

In our fellowship it's possible you may take over a church at some point in your ministry. I want to think about some wisdom for takeovers that can help you win the people's hearts & fulfill the will of God.

John 6:39 NIV And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

I THE TIME FACTOR

A- One of the keys to applying wisdom in takeovers is keeping in mind the TIME Factor; *The church will need time.*

1. Time to get to know you: You're new, you're not the last guy, you're different. *So give yourself & church time to change that.*
2. Time to move forward: No matter what there will be people who love the last Pastor. *Allow room for them to process.*
3. Time to appreciate your ministry: They may not be coming to hear you preach. *They are coming b/c that's where they were saved, where they have relationship, what they know ... They will appreciate you IN TIME.*

B- So; The issue is some Pastors forget the time factor!

1. They want allegiance NOW... But that is won over time.
 - a. Your job is to make a good first impression, try to win them, learn their names, encourage them, be consistent w what they are used to have happening in a regular service.
2. Remember there are some people that really care about you being there, others who care slightly, others that are indifferent.

II IDENTIFYING THE NEED

A- Every church has a need that you have to identify: *as quickly as possible.* (Prayer life is key; *Give me wisdom & strategy*)

1. Continue Revival: Maybe they have had some recent breakthroughs, people locked in, expectancy, outreach-
 - a. Keep the momentum. That's where they're at, ride that wave.
 - i. **Ezra 9:8** And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.
2. Start a Party: Maybe things have been slow going, the people are discouraged, hurting, despair.
 - a. You will need to start things up. Fan into flame the gift.
 - i. Learn the History of the church, what has God done in the past, he can do it again!
 - ii. SF: PM said- Re-pioneer the city. *That was a start up, start ups take work!*
3. Stop a Party: Maybe things have strayed into carnality, a loss of dominion, no standards, it's all fun & no business.
 - a. There's a big group of people meeting, but heading for disaster.

B- Now that you see the need; How you accomplish meeting that need matters!

1. Time: Give the church time! Be patient. **Rom8:25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience
2. Change: Use wisdom; Ask self: Is it necessary right NOW? Can we change this later? How will people respond?
 - a. PG: *You don't have to change everything for God to help you.*
3. Prayer: Get God involved! Pray about the need, pray for the people, pray for their seats, pray over them at the altar.
 - a. Prayer has been KEY in the need being met.

III GETTING THE POINT

A- Effective church takeovers is understanding: What is the point of you going there to Pastor?

1. Pride & Ego says to look better than the last guy-
 - a. To outdo him, to belittle him, to destroy his credibility so that you look like a hero... **FOOLISH/Immature**
 - b. You will hurt yourself & the church... That approach is counterproductive & destructive.
2. Jesus says: To get people to heaven. **V39** I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.
 - a. Jesus in essence operated the greatest church take over: JTB prepared the way & baptized many to repentance before Jesus
 - i. He lost NOT ONE; **John 17:12** While I was with them, I protected and preserved them by Your name, the name You gave Me. Not one of them has been lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.
 - b. Jesus was focused on getting people to heaven... It wasn't about Him, it was about others, the already won followers.
 - i. **John 6:38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me.

B- So the key in *getting the point* is: Evangelism; Evangelism will help work a lot of these things out for you

1. You're keeping the main thing the main thing: Souls at the forefront. I have had to start a party & stop a party; Evangelism was key in getting those things accomplished.
2. You earn Credibility:
 - a. As people hear reports of people getting saved. That encourages them that you are for them & their city.
 - b. As visitors start coming in. They begin to see a flow of visitors, and the church atmosphere changes. *Life begets life.*
 - c. As people start getting healed. Evangelism unlocks other miracles. *It was common for us to have people saved & healed.*
 - d. As people start to lock in. Your credibility grows as the church sees growth.
3. As you work through the process they will begin to appreciate your ministry, and you will win the hearts of the people.
 - a. You will be able to lead them to Eternity; PM *Get people saved, and get them to heaven.*