



School Of Ministry

Lesson 37

ENSURING CONTINUITY FOR THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY

(1) Walking in WISDOM.....2 Tim 1:7; Proverbs 4, 16; Prov 24:3-6; Eph 3:10; Isa 33:6

Wisdom is one of the 3 kingdom priorities required for success. God has given us power (and authority), Agape love, and the gift of a “sound mind” to help us fulfill His calling in every area of life. The Bible describes wisdom as “the principal thing”. Principal (*Heb, Resiyt*) means beginning, first, chief, best, etc. This means wisdom must be at the beginning, and must be the first, best, and center of everything we do in life. Nothing in life can be built successfully without wisdom (and its accompanying graces of understanding, knowledge, discretion, discernment, counsel, and sound judgment). ***Wisdom is the KEY that unlocks every door of life***, and without it, we will stumble, and our paths will be unnecessarily hard and burdensome (Prov 1:20-33). Every decision of our lives today will impact our future, because decisions determine destiny. Hence it is important that the wisdom of God underlies everything we do so that the good future of our ministry is guaranteed (2 Chronicles 1:7-12).

(a) **Godly Wisdom** is superior to the other kinds of wisdom such as human (or earthly, or worldly) and demonic wisdom (James 3:15-18). God’s wisdom is the original wisdom, and is from above. When it’s operational inside a believer, it puts him/her above all. God’s wisdom is knowing the scriptural way to go, the scriptural steps to take, and the scriptural thing to do. ***When this principal grace is at work in our lives, we become supernaturally unbeatable just like Jesus was*** (Mark 6:2, 3). Every aspect of Jesus’ life was undergirded with the wisdom of God (Isa 11:1-3; Lk 2:41-52; Lk 11:31). Notice that contrary to how many ministers do, Jesus did not operate by “Common sense” but by wisdom. Operating by common sense will produce common results for us in every area of life, but wisdom will elevate us, give us superior results, and ensure a good future for all God commits into our hands (Luke 6:46-49; Lk 21:15).

(b) **Pursue wisdom as a priority** of your life and ministry (Job 28:12-28; Prov 2:1-4; Prov 3:5-17; Prov 4:7-13; Jer 33:1-3; I Cor 2:6-16; James 1:2-8). If you do, wisdom will unravel God’s secrets unto you. We must constantly seek to “tap” into God’s wisdom, especially when at crossroads and need to make life-defining decisions. Train yourself to

be patient and not take steps without first ascertaining God's wisdom (Eccl 10:10, 15; Eccl 8:1-6). Take time periodically to seek God in fasting and prayer; delve constantly into God's Word and pray fervently in the spirit; Finally, be prudent by engaging practical wisdom in all areas of your life and ministry (Isa 52:13-15). Wisdom has been defined as *comprehensive insight into the ways of God*, but what we do with wisdom is far more important than what we know or say about it (I Ki 11:1-3). Solomon had access to God's highest wisdom but did not act on what he knew. His kingdom was eventually derailed. Jesus walked in wisdom, and His government is still ever increasing (Isa 9:6, 7).

(2) The Spirit of EXCELLENCE....Dan 1:3-20; Dan 6:1-4ff; I Cor 3:10ff; Phil 1:10 (Amp)

If you want to thrive and succeed in your calling, develop the spirit of excellence, grow in it, and constantly demand it of yourself personally. Excellence is putting out your best in everything you do in life and ministry. If you will excel, you must display excellence in your life. This requires that shoddiness, sloppiness, tardiness, and everything else that is contrary to an excellent lifestyle must be ruthlessly eradicated from our lives. It also means that we must develop a culture of integrity and proper ethics in our interaction with others. If you don't learn to keep your word even in the little things of life, you will abort the great future God has for your ministry. There are 2 kinds of believers and ministers; (a) Excellent and (b) Mediocre or average. Believers and ministers who cultivate a spirit of excellence in their lives keep going higher and getting better, while average mediocre believers keep getting smaller until they become insignificant (Acts 17:10-12; I Chron 4:9, 10). Excellence is always doing what is right when it's right, in the way that's right because it is right in God's sight; Excellence is giving all diligence to all you do in life. *Excellence is refusing to make excuses for mediocrity*, but challenging oneself to rise higher in all endeavors of life and ministry. If you commit to a life and ministry of excellence, God will commit to establishing the future of all you do.

(3) IMPORTUNITY and Desperation for SUCCESS...Lk 5:17-20; Lk 18:1-8; Jos 1:8; John 15:16

It is God's will for every minister and believer to succeed in every endeavor He commits into our hands. However, not everyone who talks about wanting success actually get it, because not everyone is desperate enough for it. *When you are truly desperate and want success more than anything else*, and are willing to be importunate about it, then God will honor your uncompromising stand and help you get it. Having lasting fruit in life and ministry depend to a large extent on our fulfilling the requirements for it rather than just desiring it. The three steps to success are: (a) Find out the will of God(wisdom); (b) Once you know God's will, confer no longer with flesh and blood; and (c) Get the job done at any cost (Excellence and Importunity).

(a) **Success Buttons.....**When our purpose is known and the will of God has been ascertained, there are other things we must do to guarantee our lasting success. These include: **1. Planning** (Prov 23:3, 4; Lk 14:28-32) which involves thoughtfully and prayerfully pondering how to realize our set goals; **2. Projecting** (Eccl 8:5, 6) which involves putting our plan into time frames as the Holy Spirit gives us insight; **3. Pursuit** (Hab 2:2; I Cor 9:24) which involves stepping out into the instructions received, taking action, and implementing the vision in stages; **4. Appraisal**, which involves reviewing progress and re-thinking methods and strategies in order to improve results obtained; **5. Perseverance** (Heb 10:35-39), which is actively resisting failure and turning down opportunities to quit or go back; and **6. Attitude**, which ultimately determines our altitude. Constantly addressing the disposition of our minds and feelings, and re-directing them in the direction of God's instructions will keep us from being distracted or derailed.

(4) COMMITMENT.....Heb 12:1-4...

Commitment is defined as a pledge, promise, guarantee to obligate oneself. When you commit to something, you are promising or guaranteeing that you will follow through with your word. Being in the ministry is a pledge and a commitment to serve God and do his will for the rest of our lives. ***We must determine to be sold out completely to God and to our calling.*** Make up your mind to go all the way. Keep your word; Train yourself to complete tasks even when the going gets tough. The future of our ministry is guaranteed when we are committed to going all the way.