



# School Of Ministry

## Lesson 32

### Maintaining Open Heavens over Your Ministry through Prayer and Fasting

Base Text: Deuteronomy 28:12 MKJV

*12 Jehovah shall open to you His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. And you shall loan to many nations, and you shall not borrow.*

#### **The Initial “Go.”**

As Christian ministers who have been called by God we are so excited to go and start off the work that God called us to do. We have heard that voice and we just know deep within that we cannot fail. So for some of us, we get a bible school training or get ordained and off to the field we go. This is great and we commend everyone who has taken this bold step or who is contemplating taking the step of serving God in ministry; “Full Time” or “Part Time.”

#### **The Tediousness of Ministry**

However, it does not take very long when we start to realize that the work of the ministry is not as easy and probably not as exciting as we thought it would be. Soon the daily rigors, the incessant demand upon our time, our space and our abilities start to take its toll and many start to look very tired. Some get so tired that before long, they start to sing the “Burn Out Song.” What song? I feel burned out. “I feel drained.” “I can’t do this anymore.” “Ministry is just too hard.” “I don’t have resources.” “I don’t have people to help me.” The song is sung in many different stanzas and different styles. But the bottom line is, they no longer want to go on. What has happened? They have lost their joy and the initial fire that set them going.

#### **Maintaining Open Heavens Over your Ministry**

What we must understand is that ministry has its “wear and tear.” Just by continuous use and the tendency to repeat tasks, it can quickly become dull and boring. Not seeing the initial fruits that you thought you would see can be very discouraging. The people who initially encouraged you to step out soon get caught up in the cycles of their own lives and the road soon becomes very lonely. So what is one to do? The minister must learn to maintain “Open Heavens” over his/her ministry.

What are “Open Heavens?”

A minister maintains open Heavens over his/her ministry when he/she has learnt the art or methods of (A) keeping a direct line of communication between him/herself and God to ensure the flow of (1) Divine Instructions (2) Prophetic Communications (3) Flow of material and “people” resources (4) Angelic assistance and (B) Keeping your heavens clear of demonic interference and obstructions

## **A. Keeping a direct line of communication between him/herself and God to ensure the flow of**

(1) Divine Instructions: The demands of ministry clutter your mind and your ability to hear directly from God. If you do not develop this art soon you would not know what to do next. This has grounded many ministries; i.e. when a minister cannot hear what “Doth Saith the Lord.” That minister is stuck and starts to spin his wheels. The ministry soon dies and the minister starts to find himself going to self-help books and starts to ask other ministers what they are doing and start to copy ministry methods. God does not support what He did not commission. Ministry is not a talent show. If the minister does go on a specific instruction or word which was not from God, He becomes “A went” and not “A sent.” God does not finance “Went Ones.”

(2) Prophetic Communications: The devil has many pitfalls ahead for the minister to stop him and to confuse him and quite frankly to destroy him. A minister must be able to hear warnings from God or that ministry may be very short-lived. (Acts 21:10-11)

(3) Flow of material and “people” resources. It is God who sent the minister and who will send the laborers to assist in that mission. It is crucial that God is invested in that process or the minister becomes political and gets into gimmicks to fund and “woo” people into his ministry. An accident will happen not too long from then. (Matt 20:1-2) (Luk 10:2)

(4) Angelic assistance. The work the minister has been called to do is supernatural. You need angels to do what you cannot do and wage war for you. (Heb 1:14)

## **B. Keeping your heavens clear of demonic interference and obstructions**

The devil and his host dwell in heavenly places. When God sends your resources they can and do often block the much needed resources of the minister. They also set up obstacles and keep an ongoing warfare to just basically wear out the minister. (Eph 6:12-13)

### **How to Maintain Open Heavens**

Basically to maintain open heavens, a minister must be invested in prayer and fasting.

#### Prayer

1. Pray alone. Jesus had this habit to go “download” the day’s events from the Father (Mark 1:35)
2. Prayer partners / Prayer of agreement. Jesus knowing how the enemy would come guaranteed that if you can find someone to agree with he will respond to your need in ministry. (Matt 18:19)
3. Corporate praying. Many times the opposition is so fierce that you need a body of believers to come together and “pray through.” (Acts 12:1-16) The wise minister makes it priority to seek at least one group of intercessors to help him.

#### Fasting

1. To break through serious obstacles and opposition (Matt 17:21)
2. To break a dry spell of not “hearing” or clarify instructions. (Acts 13:2-3)
3. To mobilize spiritual assistance. (Dan 9:1-4; 21-22)

A minister must not shy away from this area of prayer and fasting.