

Pioneering is hard work, but it is rewarding work. We are going to continue our series Pioneer Persistence, in this series Paul *highlights* his setbacks in ministry, but how he remains persistent by staying focused even in the face various adversities.

2 Corinthians 6:4-7 (NKJV) But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left

I NEED REALITIES:

A- Life is filled with needs!

1. God speaks to this: **Matthew 6:8** for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

a. **Luke 12:30** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs... Jesus addresses our needs of eat, drink, wear, live... God knows you need them!

B- Pioneering is filled with needs: Paul says in **V6** my pioneering and ministry experience has involved NEED

1. Pioneering needs Buildings, Converts, Finances, Ministry Involvement, Permits, Advertising-

a. Sometimes the need is desperate, overwhelming, frustrating, difficult...

2. But you need to have room for this reality. Its part of life, it will be part of ministry!

a. Some men give up because of the needs... They don't process it correctly.

i. Either because the need is Prolonged or Too great a need-

3. Paul had needs in ministry, Jesus had needs in ministry... We definitely will too-

II THE SOURCE FOR MEETING THE NEED:

A- Now, God is the answer for our needs, but that isn't how some approach it-

1. Especially because the need is so real in the natural!

a. Some men passively pray about their needs, they don't approach it spiritually-

b. They look for answers in the natural-

B- Many turn to other sources:

1. Some turn to People: People will be the answer, people's money, the mother church, my Pastor...

2. Credit: They rack up CC debt to cover lean seasons, paying church bills on credit... loans... borrow from people...

3. Removal: Some start getting rid of things like HG Praise, Offering, Altar calls, preaching... In an effort to appease people into staying and meeting a need-

4. Quit: They quit ministry, quit calling, quit God's will for their life-

C- Because these sources are inadequate... God is the source for our every need in ministry!

1. When we needed money (NM), my Pastor directed me to God... When we needed fruitfulness (NY) my pastor directed me to God... When I needed disciples my Pastor directed me to God... God is the SOURCE, the ANSWER for our need!

a. **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

III BRINGING OUR NEEDS TO GOD:

A- It is evidence of a settled security when we bring our needs to God! ... We are saying- God I trust you

1. The answer is the 9 divine enablements: **2 Corinthians 6:6-7** by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness-

a. God is the answer, I can continue pioneering IN need & THROUGH need, BY the power of God.

2. B/c God has what we need! **Phil4:19** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

a. **2 Cor9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

i. Making God the source of all your needs begins with a foundation on His word!

3. Contend: *What does it mean to contend?* It becomes a FOCUS... I will focus my prayer & fasting for this-

4. Learn the lesson now... What is your greatest need? Bring it to God, and as He answers note it-

a. Look back, how has God met needs in the past? Note it and apply it... answered needs are transferable-

5. Need doesn't have to be our end, God wants to meet our need... It is who He is, it is what He does-

a. **Gen22:14** So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

b. P Matt Sanderlin: The word you gave us when we had a ordination service is truly coming to pass. We are getting a favor and asking for things that shouldn't even be considered. An incredible house at an unbeatable cost. Utilities included. 3.5 church buildings that have been offered to us for free. one of which is on beacon Hill! I have a parking lot in the heart of East Boston, six minutes from my house that I'm allowed to use at any time to park my car and take the Train at no cost. So many people here, providing direction and guidance and help in getting our church in legal standing. I was just handed another set of keys for a 2nd building here in Boston. You said to ask