

# Opening the Doors to Your Ministry

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Presented by  
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- I. Romans 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

Calling and separation

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace..

- II. Ephesians 1: 3-14; God has a plan for your life from before the foundation of the world.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:18; set each member in the body

Ephesians 4:7; Each one of us

Acts 13: 1-2 ..the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- III. What is a calling?

- A. Kaleo (greek) which means to call aloud, to summon, or call forward
  1. A calling is God's will for your life
  2. The work God wants you to accomplish during the time you are on earth
  3. Every believer is called

The fulfillment of the calling depends on several factors

1. Recognizing the call
2. Accepting the call
3. Responding in faith to the call
4. Do the next thing the Lord tells you to do
5. Move in Father God's timing

- IV. What is being separated? (from and unto)

- A. Aphorao (greek) to set apart by boundaries or to sever

Be separated to what God has called you

Leaving and entering – Acts 7:3

God has a calling and a point of separation for every believer

## Maintaining the Right Motives for Ministry

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### I. 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

For the appeal we make does not spring from our impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel we're not trying to please men, but God who tests our hearts.

- A. As pastors and ministers, we should from time to time take account of our own motives for why we do what we do in fulfilling the call of God on our lives. 1 Thessalonians 2 is an excellent starting point of wisdom for any pastor or ministry.

It not only shows what Paul's motives were, but it also shows what they were not.

### II. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

..but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing man, but God, who tests our hearts.

- A. Pleasing is the Greek word "aresko." This word carries the idea of virtue, joy, and the light. It describes an individual who loves serving people and who gave their whole lives to the service of others. In essence Paul was saying I'm called to serve people but not to please people.
- B. The first priority is to please God. Jesus said, "one cannot please God and man."

We are to be pleasing to Father God first. Then we are able to serve the church, the Body of Christ.

Many in ministry can miss it because they have the attitude that the church is supposed to serve them and their vision. We are here to serve the church.

III. 1 Thessalonians 2:5

..for neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness, God is witness.

- A. Paul did not use flattering word as a means of selfish gain. Flattering words in the Greek means to butter up someone by saying things he or she wants to hear. It also means to say things with an insincere motive. Just words to get what they want.
- C. The cloak of covetousness is a means to exploit people for gain. Cloak means a pretense or something that is phony or not real. Another way to say it is a cloak of coverage, covering their motive for the sake of covetousness or selfishness.
  - 1. Covetousness describes a person who has money in the heart. He thinks money. He eats drinks and sleeps money and he talks money. When that person stands and looks at people in the congregation, he sees dollar bills.

IV. 1 Thessalonians 2: 6 – 8

..nor of man sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherishes her children: so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted to you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear to us.

- A. ..always saying, I haven't sought glory in the past; I'm not seeking glory from you now; and I'm not going to seek glory from anyone else in the future. Paul was not interested in making a name for himself or being famous by receiving glory from men.
  - B. The primary focus of ministry is relationships. Paul genuinely cared about the people he was ministering to, in verse 7, he describes his feelings as the last thing he wanted to do was abuse them, rather he wanted to see them grow.
  - C. Paul had an intense desire to see those believers that he had relationship with face-to-face again.
- V. 1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

- A. Faithful – a person who shows themselves trustworthy in transactions of business, executions of commands or the discharge of duties.
  - B. 1 Thes. 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. In many cases faithful is translated believer or them that believe. 1 Tim. 4:12, 2 Cor. 6:15, 1 Pet. 1:21, Gal. 3:9, Acts 16:2.
  - C. Matthew 20:16 says, so the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen. Summons, chosen by God or pick out or separated.
  - D. A requirement for being chosen or separated for the work that God has called you is found in Matthew 5:6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
    - 1. Hunger is to seek with earnest desire; to crave ardently. Thirst is to eagerly long after; righteous motives. Your ministry is rendered powerless if motives are not right.
    - 2. Some wrong ministry motives;
      - a. Making a name for oneself; hunger for recognition; accepted socially within the church; power or control over others; love of money or greed; achieving righteousness by your own works.
- VI. 1 Thessalonians 2:5 says, neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness – God is witness. Philippians 1:16 says, the former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains.
- A. cloak of covetousness: cloak Greek word PROPHASIS; pretense or something that is phony or not real. Covetousness: Greek word PLEONEXIA; monetary greed.
    - 1. To have more
    - 2. Expanding – to have more and more and more

3. Overreaching for more than you need

4. Covetousness reaches out and controls you

a. Covetous describes a man who has money in the heart, not money in the hand, thinks money, thinks about and talks about money, makes decisions based on money; Covetousness looks for more money; sees every encounter as an opportunity for money; sees every relationship as a money opportunity, everything he does is an opportunity to get what he wants.

5. God must be your total source at all times and in every situation.

6. God did not give birth to the church to give us a place to preach, or a place to grow our ministry or to hold onto people. Why do we want to see people healed, set free or grow?

## As Christ Loves the Church

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- I. A pastor loves the church as Jesus loves the church.
  - A. Even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church. Ephesians 5:25 – 29
    1. Cherished is the Greek word “thalpo.” The way Jesus Christ treats the church is the way a minister of Jesus Christ should treat the church.

As a result of our Lord Jesus’s love for the church, he gave the Holy Spirit and the fivefold ministry gifts to minister to the church.

Jesus is patient with the church, when it makes mistakes he nourishes it so that it will grow.

We who are involved in ministry are to nurture and cherish those we minister to. 1 Thessalonians 2:8; so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted to you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you had become dear to us.

The word “dear” means beloved.

Ministry involves labor and sacrifice; 1 Thessalonians 2:9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

Agape means to place a high value upon a person or object. In verse 9, Paul describes what the love he had in his heart for this church looked like as he expressed it in his words and actions.

It was for agape love that Paul and his ministry team suffered these things and never quit or gave up despite the trouble, pain, and struggle to overcome difficulties that they experienced.

II. 1 Thessalonians 2:11; as you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his children.

A. This verse shows us a fatherly ministry.

1. To exhort is to be by their side, walking with them, warning them, teaching them and speaking to them.
2. To comfort is to admonish, calm and console.
3. A charge is to implore that you would walk worthy of God.
4. Pastors and ministers take delight and pleasure in seeing the related body of believers that the Lord has placed in their care mature in their relationship with Father God.

## Scriptures on which Word of Life Family Fellowship is established

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### Article I. The Authority of the Scriptures

Timothy 3:16 – all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

We believe and affirm that the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, is the only infallible and inspired Word of God. It must not be added to, taken away from or superseded by man in any way. The Bible is the source of all doctrine and profitable for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness. It contains all the wisdom needed for guidance in every matter of life. The Bible, the Word of God, is the final authority as the source of all knowledge and wisdom as it pertains to all mankind and all of his creation. The Word of God is the final authority in the life of one that has received Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life.

### Article II. The Holy Trinity

1 John 5:7 – For there are three that bear witness in heaven; the Father, the Word, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and these three are one. The testimony of the God, the Bible, and the New Testament church is that there is only one God and that he is eternally existent in three persons; the Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

#### 1. God the Father – Genesis 1:1-2

God the Father is the creator of all things and all of creation is held together by his Word. He created man in his own image. All commands proceed from the Father. The Father is the architect and designer of all creation.

#### 2. The Son Jesus – John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, Jesus, and without him nothing was made that was made.

Jesus was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning and through him all things were made. He left heaven and became a man by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary; since then Jesus is forever God and man in one person. Jesus carries out the Father's design in all things.

#### 3. The Holy Spirit – 2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life. He operated in the Old Covenant and has been given to the church in the fullness at Pentecost. He convicts the world of the sin because they do not believe in Jesus Christ. He causes the church, the Body of Christ, to know we who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior have been made righteous by the Father. The Holy Spirit makes known to us that Satan, the ruler of the world's system, has been judged, disarmed and stripped of all authority. The baptism with the Holy Spirit, following receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior releases the fullness of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by being a witness, by the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit operating in the life of a believer. John 16:7 – 11

Article III. The Cross of Calvary - Colossians 1:20 – 22

It pleased the Father that by Jesus, He reconciled all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of the cross. And you who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of Jesus's flesh through death.

Jesus Christ's death on the cross paid the required penalty for the sins of the whole world, however the only ones who partake of the benefits provided by the Cross of Jesus are those who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Healing and wholeness, spirit, soul and body, and all of the Father God's provision for members of the Body of Christ, his church, are provided for by the blood of the cross. These must be appropriated by faith.

Article IV. Salvation - Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

The Word of God declares that salvation is a free gift of God based totally on what the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus accomplished. It is received into each person's life by faith. The benefits of salvation are received by anyone who repents from dead works. Dead works are a person's own effort by their good works to save oneself. A person's effort to establish their own right standing with God based on their good works. Then through faith toward God we turn to Him, that is to believe that Father God through Jesus has provided all of salvation as a free gift to us. It is Jesus Christ's work alone by which we are saved.

Article V. Baptism into Christ Jesus – 1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jew or Gentile whether slave or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:18 – but now Father God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as he pleased. Father God wills that all are to be fitly joined in the church.

Upon receiving Jesus as Lord, the believer is now placed in Christ Jesus, the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is the church on earth today. Therefore each believer is now a member of the church, the Body of Christ. Then that believer is placed in a local church as a member as Father God pleases.

Article VI. Water Baptism - Matthew 3:13 ; Matthew 28:19 ; acts 10:47

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and the whole the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove coming to rest on him and remaining.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Water baptism is releasing faith through the outward act of submersion in water by which the believer completes the inward righteousness received through faith in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is releasing faith that our old sin nature was crucified with Christ and that we are raised with him to walk in the newness of life.

Article VII. Baptism with the Holy Spirit – Matthew 3:13; Luke 24:49 ; Acts 1:8

When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

Jesus said, "I am going to send what my Father promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The gift of the Holy Spirit is an added grace from the Father after receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior and receiving the divine nature of God from above. [Born-again]

Article VIII. The Church - Ephesians 1:22 – 23; Ephesians 3:10, 21; Ephesians 5:23 – 25 ; Ephesians 5:27, 29, 32 ; Acts 2:47 ; 1 Corinthians 11:18.

The Church is the Body of Christ on the earth. The church has the fullness of God within it. The church has been given full authority to rule and reign in this life. The church consists of those who answer the call, worldwide, regardless of nation or culture. They are called out ones from the world, the flesh and the devil. They come to hear from the Holy Spirit. The church is not national, international, denominational, non-denominational, sectarian or non-sectarian. The Church is one new man created in Christ Jesus. A new thing that Father God has created in the earth. The Church is Father God's people called together in order to listen and act for God in the earth by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Article IX. Lord's Supper / Communion – 1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same manner he took the cup after supper, saying this cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till he comes.

We come to the Lord's table in faith believing..

1. Come in remembrance of our Lord Jesus's death, burial and resurrection.
2. We come with Thanksgiving. Luke 22:17
3. We come discerning the body and the blood of Jesus both physically and spiritually, the church, the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians: 11: 27 – 30.
4. We come in unity as a body of related believers honoring Jesus as Lord.
5. We come receiving wholeness, health, healing, life, strength and liberty.  
1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 105:37; Isaiah 53:4 – 5; Matthew 8:17.

Article X. Eschatology

We affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the Saints, the millennium, and the final judgment. Final judgment will determine the eternal status of both the Saints and the unbelievers. This is determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ. We affirm with the Bible the final state of the new heavens and the new earth.