

## Lesson 9

# KEYS FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand what it takes to have a lasting effective ministry
- Identify pitfalls of the ministry
- Help prepare us to be better vessels for the Lord

### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
  - A. Serving the Lord is a privilege
  - B. Servants must be found faithful
  - C. Servants must finish the task
  
- II. KEYS FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY
  - A. Minister the Word
  - B. Maintain a Positive mentality
  - C. Build towards a healthy church
  - D. Be continually learning
  - E. Speak life and encouragement to others
  - F. Do not minister at the expense of the family
  - G. Be a God-Pleaser, not a man-Pleaser
  - H. Purpose not to speak negatively of ministers and church problems
  - I. Look for the person of conviction and character above Charisma
  - J. Exercise discipline
  - K. Don't despise small beginnings
  - L. Be trustworthy when people confide in you
  - M. Maintain your call/ overcome discouragement
  - N. The commitment to financial purity
  - O. Discipline yourself for Godliness
  - P. Don't feel inferior because you are young
  - Q. Commitment to purity
  - R. Maintain a servant's heart
  - S. Be content as a servant in No.2 position
  - T. Develop a giving attitude
  - U. Be forgiving
  - V. Forget as God forgets
  - W. Beware of false teaching

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Lasting lessons worth remembering
- B. The pitfalls to avoid

## I. INTRODUCTION

There are many 'starters', few 'finishers.

v 10: Demas... loved the world ... deserted Paul. **2 Timothy 4:6-10**

### A. *Serving the Lord is a privilege*

*"I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death."*

**Numbers 18:7b**

### B. *Servants must be found faithful*

*"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."*

**1 Corinthians 4:2**

### C. *Servants must finish the task*

*"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."*

**John 17:4**

## II. KEYS FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

### A. *Minister the WORD*

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge : Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.*

**2 Timothy 4 :1-2**

1. Preach the Word: Sheep when not fed properly get edgy.
2. If sheep are eating dry sticks and thorns, they will cry S.O.S.

### B. *Maintain a Positive mentality*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

**Philippians 4:8-9**

God needs people who have a positive mentality. Don't be a fault-finder. We should not be a critical person who specializes in destructive criticisms. Most of all, don't be a doubter.

Following are the characteristics of people who maintain a positive mentality:

1. People who can see **God** at work in the midst of their difficulties

- a) **Joseph** : *Genesis 50:19 ... "You intended to harm me but God intended it for good ... save lives."*
- b) **Moses** : *"Builder of the Church in wilderness builder of the Tabernacle in wilderness."*

Context: **Exodus 14:13-14.**

In the wild waves, galloping horses and dry desert.

- Moses: Words of faith - edifying.
- Children: Words of complain and murmuring discouraging.

2. People who can see the **Positive** amidst Negative circumstances

Illus: Apostle Paul - tough trials - **Romans 8: 28.**

Illus: To the troubled Corinthian Church with factions/ divisions, immorality, and brother suing brother in court, he still can say in **1 Corinthians 1:4**

*"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."*

### **C. Build towards a healthy church <sup>1</sup>**

We need to aim towards building a healthy church and not just a mega church.

1. Signs of a healthy church:

- a) The bible and sound **teaching** are central to all that the church does

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<sup>1</sup> Larry Powers. *The Healthy Church* (Ministries Today, March/ April 1999).

- b) Members have deep, loving **relationships** and care for another in practical ways
- c) The **worship** is inspiring and open to the move of the Holy Spirit
- d) **Prayer** is emphasized
- e) The **leadership** is godly, growing and skilled
- f) They equip and allow **lay people** to minister
- g) Willing to implement **changes** that will improve the structure and organization of the church to meet needs
- h) Members do use their **gifts** to serve
- i) Members are **maturing** through teaching, training and cell-groups
- j) Devoted to global **evangelism** and mission
- k) Good **stewards** of finance

2. Seven Principles for a healthy church:

- a) Principle of **prayer**: **Acts 1:14**

The early church was a praying church

- b) Principle of dependence on the **Holy Spirit**: **Acts 1:8**

All our planning, seminars and methods will be fruitless without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is "...not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord." **Zechariah 4:6**

- c) Principle of **evangelism**: **Acts 2:40-42**

Peter preached a powerful evangelistic message that resulted in many being saved.

- d) Principle of systematic **teaching** of the Word : **Acts 2:42**

The early Church devoted themselves to the teaching of the Word.

- e) Principle of **encouragement** and fellowship: **Acts 2:42**

The early church devoted themselves to fellowship. The greek word "Koinonia" denotes sharing, caring and coming alongside someone.

- f) Principle of **exemplifying**: **Acts 6:2-4**

The leaders of the early church led by example through their good reputation and humble service.

- g) Principle of **expansion**: **Acts 6:1,7**

The early church was open to expand its leadership and implement changes to facilitate growth.

Some churches refuse to change or be flexible eventhough their present ways of doing things cannot meet the needs of its members. As a result they stagnate and die slowly.

**D. *Be continually learning***

*"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."*  
**Proverbs 1: 5**

Stephen Covey described effective leaders as people who are continually learning. They will learn from others and seek to grow by attending seminars and reading.

*"When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments."*  
**2 Timothy 4:13**

Some people stopped growing when they had attained a position or title.

According to **Eugene Habecker**: *"The leader who fails to aggressively pursue further cognitive development, however, will not long be an effective leader."*

**E. *Speak life and encouragement to others***

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*  
**Proverbs 18: 21**

1. God always speaks life

**Judges 6:12** To Gideon he was a "great and mighty warrior"  
**Genesis 17:5** To Abram (exalted Father) he was a "Father of many nations"

2. Jesus always speaks life

**John 6: 63** ... my words are spirit and life  
**Matthew 11:11** Jesus on John the Baptist

In v3 John was doubting Jesus, yet Jesus said that there is no one greater than John the Baptist (v11).

Jesus on the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume: **Mark 14:6**

**Q: How come no one encourages me?**

The question is "What have you been sowing?"

**Galatians 6:7:** "... what you SOW is what you will REAP"  
**Proverbs 11:25:** "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

If you sow critical and negative words of discouragement, then you will also reap critical and negative words.

**F. Do not minister at the expense of the family**

*"Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*  
**Ephesians 5: 25**

*"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"*  
**1Timothy 3:4-5**

It is a folly to save the world and lose our own family. Some ministers' families have been destroyed due to neglect. Their children grow up resenting the church and God. They end up rebellious and backslidden.

**G. Be a God-Pleaser, not a Man-Pleaser**

*"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."*

**Galatians 1:10**

You can't please all the people all the time. There are times you just have to say "No" or make an unpopular decision.

**H. Purpose not to speak negatively of ministers and church problems, especially before your children or young converts**

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*

**Ephesians 4: 29**

**I. In choosing workers, look for the person of conviction and character above Charisma**

*"Do not consider his appearance ... height. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart."*

**1 Samuel 16:7**

**1 Timothy 3:**

- v2 - self-control*
- v2 - respectable*
- v7 - good reputation among outsiders.*

Paul presents his list within the framework of one overall goal: that we must choose people who have character. We live in a day whereby people are moved by talents or charisma of a person.

**J. Exercise discipline**

*If your brother sins against you, "go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."*

**Matthew 18:15-17**

1. **Deuteronomy 13:14** Find out the facts
2. **Proverbs 18:17** Don't jump to conclusion after hearing one side



**K. Don't despise small beginnings**

**Zechariah 4:10**                    *"Who despises the day of small things."*  
 Don't despise a small ministry or a small beginning.

**Matthew 25:21**                    *Faithful in small things*

**Proverbs 28:20**                    *A faithful man will be richly blessed.*  
 - didn't say 'eloquent,' talented, popular.

**L. Be trustworthy when people confide in you**

*"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."*

**Proverbs 11:12**

People's confidential sharings should not be mentioned even as a prayer item without their consent. e.g., "Lord, ... help Emma & husband not to quarrel!" If you pray like this, the person will be greatly offended especially if she told you in confidence.

When you promise to keep a secret, do it only if it's not involving sin in the church. It would be foolish to promise the person "Yes, I will not tell anyone" especially if you have not listened to what he has to say.

**M. Maintain your call/ overcome discouragement**

**Acts 26:12-19**                    **2 Timothy 4:7**

1. People do get weary and discouraged

a) Great men of God do experience a "valley in life"

(i) **Moses:**                    *Numbers 11:11-15: "... put to death right now..."*

(ii) **Elijah:**                    *1 Kings 19:4: "... I've had ENOUGH!"*

(iii) **Job. 10: 1:**                    *"I loathe my life, therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul."*

(iv) **Jeremiah** *Jeremiah 13:10 "Alas, my mother, that you gave me birth, a man with whom the whole land strives and contends! I have neither lent nor borrowed yet everyone curses me."*

(v) **David** *Psalms 42:6: "...My soul is downcast..."*

b) Even youths grow tired and weary **Isaiah 40:30**

**Acts 15:39,38** - Young Mark

2. Why do people get weary and fall into valley of discouragement?

**Daniel 7:25** The work of the enemy is to "... wear out the saints."

a) **Pressure** of work / family

Q. How do you like to pastor 3 ½ million moaners & groaners?

**Numbers 11:11** *Moses: burden of all these people.*

**Numbers 14: 14** *Moses: burden too heavy for me.*

b) Turning focus away from God to **self**

Moses: I carry, I feed. How can I? **Numbers 11:11-14**

c) Turning focus away from God to **problem**

Injustice, backsliding **Jeremiah 12:1,2**

d) **Fear**

Elijah was afraid **1 Kings 19:3**

e) **Fatigue**

Mt. Carmel to Beersheba is 100 miles **1 Kings 19:3-4**

\* Signs of fatigue:

- Talk nonsense: **19:4** "Take my life - no better than my ancestors!"

- Self-pity: "I am the only one left"

f) Too many trials in a short span of time

**Job 1: 14** - robbery

**16** - business collapsed

**18** - 7 sons and 3 daughters died

**Job 2: 7** - diseased

g) Little encouragement but many criticisms

**Job 4** **Eliphaz:** Who innocent perish? Upright destroyed?

**Job 4** **Bildad:** You must have sinned.

h) Financial pressure

i) Unrealistic expectations from leaders

j) Uncooperative co-workers

3. God cares for those who are WEARY:

Most times in weariness, we feel that God does not care!

**Isaiah 40:27** - paraphrase - Do you think I don't know, care?

**v28:** God answers.

God answered His people in times of weariness:

a) **Moses:** **Numbers 11: 16 - 17** 70 elders.  
Not only answers them but gives solution.

b) **Elijah:** *"There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"* **1 Kings 19:9**

*"Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'"* **1 Kings 19: 13b**

c) **Job 38 - 41** Three chapters on God answering Job. He later healed and prospered Job.

d) **Jeremiah 15: 11** *"... I will deliver you for a good purpose."*

e) David - God answered and delivered him.

**Psalm 40: 1** *"I waited patiently for the Lord... delivered."*

f) Peter

**1 Peter 5 : 7** *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

g) **John 21:15-17** *Feed my lambs v15  
Take care of my sheep v16  
Feed my sheep v17.*

h) Jesus

**Matthew 11: 28** *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

4. God wants us to rise as overcomers: **Isaiah 40: 31**

When trials buffet us, the temptation is to run and hide.

**v31** - Soar on wings of eagles

a) God has designed us to be **overcomers**

**Revelation 2: 7** ... overcome ... eat tree of life.

**Revelation 3:12** ... overcome ... pillar in temple.

**Revelation 3:21** ... overcome ... sit with Christ on throne.

b) God made us in his **Image**: **Genesis 1: 27**

God never failed or went into depression.

His plans were interrupted by Satan:

- 1) Adam / temptation
- 2) Pharaoh / Moses
- 3) Haman / Jews
- 4) Herod / Jesus.

Yet God is an Overcomer.

**Genesis 1:2** When earth was formless and empty.  
(He wasn't discouraged!)

His Spirit hovered over it.  
When the church was empty - we get discouraged.

**Genesis 3** God made man perfect - Satan corrupted him.  
Yet God overcame.

**1 Peter 1:20** A plan before foundation of the world.

- c) He has said in **Romans 8:37** - More than **Conquerors**.
- d) God has shown us that his people can rise above their **circumstances**

**Hebrews 11:7**

- v7:** *"Noah rose above the storms of unbelief and saved his household."*
- v8:** *"Abraham rose above the storms of barrenness and begot Isaac and became the father of many nations."*
- v22:** *"Joseph rose above the storms of rejection and became second to Pharaoh and saved all the Israelites."*
- v27:** *"Moses rose above the storms of Pharaoh's anger and delivered nearly 3 1/2 million Jews."*
- v31:** *"Rahab rose above the storms of humiliation (prostitute) through whom the Messiah was linked."*
- v32:** *"David rose above the storms of condemnation and guilt and became the sweetest Psalmist of Israel."*
- v32:** *"Samuel rose above the storms of spiritual darkness and became the greatest Prophet of Israel."*

- e) Jesus has set the EXAMPLE for us to follow

**John 16:33** But take heart! I have overcome the world.

**1 Peter 2:21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you leaving you an EXAMPLE that you should follow in HIS STEPS.

- 1) Jesus faced every kind of STORM imaginable:
- 2) Pressure of work : no time to eat.
- 3) Storms of opposition from Pharisees and Sadducees
- 4) Turmoil of rejection from disciples.
- 5) Surmounted the onslaught by Satanic forces.

I have overcome the world.

Q: What is the world?

**1 John 2:16**

Lust of the flesh Lust of the eyes Pride of life.

5. Keys to overcome weariness and discouragement

Wait: qavah (kav-vaw) = to bind together,  
to look patiently,  
to tarry, hope.

Renew: chalaph (Khaw-laf) = to change, go on forward,  
renew, strike through.

a) Be **still** and Know: Psalm 46:10 ... Be still ... Lord.

(i) Elijah's case: 1 Kings 19: 11.

Great and powerful wind, shattering of rocks, earthquake  
and fire.

\*God was in still small voice - HEAR HIS VOICE.

Truth: At times - God wants us to be **STILL**

b) Renewing our **MIND**

Romans 12:2 - Renew our Mind.

Hebrews 5: 13, 14 - WORD: Milk + meat ~~to~~ believers.

(i) Renew our mind about GOD:

(ii) Renew our mind about OURSELVES

Philippians 4:8-9.

c) Remember God's benefits: **Psalm 103: 1-5.**

v2 Forget not his benefits,

v5 satisfies my desires ... soar like eagles.

c.f. **Psalm 37:4** - Delight in the Lord and He shall give you  
the desires of your heart.

God gave articles of memorial to His children; to strengthen their faith:

- (i) Hebrew children out of Egypt  
**Exodus 12:14**      *Passover - to remind them God is God of Deliverance*
  
- (ii) Wilderness  
**Exodus 16:33**      *Manna in jar - to remind them God is God of Providence.*
  
- (iii) River Jordan  
**Joshua 4:7**      *Stones - to remind them God is God of Impossible.*

# The key is to turn our eyes from our problem to God.

- d) Wait upon the Lord in Prayer: **Isaiah 40:29, 31**

To renew: to exchange God's strength for our strength.

His promise **v 29**: He gives STRENGTH to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

**Psalm 27:14**      *"Wait for the Lord and He will strength your heart."*

Most times, waiting is associated with PRAYER.

## N. *The commitment to financial purity*

- 1. Free from the Love of Money: **1 Timothy 6:10**

A godly leader loves God and uses money, not the other way around (see also Matthews 6:24; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2).

Richard Foster calls our struggle with money the "demon of greed. In leadership, we are faced with great financial temptations - especially in affluent Western culture. Yet, in direct confrontation with the demon of greed, Paul tells Timothy that a Christian leader must not be a "lover of money" (1 Timothy 3:3).

*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For*

*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

**1 Timothy 6:9-10**

2. Financial Ethics

On the corporate level, ethical purity is mandatory if we are to experience the full blessing of God. George Mueller of Bristol, England, a man known for his prayers of faith and his mighty influence on others, set forth seven statements of ethical commitment. How would modern Christian organization fare under the light of these guidelines, as quoted by Catherine Marshall in *Beyond Our Selves*?

- a) No funds would ever be solicited. No facts and figures concerning needs were to be revealed by the workers in the orphanage to anyone, except to God in prayer.
- b) No debts would ever be incurred.
- c) No money contributed for a specific purpose would ever be used for another purpose.
- d) All accounts would be audited annually by professional auditors.
- e) No ego-pandering by publication of donors' names, with the amount of their gifts, would be allowed; each donor would be thanked privately.
- f) No "names" of prominent or titled persons would be sought for the board or to advertise the institution.
- g) The success of the institution would be measured not by the numbers served or by the amounts of money taken in, but by God's blessing on the work, which Mueller expected to be in proportion to the time spend in prayer.

3. Other Related Areas

- a) Funds -- Get a few people to handle finance. Check must be countersigned by two to three persons. Don't count or collect money alone.
- b) Lifestyle -- Live simply. You don't have to possess everything advertised on Television or the newspapers.



- c) Priority -- Ministry must (be the emphasis) come first.
- d) Integrity -- Keeping our financial word (pay on time as you have promised people).
- e) Projects -- Don't have a big project in order to raise plenty of money. You may be unable to handle it.

**O. Discipline Yourself for Godliness**

**1 Timothy 4:7b** exhorts us to discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness.

You might say that godliness is taking God seriously. To reach this goal, we must be "Christians in training." And spiritual training, as Paul says in the next verse, gets us fit for eternity.

*For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.*

"No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." **1 Corinthians 9:27**

1. Physical **Exercise**: 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

If we exercise, our blood circulation is good and muscles are strengthened, we eat and sleep better, than we can have a healthy body.

2. **Food**: Not all food is good for the body. We must eat carefully to prevent diseases and sicknesses.
3. **Speech**: **James 1:26; 3:2**. Be careful with our speech. Careless speech usually causes many problems, hurts, and misunderstanding in the church.
4. **Moods**: A mature person knows how to control his mood and move on. Many great achievements were done by people who did not feel like doing them.
5. **Time-management**: **Ephesians 5: 16**

Jesus lived with the consciousness that He had a mission to accomplish. He worked within an allocated time (John 7:6; 12: 23, 27; 13: 1; 17:1, 4).

- a) Pray and plan your daily task.
- b) The way to overcome procrastination is to do the thing "NOW" no matter how unpleasant is the task. Next, set a dateline to get the thing done.
- c) Be selective - We must learn to select and reject tasks that are irrelevant in order to do the important ones. Every call for help may not necessary be the call of God. Ask whether someone can do the job better than you, if so, let others do the job.
- d) Creative Waiting - If you are travelling in public transport or waiting for an appointment, bring a book

**P. *Don't feel inferior because you are young***

*"Let no one look down on your youthfulness."*

**1 Timothy 4:12a**

Spiritual maturity, not physical maturity, is the key to the ministry.

Concentrate on living an exemplary life, so that people who see Christ life in you, they will see Him, not your age.

Pay Close Attention to Yourself and to Your Teaching

*Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.*

**1 Timothy 4:15-16**

**Q. *Commitment to purity***

There is no greater test of our exemplary leadership than this matter of purity. To be pure is to be free from corruption, free from error or flaw. We might respond to the challenge of purity with the Pauline:

*"This is the will of God, your sanctification, that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality."*

**1 Thessalonians 4:3**

**1. Sexual Purity**

Immorality is translated from the word we get "pornea" from which we get the word "pornography". It involves intimate relationship with the opposite sex or same sex outside marriage. To "abstain" is to have

nothing to do with it. God is against incest, premarital sex, homosexual sex, extramarital sex, and sexual encounter outside marriage.

We have been bought with a price, and this is our motivation for sexual purity (**1 Corinthians 6:20**). We no longer belong to ourselves; we belong to Jesus, who purchased us. Therefore, we aim at glorifying God with our bodies.

A commitment to personal purity - glorifying God with our bodies - means, therefore,

- a commitment to run from destructive pictures, literature, humour.
- a commitment to be honest with ourselves and God, to discipline our body and mind. To learn about our bodily function. Control our sex drive and live a life of purity, rather than yielding to lust.
- a commitment to refrain from rationalizations (like, "I'm reading pornography to help satiate my sexual needs").

## 2. Relational Purity

Relationship purity with members of the opposite sex who are not our spouses can be a problem this day when people become too lax with each other. Nevertheless, we are still called to purity, which means making sure that we:

- avoid indiscreet touches or excessive physical contact;
- avoiding suggestive remarks or double-meaning humour or dirty jokes;
- meeting one-on-one in public rather than private locations (and telling our spouse about the meeting)
- fostering unhealthy dependence in those we counsel.

Avoid counseling the opposite sex if possible, and if needed, get another worker to go along.

### R. *Maintain a servant's heart*

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*

**Mark 10:45**

We need to be careful of Diotrephes' attitude in **3 John 9 - 10**

*I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing gossiping maliciously about us.*  
**3 John 9-10**

Paul is a good example for us – he was one who was transformed to be a bond-slave for Jesus Christ.

Charles R. Swindoll categorized the characteristics of servanthood into 3 areas:

- Transparent humanity
- Genuine humility
- Absolute honesty

1. Transparent humanity

Paul did not try to show himself as a super-spiritual man but was willing to share his weaknesses:

*When I came to you brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and with much trembling.*  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-3**

2. Genuine Humility

Paul exhorted us to be:

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”*  
**Ephesians 4:2a**

Servants of God who have genuine humility are :

- a) **Non-defensive** when confronted

They have “ nothing to prove, nothing to lose”

- b) Desirous to **help** others

A true servant will look for ways to serve and give

- c) They are **peace-makers**

3. Absolute Honesty

*Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways : we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*  
**1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

**S. Be content as a servant in No.2 position:**

A servant has no hidden motives to manipulate others.

Q. What if you are the Assistant or No.2 person?

Here are some wise encouragement from Pastor Jack Hemptling.

1. Be Committed to **Personal Growth**

We never stop learning no matter how experienced we are in the ministry.

We are to increase in knowledge. **Colossians 1:10, 2 Peter 1:8**

2. Stay **loyal**

Proverbs 27:18

We need to surrender our personal ambition to God's will. It's a temptation to be disloyal. Following are some guidelines:

- a) Defend the pastor's reputation.
- b) Refuse to discuss any disagreements between you and the pastor with other church members.
- c) Don't speak negatively of the pastor to anyone else, including your spouse.
- d) Talk directly to the pastor about perceived problems in the ministry.
- e) Keep in mind that the ministry of the entire church is more important than the ministry of your particular area.
- f) Tell the senior pastor yourself about confrontations you have with other church members or staff.
- g) Share first with your pastor any desires you have to leave your position.

h) Take any concerns you have about your pastor first to God in prayer. Any alterations required in your pastor's life will be handled by God, in His way and in His timing.

3. Embrace your Pastors' **Vision**

Make it your goal to see your Pastor succeed.

4. Reproduce **leaders**

One of the greatest successes in ministry is the success of others.

5. Don't be an **Absalom**: **2 Samuel 15**

David's son Absalom pretended to care for the Israelites and stole their hearts.

Watch out for the "spirit" that Absalom had! The Absalom spirit:

- a) Is an elite mentality that believes your way is superior to the pastor's way;
- b) Insincere with words as you attempt to win others to your side by speaking of your own vision;
- c) Steals the hearts of the people, developing a personal following.

**T. Develop a giving attitude**

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

**Philippians 2:3-4**

Swindoll described this attitude as:

'I care about those around me.'

'Why do I always have to be first? I'm going to help someone else win for a change.'

'Today, it's my sincere desire to curb my own fierce competitive tendencies and turn that energy into encouraging at least one other person.'

'I willingly release my way this day. Lord, show me how You would respond to others, then make it happen in me.'

1. Give **anonymously**: Matthew 6:1-4

*"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."*

**Philippians 2:3-4**

2. Give **generously**:

Onesiphorus was a man with a servant's heart, willing to give generously even to a prisoner – the apostle Paul:

*May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.*

**2 Timothy 1:16-18**

3. Give **voluntarily**: 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

*"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us."*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

4. Give **personally**:

Jesus gave of Himself to us.

**U. Be forgiving**

*"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

## 1. When we have offended others:

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.*

**Matthew 5:23-24**

Here are some things that we need to do:

a) **Stop** 'leave your offering there ...'

- b) **Go** 'First go ...
- c) **Reconcile** '... be reconciled ...

God will honor your effort if you go in the right motive, right spirit, right time, in obedience to God with true humility.

2. When you are the offended: **Matthew 18:15-35**

- a) You must **forgive**: If you refuse to forgive those who hurt you;
  - (i) You are a **hypocrite**: v32 -33
  - (ii) You will experience an inner **torment**: v35
- b) How to forgive:

- (i) Focus on God's forgiveness of you.

*Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; he redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion.*

**Psalm 103:2-3**

- (ii) Forgive as God forgave you

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other; just as in Christ God forgave you."*

**Ephesians 4:32**

- (iii) Renounce the root of bitterness

*"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."*

**Hebrews 12:15**

V. **Forget as God forgets:**

*Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."*

**Hebrews 10:17**

Can we really forget a bad experience literally?

Webster dictionary defines "**forget**" as "to lose the remembrance of ... to treat with inattention or disregard ... to disregard intentionally: **OVERLOOK**: to cease remembering or noticing ... to fail to become mindful at the proper time."



1. Forgetting would mean:

So then, as we talk about '*forgetting*' let's understand that we mean:

- a) Refusing to keep score **1 Corinthians 13:5**
- b) Being bigger than any offense **Psalm 119:165**
- c) Harboring no judgmental attitude **1 Corinthians 13:5**

2. Paul testified that it is possible to forget the past:

*"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."*

**Philippians 3:13**

3. Joseph testified that it is possible to forget the past miseries by naming his son Manasseh:

*"Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt."*

**Genesis 41:51 3:13**

#### **W. Beware of false teaching**

The Biblical guidelines for checking any doctrine or teaching:

1. Never go beyond what the Bible teaches: **1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Timothy 1: 3-4**
  - a) The Corinthians sought after many experiences and had many gifts.
  - b) Paul called them carnal and proud.
2. Not all signs and wonders are from God: **Matthew 7:20,21**
3. Examine every teaching carefully: **1 Thessalonians 5:20**

The Bereans even checked on Paul: **Acts. 17:15**
4. Test every spirit: **1 John 4:1**
5. We have the obligation to confront false teachers:
  - a) Paul rebuked Peter **Galatian 2:14**

- b) David questioned King Saul "Anointed" **1 Samuel 24**
- 6. Christianity is a relationship not ritual. **Isaiah 29:13**

### **III. CONCLUSION**

#### ***A. Lasting Lessons Worth Remembering as suggested by Charles Swindoll :***

What general life lessons can we take from Paul's specific instructions to Timothy?

1. There is no higher goal in the ministry than **servant-hood**. Our first and foremost priority is to be a "good servant of Christ Jesus". Servant-hood shouldn't decrease with authority or positions; it should increase (consider Christ's example in **Matthew 20:25-28**).
2. There is no greater temptation in the ministry than **extremism**. In 1 Timothy notice that there is balance. Paul urges both devotion and discipline, public service and private integrity, teaching others and learning and growing personally. A biblical, healthy ministry doesn't go overboard in certain areas but strives to maintain a balanced approach.
3. There is no more effective style of the ministry than **biblical** exposition. God has entrusted His Word to us, which is rich in nourishment for the soul. We must feast on it first, then read it to others, explain it, and help them apply it.
4. There is no better formula for a growing ministry than a **growing** minister. Notice 1 Timothy 4:12, "Show yourself an example," and verse 15, "So that your progress may be evident to all."
5. There is no better proof of a ministry's authenticity than **perseverance**. "Persevere in these things," says Paul (**1 Timothy 4:16**). Ministries that stay with the task over the long haul will reach the lost, nurture new Christians, and deepen all believers.

**B. The pitfalls to watch out:**

1. **Authoritarianism** These leaders emphasize power, authority, and submission. He is rigid, domineering, unteachable, and self-centered. 1 Thessalonians 2:5-12; 2 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 7:28-29; Philippians 2: 5-11
2. **Exclusiveness** "Our church is the only NT church that is right." He advocates an "exclusive" mentality among his followers and manipulates them. Other churches and leaders are considered as suspicious and ridiculed. This church often has a paranoid mentality, "The people out there are against us!" (Mark 9: 33-44)
3. **Greed** Hungering for money; performing the ministry (for example, wedding, funeral, etc.) for the money in it.
4. **Rationalization** This kind of rationalisation will often lead to twisting scriptural truth to fit his lifestyle.
5. **Sensuality** He adopts a lifestyle of sexual looseness - being too intimate with the opposite sex.
6. **Un-accountability** Being secretive, reckless, or above reproach. Watch out for ministers who hide behind the statement, "I am God's anointed." **Mark 6:30**  
  
In Mark 6:30, the apostle returned from the ministry and gave a reporting to Jesus.
7. **Criticism** Every leader gets criticism.- A positive response is to thank the person and do some self-examination, heart searching and prayer and make changes. This helps us to be more dependent on God.
8. **Loneliness** God's servants are often lonely people, but we should cultivate friendship with others.
9. Feeling used and **unappreciated**.

Gehazi was a servant of Elisha but he always had to do the simple work while Elisha would get the glory. **2 Kings 4**

*“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10*

Your faithful service will be **rewarded**

*“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”* **1 Corinthians 3:10-14**

- a) Most rewards are received in **heaven**, not on earth **v.13-14**
- b) All rewards are based on **quality**, not quantity **v.13**

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