?

Now there is another consideration and that is the fact that these three things do not necessarily remain static, but can be in a flux of change:

The minister may have been pure and clean at one time, but his Christian character is beginning to deteriorate. The minister may be growing in Bible Truth or may be getting into error.

And then again, a Church may be going downhill and even closing up or it may be headed for very great success and prosperity. Things don't always stay the same.

JUST LET THEM ALONE

We are to know one another by their fruit. You may wonder where some are going or coming from. Just pray about it.

But if you're still not sure, just hold your peace and wait. Act.5:38,39 says, (N.I.V.) "Therefore in the present case I advice you: leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourself fighting against God!"

We should certainly neither recommend or condemn someone that we don't know. Paul condemned some people he knew in II Tim.2:16-18 and I Tim. 1:19,20.

SEVEN IMPORTANT POINTS

1. "He must increase, but I must decrease." Jn. 3:30

John the Baptizer's ministry started before the public ministry of Jesus but was soon eclipsed in popularity by the ministry of Christ. This is the natural meaning of the above statement. But there is also an extremely significant spiritual meaning; the self-nature must decrease in us, and God's Divine Nature must increase in us.

We must be crucified as the Apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20

As ministers stand to share the Gospel, we should pray that others will see Jesus in us. We need to get to the place where it is no longer "I", but Christ that lives in us, speaks His word through us, and performs His works through us. We do not operate upon our own wisdom and strength. We tap into the Mind of Christ: Eph. 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." God in us is great!

2. Mt. 24:48 - 51 "But and If that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth His coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for Him, and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We need all of the servants and reapers in the great harvest field, but notice the phrase, "Delayeth His Coming." I will come back to that. But here the warning is that we must not smite our fellow servants with undue gossip and unjust criticism. According to this passage some former servants of God shall be in hell. There is no eternal security here. Knocking others is usually out of the motivation of envy and jealousy. Children play "King of the Mountain", but ministers must refrain from the competition game.

3. Jn. 3:27 "John, (The Baptist) answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven."

Don't ever envy the successful ministers, who have large followings and are financially wealthy. They will have to answer for their ability, give an account for their means, and will be held responsible for all their opportunities and advantages. And you will do the same. God requires faithfulness not greatness! Jesus said, "He that is faithful in little, shall also be faithful in much." Luke 16:10 And he will be fair and just in Judgment Day.

4. Jn. 21:21,22 "Peter seeing him (John, the Beloved) saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me." It seems Peter got a little nosey here and I hear Jesus saying. That's none of your business. So let others peddle their papers, and you just do what God has called you to. Just see that your sickle is sharp, as Acts 20:28 says, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood." You must be a fruit bearer first before you are a judge of fruit.

5. II Cor.10:12 "For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they are measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Never compare yourself with others, for if you see someone who is not doing as well as you, you may be tempted to pride; and if you see someone who out-excels you, you might be tempted to discouragement.

Don't pour yourselves into someone else's mold or try to make them line up to your criteria. God has made you to be what you are. You are a unique person. Just be yourself as Paul said, "By the grace of God, I am what I am: ... I Cor. 15:10.

6. Rev. 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." We are not only in the 90's, but in the very end times of the last days. Jesus had to suffer. Paul had to suffer. All the Apostles had to suffer. Why should we be exempt? We're not! Heb. 11:35-40 You will suffer gossip, rejection, and persecution. As Paul said in II Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." But we must rejoice in it as Jesus said in Mt. 5:10-12

Peter, James, and John gave Paul and Barnabus the right hand of fellowship. Gal.2:9 But some folks will give you the left foot of dis-fellowship, so lets get brave about it. If you are saved, you are a winner! Are you going to be faithful unto death, as the early Christian martyrs? Is there enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian? Stand up and be counted.

7. II Tim.4:6-8 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

This was Paul's farewell address. Like him we must:

1. Fight the good fight of faith against the devil and all opposition.
2. Fulfill God's plan, purpose, and will for our life.
3. Endure until the end; and not give up.

Now, beware of the attitude that Christ delays His Coming and rather love His appearing, as a bride eagerly anticipating the return of her bridegroom. For if you don't entertain a sense of urgency about the Coming and work of the Lord, I seriously doubt if you are really called to be a minister of God. But if you are looking for Him, Jesus says to you, "Go feed my sheep! Go feed my lambs!" Jn. 21:15,16

HOW TO ACCOMPLISH OUR TASK

What is the greatest need in the church today? What is the most important thing that people ought to do in order to please God? Of course, to increase the quality and quantity of the Kingdom of God on earth:

1. Prayer and consecration: We need to purify the quality of present-day Christianity.
2. Personal witnessing and evangelism: We must extend the quantity of the church.

The ideal is to place a balanced emphasis upon these two things. If all we ever think of is holiness it might tend to diminish the influence of the Gospel among the masses of humanity, whereas over-exaggeration of the other might produce a diluted and weak form of Christianity. We must preserve both principles. The Spirit of God is the activating power, and we are the agent through whom He works.

What ever spiritual principles are true concerning the universal church of Jesus Christ, is also true of the local church, and is also true of the individual Christian. Therefore, seek to purify your spiritual quality through prayer, love, and holiness---and also extend the influence of Christ by worldwide evangelism to win souls.

Thus, we will accomplish our task.

DON'T SACRIFICE QUALITY FOR QUANTITY

Your ministry is not a political organization. You are not trying to be friends with the world. You are not trying to unify all religions. You are not trying to take over or dominate the city» You are a part of the church, and a leader of the church. You are a proclaimer of the Word, without twisting or wresting the Holy Scriptures. You are against the devil, sin, un-scriptural cults, and anything against the Bible.

Pro.29:18 says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Progress may seem slow at times but be faithful and steady with the plans God has given you.

A man of God attended a dinner for 400 Christian workers, and he saw hostility instead of a sweet spirit --- offended spirits instead of friendliness, antagonistic attitudes, instead of joy. A big crowd is not always better. God can't bless a group who are contending over racial, sexual, and denominational discrimination. If workers don't really have the love of God in their hearts for one another, it will soon be revealed. "Be sure your sin will find you out." Num.32:23. The flesh has been allowed to dilute the spirituality of the church too long. Let us pray through and close up the gaps in our ranks.

GO FORTH IN JESUS' NAME

I would rather fail in a good cause, than to succeed in a bad one. I'd rather try and fail than to never try at all. Because if I try there's a chance for success. But if I don't try at all there's no possibility of success. No worthy goal is unattainable. There are ways that lead to everything; and if there is a will in God there is a way. But don't expect God to perform the supernatural for you, when you haven't done the natural. Do your best, and where human effort leaves off. God will take up the cause and carry it through. The wheels of time grind out only what you feed into them. Let God plan your work and then let God work your plan. Cooperate with the Lord completely. Then all the glory will be His and the blessings will be yours.

STANDING FAITHFUL

Big men do little things. Use every opportunity to witness for Christ, also make a few opportunities to witness for Christ. When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary. If you take your stand for the Lord, you're going to make some enemies. All truly great men of God have to stand alone sometimes, but God will vindicate you in due time. Bearing your cross is enduring what ever you must, without self-pity or pride --- with praises to God, not complaints. Don't pray for God to make your problems smaller. Pray for Him to make you bigger than your problems. You can pass through very deep water if you will hold your head up. Preach it loud enough, long enough, and somebody will believe it. If all you're able to do is lead one soul to Christ, your whole life was not in vain. The greatest miracle of all is when God saves a soul.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OR TENANTS OF FAITH

It's important for every church or evangelistic association to properly identify itself as to its beliefs and practices for the benefit of its members and followers. You probably already know what your beliefs are, but the following are suggestions as to how you might state it. On the left is a short, simple version and on the right is a longer and more complete version:

1. We believe the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe in God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the virgin born Son of God, crucified for our sins, resurrected from the dead, ascended to heaven, coming again.
4. We believe that salvation is through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ.
5. We believe in water baptism and that the power and Spirit of God is for today.
6. We believe in the unity of the church under the Headship of Christ.
7. We believe in eternal heaven and hell.

FOLLOWING IS A YET MORE ELABORATE VERSION WITH SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. We believe the Bible is the Inspired Word of God, and the Infallible and Authoritative rule of faith and practice.
2. We believe there is only one true and living God...Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Three in one and one in three. He is Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent.
3. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, is the Divine Son of God, lived a sinless life, worked all manner of miracles, was striped for our healing, and crucified for our sins. He was bodily resurrected from the dead, ascended to heaven, at the right hand of God, and shall return to rule in the Kingdom of God. He is the only Savior of all mankind.
4. All Mankind are sinners by nature and subject to eternal judgment. Man is a free moral agent to choose salvation by repentance from sin, turning to God, with faith in Christ. We may know that we are saved and must endure to the end.

New converts are to be baptized (immersed) in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

We are to pray daily, study the Word often, and fellowship the Church regularly. We are to love others, be humble, and obey God.

5. We believe in the Baptism into the Holy Ghost as a distinct endowment of power from on high for witnessing and service. All the gifts of the Spirit are available today.
6. We believe Christ is the Founder and Head of the Church, which is made up of every born-again believer on earth.

Christ is coming soon to reward His Saints and punish the wicked.

7. We believe in an endless heaven for the redeemed and an everlasting hell for the damned. There are angels and demons.

THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH

To identify ourselves to all others, and to maintain doctrinal unity among ourselves (I Cor. 1:10 and Acts 2:42), we are sent the following summary of the basic beliefs of “Our Church”.

1. THE SCRIPTURES

The Scriptures (O.T. & N.T.) are given by inspiration of God to man as a revelation of His Word, will, and way, and are superior to conscience and reason. The Word of God is the infallible and authoritative rule of doctrine and practice. II Peter 1:21; II Tim. 3:16; I Thess. 2:13; II Pet. 1:19; Matt. 24:35.

2. THE DIVINE GODHEAD

There is only one true and living God, Creator of heaven and earth, etc., who has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. He is unchangeable, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. He is perfect in love and holiness and all other virtues; and to Him is due our worship and obedience. Deut. 6:4; John 4:24; Isa. 45:18; Gen. 1:26; I John 5:7; Mal. 3:6; I Tim. 1:17.

3. THE GOSPEL

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, and the only Savior of all mankind. John 3:16; John 1:41,49; Acts 4:12; John 8:24.

He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:26-35.

He was born of a virgin. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18.

He lived a sinless life. I Peter 2:22; Heb. 4:15; Heb. 7:26.

He worked many miracles. John 11:47; Matt. 11:4,5; Acts 10:38; Acts 2:22.

He died for our sin. I Cor. 15:3; I Peter 1:18, 19; Matt. 20:28; John 1:29, 36; I Pet. 1:19; Rom. 4:25; Acts 13:38,39.

He bodily arose from the dead. Matt. 12:39,40; Acts 13:29,30; Luke 24:39; Acts 4:33; Acts 2:31; I Cor. 15:4.

He ascended into heaven. Luke 24:50, 51; Acts 1:9; Heb. 4:14; Eph. 4:8-10. He is at the right hand of the Father. I Pet. 3:22; Heb. 1:3; Rom. 8:31; Heb. 4:14; I John 2:1; I Tim. 2:5.

4. SALVATION

Man was created in innocence, fell by transgression, and is morally depraved. All men are sinners by nature and subject to eternal judgment. As a free agent to choose for himself, salvation is offered to all who will repent from sin, turning to God and exercising faith in Christ, being forgiven through the merits of Christ, and being born again or spiritually regenerated. A child of God knows he is saved, but he must endure to the end.

The need for salvation I Cor. 15:22; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:23; I John 1:8; Rom. 6:23.

The means of salvation Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; John 6:37; Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 20:20,21; Acts 2:38; Heb. 6:1; Acts 16:31; John 3:3,5.

Proof of salvation Rom. 8:16; Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12; II Cor. 5:17; I John 3:14; I John 2:5.

5. WATER BAPTISM

New converts must be baptized (immersed) in water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost by a divinely authorized minister of God as soon as practical. This is the believer's identification with Christ (death, burial, and a resurrection) in their personal Christian covenant through the ordinance of water baptism.

It is a Bible command. Acts 10:48; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38.

It is a witness to the world. Rom. 6:3,4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 3:15.

Should be done soon. Acts 2:41; Acts 16:33; Acts 19:5

By a minister. Mark 1:4; Acts 8:12; Acts 9:18; Acts 19:4,5.

By immersion. Matt. 3:6,16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38,39; Romans 6:3-5.

Formula Matt. 28:19.

6. THE BAPTISM INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT

After salvation every child of God should receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit, accompanied by the manifestation of speaking with other tongues. A Christian cannot speak with other tongues until he receives the gift of the Holy Ghost; but after he has been baptized into the Holy Spirit he can speak with other tongues.

Holy Spirit baptism comes after salvation. Acts 19:2; Eph. 1:13; Acts 8:14-16; Acts 2:38,39.
 Speaking with other tongues is the common Biblical pattern. Acts 2:4; Acts 8:5-25; Acts 19:17; I Cor. 14:18; Acts 10; Acts 19:6.
 The benefits of tongues. I Cor. 12:7-11; Rom. 8:26; I Cor. 14:4; Jude 20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:17; I Cor. 14:27.
 It is a Bible command. I Cor. 14:5,37; I Cor. 14:1; I Cor. 12:31; John 20:22; Eph. 5:18; John 7:37-39.
 Method of receiving. Rom. 6:13; Heb. 12:2; Matt. 3:11; Psalms 81:10; Luke 11:5-15; Matt. 7:7-11.

7. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

All the gifts of the Spirit are available for those who will use them for the glory of God and for spiritual edification. Rom. 8:32; James 1:17; Rom. 12:6-8.
 Signs follow believers today. Mark 16:17-20; I Cor. 7:7; I Tim. 4:14; II Tim. 1:6.
 Christ gave the church power. Matt. 19:26; Luke 10:19; John 14:12; Acts 6:8; Rom. 15:19.
 I Cor. 2:4,5; Heb. 2:4.
 The gifts of the Holy Ghost should operate in every church service. Rom. 11:29; I Cor. 12:4-11; I Cor. 14:26; I Thess. 5:20.

8. DIVINE HEALING

Apart from being a gift of the Spirit, divine healing is part of the atonement, as represented in the two elements of the Lord's Supper and is an intricate part of the whole Gospel and the heritage and privilege of every child of God. Mal. 4:2- Psalms 103:1-5-Matt. 8:16,17; I Peter 2:24; James 5:14-16.

9. SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS

Christians are to be sanctified, set apart, and separated from sin, the Devil, and the world. It is a crisis act, and a progressive experience.
 It is God's will. I Thess. 4:3 II Cor. 6:17.
 We must be holy. I Pet. 1:15,16; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 5:8.
 We are to be sanctified in our spirit, soul, and body. I Thess. 5:23; Rom. 8:7; II Cor. 7:1.
 Means of sanctification I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 13:12; John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; II Tim. 2:21.
 Worldliness forbidden Rom. 12: 2; John 17:15; I John 2:15-17; II Cor. 6:14; James 4:4.
 Crucifixion of the flesh. Gal. 5:19; Gal. 2:20; Gal. 5:24; Rom. 6:6; I Cor. 3:16; Rom. 12:1.

10. THE CHURCH

The church is the universal family of God's people. I Tim.3:15; Eph. 2:22. It is the body and bride of Christ. Rom. 12:5.
 Christ himself is the foundation, I Cor. 3:11 and the builder thereof. Matt. 16:15-18.
 Christ is the head of the church, which should be called by his Name. Eph. 5:23-25. Col.1:18
 The church is made up of every born-again believer. Rom. 12:4; I Cor. 12:12-27.

All earthly distinctions of race, class, etc., are dissolved. Isa.-56:7; Gal. 3:28; Rom. 15:7; Acts 10:34. The church must be unified. John 17th chapter; Eph. 2:21,22.

As it is obviously impractical for all Christians of one large city to gather indoors or outdoors into one congregation, (as in the days of the early Apostles), God has led us to form "Local Churches" to regularly come together for public worship of God; and Christ honors with His presence every assembly where even two or three believers are gathered together in His Name. Matt. 18:20.

Attendance enjoined by example and precept. Luke 4:16; Acts 3:1; Acts 2:46; Psalms 84:4,10.

Heb. 10:25. Any day is suitable for meetings. Rom. 14:5.

The three functions:

The upreach John 4:24; Psalm 6:2.

The inreach Mal. 3:16; I John 1:7; Acts 2:42; I Thess. 5:11; Col. 3:16; I Pet. 4:8.

The outreach Acts 1:8; Luke 10:2; Mark 16:15,16.

Organization and government I Cor. 14:33; I Cor. 14:40.

The church is to be governed by elders. I Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:6-8.

A divine theocracy is worked out between the pastor, the elders, other officers and the congregation in mutual submission. Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 5:5.

Denominations I Cor. 1:10-13; I Cor. 3:3-9; Matt. 17:4.

Vast ecclesiastical hierarchy Matt. 20:25.

Sectarian (parties). Mark 9:38,39.

Schism (divisions). I Cor. 12:25,26.

11. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper, along with water baptism, is recognized as one of the two ordinances of the protestant church. It is also called communion. I Cor. 10:16,17. It was instituted by Christ Himself, and is a prophecy of His return. Matt. 26:26-30. It is a sacred memorial to Christ, once sacrificed for us as a "Passover Lamb" I Cor. 11:

20-34; I Pet. 1:18,19.

The Body and Blood of Christ are represented by the elements of bread (preferably unleavened) and the fruit of the vine (unfermented). Luke 22:19,20. It is an outward sign of inward grace conveyed to the partakers of his Divine Nature Jn. 6:33, 35, 51-56. I Cor.5:7,8

It is a means of receiving by faith the benefits of the Atonement——forgiveness and deliverance Isa. 53:5; Matt. 15:26.

This should be celebrated often as the presence of Christ is especially in it, perhaps twice a month or so.

12. THE MINISTRY

Throughout history God has always raised up spiritual leaders of his people and called servants to do his will. Mark 3:13-15; Acts 26:17,18; I Tim. 2:7; John 15:16. Christ has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the church today. Eph. 4:10-13; I Cor. 12:28.

Ministers are to seek souls. Luke 10:2; John 4:35; Matt. 4:19.

They are to minister to the church. I Cor 11:34; Acts 20:28.

Ministers are to preach, teach, warn, comfort, counsel, etc. II Tim. 4:1,2; Matt. 28:20; I Thess. 5:14; Rom. 14:19; Gal. 6:1.
Power, authority, and signs I Thess. 1:5; Acts 4:33; II Cor. 3:6 Titus 2:5; I. Tim. 4:11; Mark 16:17-20; Matt. 10:1-8.
Ministers to receive respect and support Matt. 10:40; I Tim. 4:11-16; 5:17-19- I Cor 9-14 I Tim. 5:18; Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:14.

13. END TIME EVENTS

Christ shall come again Matt. 24:3; Rev. 22:20.
At an uncertain time, Matt. 24:36; Luke 12:40.
This is the blessed hope Titus 2:13; I Pet. 1:3.
Resurrection of the saints Jn. 5:25-29.
The rapture of the elect I Thess. 5:2-9; I Thess. 4:14-17.
We shall be changed I Cor. 15:51-54; Phil. 3:20,21.
The tribulation Matt. 24:21,29-31; Rev. 7:14; Rev. 3:10; Daniel 12:1; Acts 2:17-20.
The anti-Christ I Jn. 4:3; II Thess. 2:2-11; Daniel 11:36; Rev. 19:20.
The revelation of Christ visibly, in the clouds, with power and glory, with His saints Acts 1:11; Zee. 14:3-5; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:27-30; Jude 14,15.
The millennium reign of Christ upon the earth Rev. 20:2-7; Rev. 11:13; Isa. 11-6-9-ia. 55;; Isa. 55:25; Micah 4:3,4.
The final overthrow of the Devil Rev. 17:14; Rev. 19:21.
The great White Throne Judgment of Almighty God Matt 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; I Cor. 5:10- II Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 20:11-15.
The wicked cast into hell Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 21:8.
Heaven and earth replaced II Pet. 3:12,13; Rev. 21:1-4.
Eternal heaven Jn. 14:1-3; Rev. 22:1-5; I Cor. 2:9.

IT IS ALSO GOOD FOR YOU TO PROVIDE A LITTLE BROCHURE, FOLDER, OR PRINTED CARD WITH THE GOALS OF YOUR CHURCH OR MINISTRY.

Following is a list of statements from which you may select ideas for your own goals:

To bring glory to the name of God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit.
To provide and maintain a place for the public worship of God.
To be a place where God is worshipped in Spirit and in truth.
To lift up the Lord Jesus Christ.
To have a place to commune with God through prayer, praise, and worship.
To show forth God's power and mighty Hand moving among us.
To further God's kingdom and work here on earth.
To mature and equip the saints to be witnesses to the world, that others may come to know the Lord.
To be an example to the rest of the community/city.
To proclaim the Full Gospel of Christ to our community and around the world.
To reach out to the lost and unchurched that they might find salvation.

To bring people to Jesus that they may be born again.
 To win souls for the Lord and to save lives from sin.
 To help people receive the Baptism into the Holy Spirit, and to manifest all the fruit and Gifts of the Spirit.
 To learn more about God and his love.
 To provide sound Christian teachings relevant to the problems of the world today.
 To give God's people good basic teachings for a firm foundation.
 To encourage people to listen to the voice of God, and to be obedient to his Will.
 To teach people how to live victorious Christian lives.
 To have a place to fellowship God's children in an atmosphere of love.
 To educate and edify one another in every way we can.
 To help people love one another and grow in faith.
 To provide a support group to meet the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional needs of its members.
 To help people to know who they are in Christ and bring the best in them out.
 To encourage God's children to fulfill God's plans for their lives.
 To prepare the Body of Christ to be a true Bride for Christ.
 To be ready for His coming.

WHAT YOUR CHURCH OR MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT (A Statement of Explanation)

We are dedicated to:

- Maintaining a place for the public worship of God, where Christ is the only Head, Chief Shepherd, and High Priest.
- Believing the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the Infallible Authority for all doctrine and practice.
- Reaching for the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- Worshipping the only true and living God in Spirit and in Truth; and celebrating the manifold grace of God extended to all men.
- Striving for the fullness of the Spirit-filled life with all the fruits and Gifts thereof.
- Standing for the faith once delivered to saints and holding forth the Word of Life to all men.
- Emphasizing spiritual praise, fervent love. Scriptural balance, and realistic liberty.
- Recognizing every born-again believer as a part of the worldwide Body of Christ and extending the right hand of fellowship to all true Christians everywhere.
- Sharing the love of God and the unsearchable riches of Christ with all men everywhere.
- Caring for the lost, the sick, and the oppressed; and bringing salvation and spiritual blessings to all people.
- Exalting and preaching Christ, and him crucified, as the Ultimate Answer to all the needs of mankind.
- Publishing the Full Gospel of Christ and declaring the whole council of God by all means available.
- Assuming our share of the responsibility and privilege in the task of the Great Commission to evangelize the world.
- Praying for men to repent and exhorting all to come to Christ.
- Looking for that Blessed Hope of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE MOTTO OF YOUR CHURCH OR MINISTRY

(Following are Some Suggestions)

The Bible is our Book.

The authority of God's Word is our Foundation.

The Inspired Scripture is our Daily Bread.

The Truth of God is our dearest treasure.

Knowing the Lord is our reason for being.

God Himself is the object of our Worship.

The Glory of God is our ultimate design.

His sovereign majesty is our serene trust.

God's Way is our perfect plan.

His grace is the source of our faithfulness.

Christ is our Living Creed.

Christ Himself is "The Answer."

His Deity is our unshakable confidence.

His sinlessness is our Salvation.

Redemption is the unique theme of our religion.

His Atonement is our solution to the sin problem.

The Cross is our central symbol.

The Blood of Jesus is all our righteousness.

The Name of Jesus is our anchor in every storm.

His resurrection is our rejoicing.

The Person of Jesus is our love song.

Sainthood is our highest calling.

Grace is our justification.

Mercy is our marvelous melody.

Salvation is our true riches.

Our inheritance is life everlasting.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is our common denominator.

Divine guidance is our superior wisdom.

The Gifts of the Spirit is our hand tools.

Pleasing God is our sweetest pleasure.

Faith is our means to every need.

Prayer is our method all the time.

Praising God is our favorite pastime.

Devotion is our dogmatic doctrine.

More of God is our chief choice.

Rejoicing is our responsibility.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

The will of God is our supreme desire.

Obedience is our settled practice.

The Sermon on the Mount is our criteria.

Following his footsteps is our Holy privilege.

Love is our only law.

Holiness is our one standard.

Sin and satan is our arch-enemy.

The flesh is our main foe.
Trials is the instrument of our triumph.
Persecution measures our maturity.
Patient endurance is the secret of our growth.
Perfection is our aspiration.
Christian fellowship is our commonwealth.
The church is our filling station and spiritual action center.
Friendship is our pleasant habit.
Simplicity is our studied preference.
Reality is our quest and experience.
The whole council of God is our declaration.
Sincerity is our theology.
Liberty is our set rule.
Balance is our watchword.
Sharing the love of God is our daily exercise.
Kindness is our custom and tradition.
Unselfish service is our own therapy.
Charity toward all men is our honorable duty.
Evangelism is our passion.
Soul is our mission.
The whole world is our harvest field.
The Gospel is our clear message.
How Jesus died and rose again is our Good News.
The Great Commission is our international charter.
Repent or perish is our battle cry.
Divine miracles is our credentials.
Divine providence is our preservation.
God's presence is our enabling advantage.
God's closeness is our boldness.
God's all-sufficiency is our lot.
Abundant life is our possession.
The riches of Christ is our supply.
Healing is our bread and heritage.
Blessings is our promise and portion.
God's abiding faithfulness is our report.
Victory is our testimony.
God's perfect peace is our abundance.
Happiness is our glad story.
A cheerful countenance is our badge of identity.
Gratitude is our attitude.
Child-like humility is our disposition.

The Second Advent is our anticipation.
The Rapture is our watchful hope.
The resurrection is our sure expectation.
Heaven is our Eternal Goal.
The Kingdom of God is our final destiny.

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Much can be done for
God, if we don't care
who receives the credit.

To the servant of the
Lord, his own personal
happiness is not his
goal in life, it's a
BY-PRODUCT.

We can't all be
eloquent preachers,
but we can all be
earnest reachers.

GOD'S KIND OF MINISTRY

So, you feel you've been chosen, called, and commissioned to serve God. But what kind of ministry will you be performing? You desire to be used of God, as an instrument in His Hands; but what sort of work will you be doing?

1. All your efforts could be applied toward your own concept of religious success.
2. Or you could pattern after the prevalent trends of churchanity around you.
3. Or you can follow the example of Jesus and the commands of the Bible.

God's heart beats for people. The entire focus of Jesus was folks. Therefore, your whole emphasis should be upon others --- men, women, boys, and girls ---helping them, encouraging them, assisting them, nurturing them, and of course winning their souls. Never lose your true focus. Apparently, some have lost the vision, and others never had it. Let's look at the things the Scripture's specifically state:

Acts. 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who
*went about doing good,
*and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

Lk. 4:16-19 (Is.61:1-3) Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed me to
*preach the Gospel to the poor;
*He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
*to preach deliverance to the captives,
*and recovering of sight to the blind,
*to set at liberty them that are bruised,
*to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Mt. 11:2-6 (Lk.7:18-23) Questioned by the disciples of John, the Baptizer, as to the authenticity of his messianic identity, Jesus offered the following evidence: go show John the things which you hear and see

*"The blind receive their sight,
*and the lame walk,
*the lepers are cleansed,
*and the deaf hear,
*the dead are raised up,
*and the poor have the Gospel preached to them."

Is. 58:3-14. "Is not this the fast that I (God) have chosen?
*To loose the bands of wickedness,
*to undo the heavy burden,
*and to let the oppressed go free,
*and that ye break every yolk
*to deal thy bread to the hungry,
*that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?
*When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him;
*and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh (family that may need help)"

Mt. 25:31-46 The king shall say to them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
*for I was an hungered, and you gave me meat:
*I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink:
*I was a stranger, and you took me in:
*Naked, and you clothed me:
*I was sick, and ye visited me:
*I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Lk. 10:30-37 Jesus said a man traveling was robbed. They beat him up and took his clothes. A priest saw him and passed by. A Levite looked on him and passed on the other side; but a Samaritan saw him and
*had compassion on him, and went to him,
*bond up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine,
*set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn,
*and took care of him
*and payed his bill
Jesus said. Go and do thou likewise.

Ac.20:35 *Support the weak

Mt.5:42 *Give and loan

Pro.31:20 *Stretch out hand to the poor, reach forth hands to the needy.

Is.50:4 *Speak a word in season to him that is weary

Jn.13:14 *Wash the feet of the saints.

Gal.6:2 *Bear ye one another's burden

Pro.11:30 *Win souls

Dan.12:3 *Turn many to righteousness.

Mt.4:19 *Be a fisher of men.

Jn.15:8-16 Jesus said, "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. ... I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain."(Endure through the fire of judgment)

Eph.6:7 We are all human enough to appreciate appreciation. But the gratitude of others is not our motivation: "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Jn.9:4 The work of the Lord is urgent! "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." As we approach the dark days of the anti-christ, Christian ministry will experience increasing opposition.

Ja.4:17 Necessity is layed upon us "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Thus, we see that true ministry includes such things as preaching good tidings unto the meek, binding up the broken hearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives, opening the prison of them that are bound, comforting those who mourn.

Some flatter themselves in their own eyes Ps.36:2 Like those in Gen.11:4 who said, "Go to, let us build a city, and a tower, who's top may reach unto Heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." Is our ambition for the glory of God, or is it to build our own empire? All of our preaching, teaching, singing, playing, giving, prayer, and fasting must be for the right motivation. Mt.6:1-18.

Do you love crowds or the individual? If we are more concerned with meeting individual needs, than attracting large crowds, the first concern will take care of the second concern. All life is a two-way street: marriage, business, church, etc. Ministers must be more concerned with giving than with receiving.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Mt.28:19 Jesus said, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Verse.20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I'm with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mt.24:14 "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Jesus told Paul in Ac.26:17,18 "The Gentiles unto whom I now send thee:

- *to open their eyes, and
- *to turn them from darkness to light, and
- *from the power of Satan unto God,
- *that they may receive forgiveness of sins
- *and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me.

God loves people very much, and cares about the details of their life. We are to endeavor to meet their spiritual and physical needs. They need forgiveness of sin and healing of their sickness.

Lk.24:47 "And that repentance and remission of sin should be preached in His Name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem." It is your business and mine to get people to:

- * repent from their sins
- * and accept Christ as their Savior
- * to be baptized in water
- * to get them in a good church
- * teach them to pray and worship God
- * exhort them to read and study their Bible
- * to help them be baptized into the Holy Spirit
- * to show them how to have love, faith, and humility
- * encourage them to give of their time, talents, and finances to the Lord
- * and finally to encourage them to witness to others, win souls, to teach others, and to minister for Christ.

JESUS & LOVE IS THE
MOST IMPORTANT!

It's amazing how much can be done,
once we gain the habit of work.

WHAT DO YOU APPEAL TO?

The real estate agent offers people security, prestige, status, and satisfaction. The travel agent offers people recreation, entertainment, relaxation, and pleasure.

There are many books and seminars offering people personal greatness, recognition, fulfillment, and accomplishment.

The psychics and palm readers offer folks romance, riches, power, and fortune. The world allures people with money, fame, and fun, etc.

But all of these appeals are to the natural human nature and is like the lowest common denominator of self-centered living.

But we don't use such "Come on's". Our simple Christian message is, "Repent from your sins, believe the Gospel, and thou shall be saved, to inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven!"

WHAT DO GOD'S CHILDREN WANT

In every crowd there are various feelings, desires, distresses, situations, heartaches, worries, difficulties, wants, troubles, griefs, sufferings, burdens, needs, afflictions, problems, and questions. So don't spend any time answering questions that people are not asking. People want a sermon that will be a wonderful experience to help them change their lives for the better. They want a sermon that will cause them to feel God's presence and to fill them full of God's grace. They long for a touch from God. They want to learn more truth and light — to be fed with the Word of God. Most people want a real challenge, something to get their intellectual teeth in. They want to know God's will for their life, how to be led by the Spirit, and how to walk by faith.

But people don't need just a "Head Trip" to tickle their intellect. They need JESUS HIMSELF to be made very real to them, and the power of the Spirit of GOD to impact their spirit in a redeeming way. And if the service doesn't cause them to LOVE the rest of the members of the Body of Christ, they haven't received any thing at all.

Tell them how to overcome the flesh, the devil, and the world, so they can live a victorious Christian life. Encourage them and lift them up. Give them a message that will make them praise the Lord, and a message worthy of spreading and supporting.

USE THE ADRENALINE

Some nervousness is normal. Experienced speakers channel any nervous energy and harness it for an electric effect. You are not there to show how wonderful you are, but to communicate God's message for the hour. God will strengthen you with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Eph.3:16. They say there are about ten billion brain cells, and we use very little of our total mental capacity. As the anointing of God comes upon you and causes you to rise to the occasion, we go far beyond our normal selves. Effective speaking begins within the man from the Spirit of God. It's not just some external gestures that we put on for the occasion.

THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

One time I passed out little slips of paper and pencils to my congregation and asked them to write down their greatest spiritual needs but do not sign them and pass them to me. I think they did so honestly. Following are the results:

Sincerity	A vision
Fear of the Lord	Believing God for big things
Eyes on Jesus	Self-surrender to God
Devotion to Christ	Surrender to God's will.
Need to seek God.	Need to be led by the Spirit.
More Prayer	Understanding for making decisions
More unselfishness	A hunger for the word
Genuine care for family	Self-discipline
A sweet spirit	Consistency
More determination	Zeal
More humility	Freedom from habits
Generosity	Personal purity
Courage	More maturity
Boldness	True Spirituality
More faith	Deliverance from fear of failure
Security	More self esteem

As we can see, these needs might be described also as lack of love toward the Lord, spiritual laziness, self-centeredness, pride, stinginess, cowardliness, tearfulness, lack of trust, pettiness, self will, love of the world, fleshiness, lust, and etc.

We should not just preach on subjects that tickle our fancy, but upon the genuine needs of the people.

WHAT THE PEOPLE REALLY NEED

They need to feel the presence of God, and have Jesus made real to them. They need to have a worship experience. They want physical healing for their bodies and deliverance from habits and hang-ups. They are seeking guidance and answers to their problems. They need ministry through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation. They want spiritual food to feed their faith. They need good spiritual fellowship and want Christian friends.

Ministers should be gentle and tender, but not too soft and lenient; helpful and obliging, but not pampering and spoiling; nurturing, but not permissive; giving and serving, but not catering and indulging. May God give us balance.

THE MESSAGE FOR MAN

Insane asylums are for the mentally ill, hospitals are for the physically ill, and prisons are for the morally ill. We believe, preach, and practice the Full Gospel, the whole Gospel for the whole man --- spirit, soul, and body ---and it's for the whole world.

THE MAIN THEMES MINISTERS NEED TO TEACH AND PREACH

- * The Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the Gospel of Salvation.
- * Overcoming problems by prayer, intercession for others.
- * Strength, comfort, and perseverance in trials of life.
- * Deliverance from demons.
- * Divine healing and help, the abundant life.
- * The Baptism into the Holy Ghost and exercising the Gifts of the Spirit.
- * Overcoming fear, insecurity, anger, and impatience.
- * Freedom from sexual lust, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and gluttony.
- * Victory over doubt, worry, and discouragement through faith.
- * Love and relationships.
- * Studying the Word of God.
- * Obedience to the will of God for your life.
- * Marriage, family, and parenthood.
- * Giving and prosperity, overcoming financial worries.
- * Witnessing, and winning your love ones to Christ.
- * Praise, thanksgiving, worship, and rejoicing.

STAY SCRIPTURAL

One church group has said, "We speak where the Bible speaks; and where the Bible is silent, we are silent." That position is unnecessary, because God still speaks today, and can reveal His Word and Will to us, as in days of old. The entire Bible is a progressive revelation. But anything God shows us today will be in line with the spirit and nature of the revealed Scripture, which is the "Plume-line", and criteria by which we judge all prophecy, dreams, visions, and revelations. Christians don't go to church to hear philosophy, psychology, poetry, financial business advice, news commentations, and the latest sports scores. They can get all that on T.V. They come to hear the Word of God.

The closer you stick to Scripture the safer you will be. If you want to know how important a subject is to God, count the number of times it is listed in the concordance:

Be light where Scripture is light.
and heavy where Scripture is heavy.

UTILIZING LAY MINISTRIES

The New Testament Church should not make such a clear-cut distinction between clergy and laity. In a sense a preacher is just an overgrown Christian.

If we leave the task of world evangelization strictly to the licensed and ordained full-time pastors, evangelists, and missionaries, the job will never get done. Many revivals of past history have come through lay preaching. Every Christian should be able to give testimony or a witness for Christ. No saint should be silent. God can lay His Hand on any yielded vessel, and use him for His Divine glory, not just the professional clergymen.

The only fundamental prerequisite is an experience of salvation, a consistent Christian life, a working knowledge of Scripture, an interest in helping and blessing other people, and of course the Baptism into the Holy Spirit from which we draw our power.

A deacon or servant of God can gradually overcome any "stage fright" by leading in public prayer, testifying of God's blessings, receiving offerings, and making announcements; then he can graduate on to teaching, prophesying, and preaching sermons. This book might be considered a mini-crash-course on homiletics for those who wish to be effective workers for the Lord.

THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING

Teaching was specifically included in the Great Commission of Christ. The Holy Spirit is a teacher. He is a comforter, guide, companion, counselor, and friend. A good Bible teacher should also be the same.

What should you teach and how should you teach it? Message plus method equals results. The Bible is your in-exhaustible textbook. Good teaching can be an art and a science.

A teacher must be saved, have a measure of health, strength, stability, and be cheerful. He must have an unselfish interest in people, poise, patience under distractions and interruptions, a love of the truth, and a working knowledge of the Bible. Of course, they must live a consistent clean life of prayer, love the church and Christ above all.

Other qualifications of a good Sunday school teacher are a surrendered life, a heart devoted to the task, a conscientious Bible student, a love for the class, willing to work, a spirit of cooperation with other church officers, and a mastery of methods.

EXAMPLES OF METHODS

Teaching by example: God chose Abraham because, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." Gen.18:19.

Teaching by memorials: Ex.12:14; I Cor.11:24-26 The Jewish Passover and the Lord's Supper: "And this shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord throughout your generations." The twelve stones from the Red Sea and the rainbow were teaching memorials.

Teaching by oral transmission: Or by simply telling. Ex. 13:14; Ex. 24:3-4; Mt. 5:1. This is simply word of mouth.

Formal education: By memorization and recitation by the head of each household. Deut.6:6-9.

Self-taught: Each individual does his own private study and meditation. Josh.1:8; Ps.1:1-3.

Organized schools: Later in Jewish history a band of teachers were an instructional group. Neh. 8th: 9th chapters. Also, Ezra had a Bible school.

Christ: The world's greatest religious educator was a master of the art of teaching through creating parables of common experience. He turned all nature into a classroom.

The modern Sunday School: The result of accumulated improvement, experience, and knowledge with its departments, age groups, printed materials, and helps; etc. The church Sunday school started in 1780 in England, over 200 years ago.

Every Sunday school teacher should keep a notebook with each person's name upon a separate page, and record facts and information about them: name, age, sex, address, phone number, occupation, family, etc. Then the notebook can be used as a prayer list, and also to make follow-up phone calls on absentees to see if they are sick, discouraged, or offended, etc.

METHODS OF TEACHING

- * Tell stories --- A story clothes abstract truth with life and action. The Bible is full of stories. Jesus was a masterful storyteller. Everyone loves stories. This method demands no class participation.
- * Questions and answers --- Jesus frequently used questions. Skillfully formulated questions, stimulate and direct the mind. Questions should be simple, direct, and thought provoking, but not so designed to where one may give a simple yes or no reply. Show people how to think, rather than thinking for them. If you give them a written test you can employ the following kinds of questions: true and false, completion (fill in the blank), matching things up, multiple choice, or written answers to questions.
- * Conduct a discussion --- The teacher serves as a chairman or host, and the class or participants carry the conversation. It's good to talk things out, because truth given expression, loses its vagueness, and becomes clear. This is an excellent method with those who are capable of creative thought. But avoid debates.
- * Lecture or talk--- A narrative worth hearing helps those who have hungry hearts and open minds. Jesus said feed My lambs; feed My sheep.
- * Institute a project --- A class can learn much by doing something. Set up some project, or enterprise, and direct them to gather facts and material. Get them to do Bible research, to solve problems, etc.
- * A combination --- Use two or more of the above methods. You can use many tools to teach.

Christ Himself is the example for preaching. He used the Bible of His day. He quoted it, adapted it, and built upon it. His language was simple and directed to the common people; yet He was deeply profound.

CONCEPTS OF TEACHING

- * Cultivation of imitation of examples --- "Observe what I do and do likewise."
- * Transmission of information --- "Listen to what I say and remember."
- * Systematic training --- "Here are the principles of the book, interpreted. Follow them until practice makes perfect."
- * Cultural enrichment --- "Appreciate along with me these beautiful truths."
- * Practical skills --- "If you would be learned, then practice with guidance until you are proficient."

Education combines all of the above: Imitation, Information, Discipline, Culture, and Acquirement. Growth and improvement both spiritually and intellectually should be continuous throughout one's lifetime.

THE ART OF TEACHING

Sin at it's worst demands teaching at it's best. A teacher must have a character worthy of emulation, and possess knowledge worth transmitting. You may teach what you know, but you impart what you are. We must possess Christ in order to share Christ with others. What we are, speaks louder than what we say, and He teaches best who practices what he teaches.

The teacher stands between the Lord and people. The message we impart is divine, the individuals we teach are human. We are concerned with what we are, what we say, how we say it, and to whom we speak. If we do not have absolute confidence, we can not instill certainty into others.

We must perceive, understand, and appreciate our listeners. We may address an audience, but we teach individuals. Really, we must be both person-minded and people-minded, as well as God-conscience. We are at our best when we are not self-conscience.

All education is simply the transmitting of ideas, ideals, and experiences. Christian education is also a mutual sharing of Divine Truth between the teacher and the learner, and results in mutual enrichment. The relationship is a "give-and-take" process. Teaching is inter-action --- the teacher acts and the pupil reacts and learning results. Impact causes response and leaves deposits. The teacher cites facts, the pupil recites facts. But we must remember that not every truth presented, is a truth learned, which calls for repetition and review.

HOW TO PREPARE A SHORT DEVOTIONAL

If you have to labor for your daily bread, you may not have much time for study and preparation of messages. If you are not able to make an exhaustive study or cover large amounts of material, you may do well just bringing out one good thought. Focus on a single idea.

Of course, do not hesitate to write down your thoughts on paper. It will help you to remember them, even if you do not use your notes. Much confidence is born from familiarity with your subject.

It is good to draw from your own experiences, to illustrate the truth you wish to convey. The Apostles spoke of that which they had seen with their eyes and handled with their hands, and personally experienced.

Look in your Bible concordance for one word or phrase. If you have a Chain Reference Bible, starting with a single Bible verse, see where else it will lead you. Most good messages have an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. The introduction and conclusion are relatively short.

In the body you should have at least one illustration, at the end of the message you should call for some decision or action. Three points about your idea are often sufficient. Asking questions of your hearers are very thought provoking, whether they answer out or not. For instance:

"I wonder if we truly understand what Christian work is?" "What does it mean to work for Christ?"

(Spend five minutes on each of these points)

1. What is His work? (Salvation, sanctification of souls, etc.)
2. Who are His workers? (Those who are converted and consecrated, etc.)
3. How can we work for Him? (Speak, sing, play, giving, serving)

Most Bible subjects lend themselves to natural and logical divisions or aspects. You should present these points in a psychologically appropriate order, which is better than shoveling out a mass of disconnected statements. Good plans to follow are:

Progress from simplicity to complexity

Or from the known to the unknown

Or that which is most easily accepted by most people, to that which is more

Spiritually demanding.

EXAMPLE: Take the verse Rom. 1:16 and expound upon it.

1. I am not ashamed
2. The Gospel of Christ
3. The power of God
4. Unto salvation
5. Everyone that believeth
6. To the Jew --- the Gentile

Simply spend a little time discussing each thing.

****May God Lead us to know
when to either abandon or
to persevere in some endeavor,
and to do so with Grace and
good cheer.****

As you prepare your life through walking in obedience,
and as you prepare your heart through prayer,
and as you prepare your message of God's Word,
your listeners will receive great benefit and profit.

RELATING TO YOUR AUDIENCE

You must adapt yourself to different situations. There's a lot of difference in street corner preaching, preaching to mostly Christians in a church, speaking in a rest home, or speaking on television. What would be perfect for one place would really miss the mark someplace else. Remember Paul said, "I am made all things to all men."

So, consider the people, the occasion, and circumstances. Discern how much your listeners already know, how much they can bare, and how far you can go with them. Decide what your purpose should be: (to inform, to inspire, etc.) then work toward that end. Remember eye contact is very important. Your audience wants to feel a bond with you. You should reach out to them. Emphasize positive things, show appreciation, sympathy with the needs of the people, cheer the depressed, comfort the oppressed, inspire the dully challenged the dead in the spirit. Know your subject, sincerely believe in it, and understand the people you're speaking to, and love them fervently.

GOD HATES SIN, BUT LOVES SINNERS

If your audience is cold, hard, or even hostile, don't let their spirit affect you. Rather you influence them with what God has given you, remembering that God hates sin, but He loves the sinner:

"God so loved the world (not the planet, but the wicked people in it) that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Jn.3:16.

"But God commended His LOVE toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8.

Sinners are not just morally sick, they are spiritually dead. " But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great LOVE where with He LOVED us, even when we were dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ." Eph. 2:4,5.

The Son of man was a FRIEND of publicans and sinners. Mt. 11:19. He was a dinner guest of a sinner man in Lk.19:7.

And He said. He came into the world to SAVE SINNERS. I Tim.1:15

God loves His enemies, and commands you and I to do the same, that we may be the children of our Father, which is in Heaven. God is love and it is impossible for Him to hate anyone. By standing on their head and turning backwards from God, the wicked turn His love into wrath for themselves.

MANNER OF APPROACH

A sermon is not a dramatic performance for public entertainment. Today most of your listeners have access to the same information you do, so assume a "let's talk things over" demeanor, rather than talking down to them as if you knew everything and they didn't know anything. Use the words "we" and "us" more than the words "I" and "you". The conversational approach is good. Relax and enjoy yourself and others will enjoy themselves too. Someone said, "Be naturally supernatural and supernaturally natural."

ARTICULATION AND MANNERISMS

Speak the truth in love with simplicity and directness. Glance around looking people in the eye. Rambling can be tiresome. Declare the Word of God with courage, and without fear or favor. You are speaking "Thus saith the Lord" Be natural. Be sensitive to your hearers. Be animated. And try to use good English.

Never start out with apologies about your in-adequateness, etc. If your singing or preaching and you mis-pronounce a word or stumble somehow, most of the time it's best to go right on as if nothing happened. Most people won't even know it.

Any public speaker should be heard, heard with comfort, and heard all the time they're speaking. Relax and breathe deeply to avoid a thin harsh, grating, or rasping tone. Avoid speaking too low or too loud. Distinctfulness is very important. Pronounce words clearly. Don't speak too fast or too slow. But it is very good to use a lot of variety, alternating between loud and soft, fast, and slow, etc. Emphasis can also be created by timed pauses. A monotone is monotonous. Be as emotional as is natural for you, rather than trying to be what you aren't.

Things to avoid strange antics, clenched fists, hands in the pockets, unnecessary prancing, habitually banging on the pulpit, fingering around with some article or clothing, a slouching position.

Avoid showiness, unnecessary repetition, irreverence, mumbling, coldness, or going on past the time you should quit.

Big problems overwhelm us
so chop them up into little pieces
and solve them one at a time.

POINTS IN PREACHING

One of the secrets in preaching ability is perspiration in preparation. There are two things that you prepare, which are equally important. You can prepare your sermon notes through developing good study habits and Biblical research. Secondly you should prepare yourself through much prayer, praise, and walking carefully in the Spirit, especially all day before you preach.

Two other things that are related to the above and are equally important are:

What you say, and the way you say it. The Bible tells us to preach the truth in love. So, you declare the Word of God with a loving Spirit.

Whatever you preach on you must feel your message. If you preach on faith, you must be exercising faith as you preach. If you preach on love, you must have cultivated a spirit of love as you preach it. If you preach on the soon coming of Christ, you must personally feel very strongly that Jesus is coming very soon. It is very difficult to preach on any subject that you do not feel personally involved in, in an effectual way.

In the matter of subject matter, we should not spend all of our time trying to stamp out false doctrine. We should spend the vast majority of our time simply preaching the truth. But some time should be devoted to refuting error.

Someone said that a preacher should stand up, speak up, and then shut up. It is terribly boring when he doesn't know when to quit. Usually about 40 minutes is enough to get his point across, give or take a little as the Spirit may lead. It is much better to leave the people wanting more. It's not easy to be sensitive to know when the anointing lifts.

But if you preach past your anointing, you can tear down what you spent the first part of the time building up. Speak good stuff and stop when it's enough.

When you are preaching, understand that no one can be their best all the time. Then your best wouldn't be your best, it would be your regular ability. So do not be disheartened if you don't do as well sometimes.

PRESENTING THE MESSAGE

You can't hear the still small voice of the Lord, if you are tuned into the world with the volume wide open.

Get the Lord and His Word in your heart. Then preach what is on your heart. The more interested you are in what you are saying, the more interested people will be. If you are bored, they will be too.

Bible basics need repetition. Gravitate to the great themes, subjects, and doctrines of the Bible, especially the New Testament, and especially the Gospels and Acts. Stay close to Scripture. Quote, semi-quote, and paraphrase verses freely and richly. Expound upon passages and explain them. Stress the spiritual and eternal dimensions of life. Project the person of Christ overall.

Attack the things that oppose God, the Bible, and the church, highlighting its faults, folly, weaknesses, and inconsistencies.

Don't hurry when you're planning. It's easier to erase a mistake on paper than after it's already been said. In preparing a message, select the subject, select the material, organize the main ideas, arrange the sub-points, cull out the things you really don't need, build continuity, and then polish it till it shines. Introduce the subject, present it, then conclude with a summary and a final punch that will be remembered by the people. Someone said, "Tell them you're going to say it, then say it, then tell them you said it."

Success is making an ordinary amount of
brains do an extra ordinary amount of work.

As a free moral agent, you can pick what you want from the Scriptures, but what you choose affects your eternal destiny. The Church should demand that teaching and sermons come straight from the Bible. In fact, the whole Church is founded upon the Word of God.

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