

# Ministry 101

By Pastor Jack Cunningham

1 Samuel 3:8-10 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. <sup>[9]</sup> Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>[10]</sup> And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak, for thy servant heareth.

## BASIC “MINISTRY” QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### What is ministry?

Oxford American Dictionary says ministry is ..the work or vocation of a minister of religion; the spiritual work or service of any Christian or a group of Christians, especially in the area of evangelism and the ministry of Christian healing.

E. M. Bounds said, “ A minister is a man (or woman) of God, whose heart is ever athirst for God, whose soul is following hard after God, whose eye is single to God, and in whom by the power of God’s Spirit the flesh and the world have been crucified.”

### Who are the “ministers” of the church?

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

### What is the “calling” of God?

- It is the awareness that comes to a man or woman that God has a specific plan or direction for my life.
- It is an understanding that I can and should use my life, my talents, my abilities, and my resources to benefit the Kingdom of God.
- It’s knowing that God has chosen me to fill a spot in His kingdom that no one else but me can fill.

### Who is “called” of God?

Jesus said in Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Revelation 17:14 says those that stand with the Lamb (Jesus) “are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

## HOW TO FIND YOUR PLACE IN MINISTRY

### 1) Say “Yes” to God.

Samuel said, “ Speak, for thy servant heareth.”

### 2) Know your talents and abilities.

Make a list:

1. What do you enjoy doing?
2. What are you good at? (be honest)
3. What areas do you have a burden for? (touches you emotionally)

### 3) Seek the counsel of your pastor.

God will speak to your shepherd.

“ Too many cooks spoil the broth.”

4) **Be available.**

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.

Romans 6:13 (LB) Give yourselves completely to God... so you can be tools in the hands of God, to be used for His good purposes.

## **IDENTIFYING AND REMOVING HINDRANCES**

1) **Self-Centeredness**

Philippians 2:4 (AMP) Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others.

2) **Perfectionism**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 If you wait for perfect conditions, you' ll never get anything done.

3) **Materialism**

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money.

4) **Distractions**

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

2 Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

In Luke 14 Jesus talked about various responses to the call of God.

5) **Unrealistic Expectations**

## **WHERE TO START**

1) **Purify Your Heart**

2 Timothy 2:21 (AMP) So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.

Joshua 3:5 (AMP) And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves [that is, separate yourselves for a special holy purpose], for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

2) **Present Yourself To God**

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Psalm 119:73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

### 3) **Simplify Your Life**

Hebrews 12:1 (AMP) Let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us.

### 4) **Build Youth Faith**

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

### 5) **Study—Self-Educate**

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Timothy 4:12-14 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. <sup>[13]</sup> Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. <sup>[14]</sup> Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP) Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.