MINISTERIAL BURNOUT (Part 2)

(3) POSITION. God's man is an overseer. He is not to be a "lord" over God's people, but is to be a leader by example, I Pet. 5:1-3. He is an undershepherd to the Lord's people. The Lord's order is: the Lord leads His man to lead His church. The Lord's people need a leader called of God to lead as God leads him.

The man God calls on to lead His people is not in competition with any other man or position in the church. He is due the respect and honor to be given to his position. Pastors are puzzled at times in their leadership position. If they ask others what they think about church matters, the pastor is playing favorites. If he does not ask, he is a "lord" over the church. If he lets the people direct the affairs of the church, he does not have enough incentive or initiative. If he does the leading, he is driving. If he is plain spoken in leading, he is too direct. If he is not plain spoken, then he is too spineless or vague.

Pastoring a church can be the loneliest position and place in the Lord's work. A pastor must tell people what he thinks and what he feels they ought to do. The only one that can give strength to us at times is our precious Lord. Moses was the leader of the Jewish people. At one battle it was necessary for Moses to hold his arms up for Israel to win the battle. It became necessary for two men to help hold his arms up. Pastors desperately need men who will help.

Sometimes it is necessary for a church and a pastor to become accustomed to a new leadership. If a pastor demands his way or a church demands her way, then both become incompatible. When two people marry there is a lot of adjusting to do. A pastor and a church must learn to adjust to one another for the benefit of the Lord and His work.

(4) INSECURITY OF POSITION.

How secure is the position of a Baptist pastor? The answer is very insecure. Moses was a man of God that victoriously led the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. He was the deliverer of the Jewish people and to be praised for his work. Some Jews picked up stones to take his life at Kadesh-Barnea, Num. 14:10.

The average pastor goes through his ministerial life not knowing how long he will be at the present church. Problems can arise almost instantly and grow rapidly to the point it becomes necessary for the pastor to leave. Most men would not work under the insecure condition the Baptist pastor must work under. The heart of God's man cries out for security for himself, his family. Insecurity causes harm mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

As God's man and God's people strive to walk and work in harmony with God's word the relationship is a stable one.

(5) MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The Bible plainly teaches God's man is to be supported by God's people. "LET THE ELDERS THAT RULE WELL BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR, ESPECIALLY THEY WHO LABOR IN THE WORD AND DOCTRINE," I Tim. 5:17. Read I Tim. 5:18. Paul wrote these words to the

Pastors have expenses that the secular working man does not have. His work demands he use his own car. He must pay for the car, for oil and gas and repairs. No car expense or allowance given to the pastor will match his expenses. He must wear suitable clothes that will show he is taking care of himself and that reflects respect for his position. He buys office supplies for the work of the ministry (typewriter, paper, files, file cabinets, etc.) He buys books to give him up to date information about the ministry and the best way to minister to his people. He is called upon to make long and numerous trips to minister to the sick, dying or troubled. He does this often at his own expense. His heart cries out to be a good minister even when the finances are not there to pay for the gas, food, etc., to do so.

In the secular world a man's years of experience, amount of time worked, various talents and abilities in the work, the quality of work, etc., all affect the salary a man is paid. This is definitely not true of the minister. Years of experience become a liability not an asset. I do not know of a minister who receives time-and-a-half for all hours over eight in a day or over forty in one week. Honor and respect your pastor as you want to be honored and respected on your job.

The average pastor is underpaid and overworked. He is given a salary that just barely enables him to get by, but is greatly inadequate to make sufficient plans for his family's future. Most pastors and their wives have a desire to be secure financially once they pass thirty years of age. They want a place they can go to when they get to the point no one wants to hear them preach. A pastor wants to know that if something should happen to him his wife and children would be taken care of. God's people need to recognize the needs of God's man and support him to the best of their ability. Stop and think of your pastor. Ministers do not preach for money, but it takes money for his needs to be met. It is agonizing for God's man to try to provide for the needs of his family on a limited budget. Some pastors do not enter the full time ministry because the pay scale is more attractive in the secular world than in the ministry. Pastors do not have unions or other organizations to make sure their pay is in line. We can only depend upon members who love us and want to see that our needs are met.

(6) NO REGARDS FOR HIS FEELINGS. A pastor is human. What his members say to him or about him can cause heartaches and, over a period of time, heart attacks. The office of a pastor is an ordained office, Acts 20:28. The office deserves and demands the honor and respect from the Lord's people. The man occupying the office will have to earn the respect of his people. Words idly and unthinkingly spoken used to hurt me, but now they get me stirred up and cause anger.

Sometimes people can be very abusive to God's man. People know how to insinuate without ever really saying spiteful or even hateful words. Some people seem to deliberately go out of their way to make God's man feel small or inadequate. Some pastors are so verbally abused that they reason, "what is the use?" and they quit.

Some people seem to be authorities on slandering the pastor's character. It seems that some people want to prove he is not truthful and that he is dishonest. Some even may openly say he is evil or immoral. Pastors are misquoted, misrepresented, misunderstood, and terribly misjudged by some of their people.

God's man is often unfairly and unjustly criticized. Not all criticism is bad. People, even pastors, improve and adjust by criticism. I want people to criticize me the way they want to be criticized—constructively, not destructively. Criticism is always crushing to pride. Listen to Paul's words to Timothy. "THOU THEREFORE ENDURE HARDNESS, AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST," II Tim. 2:3.


God's man can act unwisely. He can reason and minister in the flesh. I cannot and will not approve of any minister doing wrong. Even when he is wrong, may God's people talk to him and deal with him as a God-called preacher. They should show the respect and honor that is due the office.

(7) PEOPLE NOT TAKING A STAND FOR THEIR PASTOR. The Apostle Paul wrote Timothy and informed him about Alexander, the cooper smith. Paul said, "Alexander did me much evil," II Tim. 4:14. Alexander vocally disputed Paul's words. There was a disagreement. Paul writes, "AT MY FIRST ANSWER NO MAN STOOD WITH ME, BUT ALL MEN FORSOOK ME: I PRAY GOD THAT IT MAY NOT BE LAID TO THEIR CHARGE," II Tim. 4:16. Paul asked that the Lord stood by him and strengthened him, II Tim. 4:17.

There will always be some opposition to God's man as he seeks to lead a church. Some will disagree very strongly. Disagreements normally lead to accusations or attacks on the pastor's character. Many members who dearly love their pastor will allow the verbal abuse to take place. They
do not speak on the pastor's behalf. I realize some members may not know what to do or how to do it.

Troublesome times are very lonely for God's man. He questions the church's love for him. He may even wonder if any of the members care for him or what he is doing. The troubled pastor may get so disturbed and disappointed he gives up and quits. Pastors do not expect Christian people to act contrary to the teachings of Christ. When they do, it causes many young preachers to become bitter and soured on the ministry to the place of quitting. God's men need people that will stand for them and strengthen them.

(9) FEELS AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE WORK OF THE CHURCH HE PASTORS. Paul at times felt the tremendous weight in the Lord's work. The care of the Lord's churches came upon him daily, II Cor. 11:28. Pastors are given the oversight of the Lord's churches, I Pet. 5:2. As overseers we are responsible for what we allow to go on in the church we pastor, Acts 20:28. We need to know we are responsible and seek to act responsibly.

The pastor may get so responsibility-stricken he may feel that he has to do everything. God does not teach us to do everything. God's man needs the grace to lead his church to place the responsibility of serving upon capable men and women. God's man can do the work of ten men or he can get ten men to do the work.

The unwillingness of men and women to serve the Lord adds pressure and work upon the pastor. Talented people are satisfied to sit on the sidelines while the man of God pleads for workers. The workers are there. The talent is there. God's people are not willing to serve.

(9) UNCONCERN OF THE MEMBERSHIP. The Bible is very plain about Christian service. God's people are to present their bodies a living sacrifice, Rom. 12:1. They are to seek God's kingdom first, Matt. 6:33. They are to live unto Him who died for them, II Cor. 5:14,15. The main occupation of every saved person ought to be to serve the Lord.

God's man sees too many inconsistent lives. Only 25 to 50 per cent of the people are dedicated to the services. A much smaller percentage of the people will get involved seriously in the work. The pastor feels like no one is listening to his messages. Members give a hearty "amen" to a sermon on Christian service, but they will not serve.

The pastor gets to the point that he does not think anybody cares. All of God's people are indifferent and unconcerned, he reasons. He knows better, but he reasons, why should I care? When members fall in love with the world it chills the love we ought to have for God. Jesus said, "BECAUSE INIQUITY SHALL ABOUND, THE LOVE OF MANY SHALL WAX COLD," Matt. 24:12. Unconcern in the membership can chill the zeal of God's man.

WHAT NEED HAVE WE FOR A PASTOR?

Text: I Timothy 1:1-20

By Lance Spiller

Intro. How soon churches forget this need after getting a Pastor on the field. If the church is to stay the same as before the Pastor is called, why call a Pastor, or why let the other Pastor leave? One Pastor cannot lead as his predecessor did. God can do through one Pastor what He could not do through another Pastor. The Pastor is God's leadership with the flock.

I. There can only be one pastor. Hebrews 13:7-13
   A. He is God's link to spiritual fellowship with God.
   B. Lay people, or even other ministers cannot take the pastor's place of leadership. Why? His authority is from God.

II. He must answer to God for his ministry. Heb. 13:16,17

III. He is to be prayed for in His ministry. Hebrews 13:18

IV. He is to be heard and followed. Heb. 13:22

V. He stands by his people in sickness and death to minister unto them. I Thess. 4:13-18

VI. He stands by his people in their marriages to minister unto them. Matth. 19:3-9

VII. He leads his flock in the love of God. I Cor. 13:1-8

BARRIERS TO BLESSINGS

By George White

Text: Mark 2:4; Luke 6:46

Intro. A barrier is anything which hinders, or obstructs. We may hold back the waters of the Holy Spirit and make barriers to blessings.

I. A COVETOUS SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings.
   A. Achan's sin in taking a goodly garment and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold.

II. A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings. Everything Jonah did went wrong.

III. A WORLDLY SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings.
   A. Demas. II Tim. 4:10

IV. A PRAYERLESS SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings. James 4:2

V. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings. Luke 17:1-6

VI. A CRITICAL SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings.

VII. AN INDIFFERENT SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings. Rev. 3:14-19

VIII. A DISOBEDIENT SPIRIT is a barrier to blessings. I Sam. 15:22
THERE IS A SHORTAGE NOW

George Crawford

Amos 8:11

Intro: This prophecy of Amos will have its complete fulfillment in days ahead but we are growing accustomed to shortages. Shortage means not enough, supplies running out. We hear a lot about shortage on fuel but this country is suffering from a shortage that will hurt us much worse than the energy crisis.

This shortage is a spiritual shortage among God's people and churches. Laodicean church age is here, and what is the shortage?

I. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF OLD FASHIONED PREACHING.
   A. You hear plenty of preaching, but what kind?
      1. Listen with discernment to what you hear.
      2. Listen with discernment to what you don't hear.
      3. Much of it is "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals."
   B. What kind of preaching is needed? "The Word."
      1. That will bring conviction of sin.
      2. If unsaved can be satisfied in our services then the preaching is not what it should be.
      3. The kind that will make the backslider miserable in his backsliding.
   C. What should a preacher preach?
      1. Like John the Baptist?
      2. Like Jesus?
      3. Like Philip?
      4. There is a shortage of old fashioned preaching.

II. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF OLD FASHIONED REPENTING.
   A. Lot of card signing, hand shaking, baptisms, and joining the churches.
      1. But very little old fashioned, God-given, Holy Spirit repentance. "Except ye repent (what)?
      2. Repentance is a drastic change of mind about sin, self, Satan, God, goodness and right.
      3. Repentance is also a turning from the evil and turning to the good, from the wrong to right.
   B. The Word of God says turn from sin.
      1. Bible teaches professing salvation and continuing in sin is only a profession, not salvation.
      2. Like Judas Iscariot, a church member, active, even loved by other disciples, and he was able to deceive them, but did not deceive Jesus.
      3. No one deceives Him today. He knows those that are His. Those that say they are saved and are not, He knows.
      4. So there is a shortage of old fashioned repentance.

III. THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HOLY LIVING AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE.
   A. We are to be a "living sacrifice," Rom. 12:1, 2.
      1. This means we are actually to give up something we like or even need to serve Him.
      2. "Not my will, but thine" is the heart's condition.
   B. Average church member looks, acts, talks, smells, like the world.
      1. Our "fashion" should be as becomes holiness.
      2. Not the "top-knot" hair do kind, but "hidden man of the heart" kind of righteous living.
      3. That kind of righteous living that will make us good for something here on earth. Some are so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good.
   C. We need kind of church members who will be accused of "being with Jesus."
      1. If you should get in the devil's crowd, you will be accused as was Peter, "Your speech betrayeth thee."
      2. That would be a compliment to any Christian.
      3. Surely we can see and agree, there is a drastic shortage of holy living among God's people.

Conclusion: THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HOLY SPIRIT SERVICE.
   A. We hear a lot who claim they are led, filled, vitalized, visionized by the Holy Spirit, but we can readily see and know they are not.
      1. I am persuaded not many even know what it means to be "filled with the Spirit."
      2. What does it mean? Means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, yield to His Word, will and way.
      3. Do not be afraid to be "filled with the Spirit". He is a wonderful, powerful companion.
   B. Remember, you cannot counterfeit spirituality for very long.
      1. You family, friends, fellow-workers will soon find you out.
      2. The day of judgment, either here or hereafter, will reveal it.
      3. Spirituality can be genuine and real.

GOD IS FAITHFUL
MEETING THE CAPTAIN

The passage for our consideration in this lesson is Joshua 5:11-15. Thus far, we have noticed that Gilgal is a place of remembrance, resurrection, renunciation and restoration.

In this lesson today, we will notice that it is also a place of realization and revelation. Some statements worth considering before we actually get into the exposition of this passage are as follows: Before we can enjoy the rivers of living water, there must be a death to self and a surrendered life to the Lord’s will, word and way. Many believers are sound in doctrine but lacking in devotion! Some are right in doctrine - right in the head but wrong in the heart! Let these statements simmer on the back burner. Keep these thoughts in your mind as we notice this lesson.

I. GILGAL IS A PLACE OF REALIZATION, Joshua 5:11-12.

"And they did eat of the old corn of the land in the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the self same day.

And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; and there was none in the place where they did set foot." The thought under consideration in these verses is a change of diet. The wilderness journey of carnality had ended so the food that suited it is finished. The manna was wilderness food. The resources for sustenance, strength and supply are now to be drawn from new sources. They are now ready for a change in diet. Due to their obedience to the Lord, they are now in a place where they can feast on better things.

The spiritual profit derived from this passage should be so evident to the Bible student. When we are disobedient to the Lord, it is impossible for us to grasp the deeper meanings of God’s Wonderful Word. In a state of carnality, the child of God is only able to feed on the milk of the Word. He is not able to comprehend, grasp or digest the meat of the Word. The Apostle Paul points this out very vividly in I Cor. 3:1-4. He said the saints were not able to bear (receive) the meat of the Word due to the fact that they were carnal. He pointed out the characteristics that proved the fact that they were carnal. They were filled with envy, strife and divisions. They were being ruled by self, not the Saviour.

The total concept of development is different when we are led and controlled by the Spirit. Our resources come from a risen Saviour.


"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: And Joshua went unto him and said, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord’s host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

First, let us notice the planning. Joshua had been selected as the new leader of Israel. The conquest of Jericho was their main concern at this time. Since Joshua was their leader, he was out surveying the city. He was counting the cost and planning the strategy when he had this encounter. His main concern and thoughts at this time were to formulate some plan whereby they could conquer the city of Jericho.

Next, we notice the PERCEPTION. In these verses he meets the captain of the host of Israel. He learns a most valuable lesson here that all of us need to learn. He found out that the success of any encounter did not depend upon his ability to formulate some plan or scheme; but rather victory is achieved and experienced when we are obedient to do exactly what the Lord says. He is the one who brings about the victory! He is the captain not only of His own people but also the unseen arm. II Kings 6:13-23 and Matt. 26:47-56. No wonder the walls of Jericho fell.

There is a PROFIT to be derived from this perception. Churches today plan, plot and participate in so many programs to get the job done and yet they fail. They are usually left baffled, bewildered, disappointed and perplexed. Do you suppose that we will ever learn that you do not win spiritual victories with carnal means? In II Cor. 10:4 we are told that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. God is the one who brings about the victory when we obey. Eph. 6:10-17 teaches us that our strength and power comes from the Lord; so in reality he is the one who gives the victory as we submit to Him and allow Him to work through us. He is the one who builds His church. Matthew 16:18 and Psalm 127:1.

Briefly, notice with me the
pitfall. Some are made to think that if they cannot help the Lord, then they will just do nothing. People who think this way do not have spiritual discernment of this Biblical principle. Notice again God's promise to Israel. He said if You go in to the promised land I will drive out the enemy before you. They had to go, or they would never have received the victory. So, we are not talking about inactivity on our part. As we do exactly what the Lord says then He gives us the victory. If we refuse to obey, we miss out on His blessings and as a result live defeated and discouraged lives. We need to be obedient and realize who really gets the job done. It is the Lord. Give Him the glory for all victories that He brings to pass in your life and you will advance further and faster in the growth process in Christ. May God through His Spirit allow us to comprehend this realization and revelation.

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GOD
OF
SUFFICIENCY

D.B. Wright

Text: II Cor. 3:5
Intro:
A. Jeremiah 10:23; Psalm 27:11
B. Jeremiah 13:23; Psalm 51:7
C. Acts 17:24-25; Acts 17:27-28a
D. Psalm 46:1

I. GOD IS GOD OF SUPREMACY
A. Supreme in "presence", Psalm 139:7.
D. Supreme in power, Genesis 17:1.
E. Supreme in position: Creator, Controller, Caretaker.
F. Supreme in love, mercy, and grace.
   1. John 15:13
   2. Isaiah 55:7
   3. Romans 5:20

II. GOD IS GOD OF SUSTENANCE
A. Like a Father He knows our need, Matthew 6:32b.
B. He meets our need, Matthew 5:45b; Romans 2:3-4.
C. His ability surpasses our ability to think, Ephesians 3:20.

III. GOD IS GOD OF SOUL SAFETY
A. David's testimony, Psalm 3:8a; Psalm 68:19.
B. A timely prayer, Psalm 79:9.
C. Let us draw an analogy from Jonah's prayer, Jonah 2:9.
   1. Jonah is in a helpless state.
   2. He knew if he was spared it would be by a power greater than himself.
   3. He called upon that One to help.
   4. He made some vows to Him.
   5. He was helped.
D. The God of soul safety brings His plan in reach of all mankind, Titus 2:11; John 1:9.
F. God's plan of soul safety has been in force from before the creation of man.
   1. Revelation 13:8
   2. Isaiah 53:6
   3. John 1:29

IV. GOD IS GOD OF SOUL SATISFACTION
A. There is no lasting peace apart from the Lord, Isaiah 57:20-21.
GROWTH IN FAITH

By Doyle Warnell

Text: John 4:46-54

Intro: This is the account of the healing of the nobleman's son. This portion of Scripture is a good example of weak faith which becomes strong.

I. WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF WEAK FAITH?

A. Demanding visible proof
   1. Faith based upon sight, v. 48.
   2. John 20:24
   4. I Cor. 14:22
   B. Must be driven to God by a desperate need.
      1. Nobleman's son at point of death, v. 47.
      2. He probably called all the doctors he knew before he turned to Jesus.
      3. Many people reach the end of their rope before they call on the Lord.
      4. It is much better to be in close contact with God, trusting Him, resting on Him, living for Him at all times.
   C. Weak faith dictates to God
      1. John 4:49, he dictated to Jesus just what he wanted Him to do.
      2. Perfect faith does not dictate to God, but has trust in the perfect wisdom of God.
   D. Impatience
      1. Verse 49 shows evidence of a short temper. He thinks he has no time to argue or to explain.
      2. He is of nobility. Maybe he feels as did the chief priests and Pharisees when they implied only the rabble had followed Jesus—not learned men or those in higher society.

II. WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A STRONG FAITH?

A. Faith in the Word of God.
   1. John 4:50. The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him. He no longer desired a sign. He relied on the Word of God, Romans 10:17.
   B. Restfulness
      1. After Jesus told him his son lived, the nobleman was not in a hurry.
      2. He did not go home until the next day. He was resting upon the promise of Jesus.
      3. We, too, can rest in the promises of God, Isaiah 26:3; 28:16.
   C. Readiness to receive God's answers as from God, and not give credit to anyone else.
      1. John 4:53, the father was ready to receive the news of his son's living as a miracle from the hand of God. He compared it to Jesus talking to him.
      2. Sometimes when we have a prayer answered, unbelief whispers in our ear, "this would have happened anyway."
      3. Strong faith stands ready to give God the praise and to confirm to others by testimony that it was a direct answer to prayer.
   D. Willingness to receive spiritual blessings.
      1. John 4:53, the nobleman and his whole house believed.
      2. The nobleman received the healing of his soul as well as the healing of his son's body.
      3. God knows how to give above all we ask or think, Ephesians 3:13-21.

CONCLUSION:

Faith is the key that unlocks a wonderful, transforming experience in the life of believers when they will commit themselves to devoted Bible study. Hear the Word and believe what the Word promises. You need not ever put a question mark by anything God has said in His precious Word.

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Ministering To Others

**TEXT:** Luke 22:24-27; Gal. 5:13; Matt. 20:28

The word minister means to "aid or help others." It has the idea of doing service to others on their behalf. The main purpose of the Christian life is to help or serve others. Jesus came to minister and give His life a ransom for many. He is our example of serving others. Let us notice several questions about the subject.

I. **WHO SHOULD MINISTER TO OTHERS?**
A. The pastor is a minister, I Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28.
B. The deacons are to minister, Acts 6:3-7.
C. All the members of our church, Heb. 6:10; 12:28.

II. **WHY SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?**
B. Because of our love, Rom. 5:5; 5:8.
C. Because of our light, 1 Thess. 5:5; Matt. 5:16; II Cor. 4:4.
D. Because of our learning, II Pet. 3:18; II Tim. 3:16,17; Isa. 6:8.

III. **HOW SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?**
A. Minister in compassion, Heb. 4:15; Matt. 9:36; John 11:35.
B. Minister in care, I Pet. 5:7; Rom. 9:1-3; Rom. 10:1-3.
C. Minister in conviction, Rom. 1:14-16; Heb. 12:6; Ezek. 33:8,9.

IV. **WHEN SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?**
A. When they are sorrowing, John 11:35.
B. When they are sick, Matt. 8:2,3; Matt. 9:2-8; Matt. 4:23.
C. When they are suffering.
D. When they are stressed and strained, Luke 21:25; Isa. 26:3.
E. When a service needs to be rendered, Matt. 9:37,38.

C Swilling