

I want to minister on the issue of Prayer & Pastoral ministry: I remember Pastor Aragon making a statement years ago that stuck with me: *The longer I am saved, and the more my ministry grows, the more I need prayer.*

I have learned that: for all that is involved in Pastoral ministry, your prayer life is key to your endurance & ability.

I THE NEED FOR PRAYER:

A- The first need for prayer has to do with the work of ministry-

1. Ministry means service- We serve people!
 - a. **Jer3:15** And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding
 - i. Feeding the flock, ministering the word, ministering to needs... You are pouring yourself out!
 - b. What happens when something is poured out? It is empty and needs refilling
2. Text: V32-34 they brought the sick & oppressed, the whole city is there, he is healing- IOW He is pouring out
 - a. **Luke 8:46** But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."... power out
3. So we need prayer in order to refill what has been poured out in ministry.
 - a. Roc: First took over, the church was in need of shepherd ministry; I poured out, leaving so physically, mentally, & spiritually drained- I had poured out in Prayer, Preaching, Counsel & encouragement, Gift ministry-

B- Prayer is the means for refilling your spirit-

1. V35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed...
 - a. If Jesus needed prayer, how much more do we need it!?
2. So we need to pray for ourselves in whatever ministry capacity we are involved in... This involves HG Prayer-
 - a. **Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Building up yourself- In the HG.
 - b. **1Cor14:4** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself... Praying in Tongues is for YOU... builds up.
3. So; it is because of the work of ministry, we NEED a prayer life... and the greater your ministry, the greater the need

II 3 PRAYER TARGETS:

These I feel are of a top priority for the work of ministry-

A- The first being a **HEART FOR PEOPLE:**

1. **1 Kings 4:29** And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.
 - a. The drive of ministry must come from the heart... a heart for people... Solomons request for wisdom was to LEAD THIS GREAT PEOPLE OF YOURS... in OT the priests wore a plate with the names of the tribes over their heart.
2. Jesus had a heart for people which is why he was willing to minister to the whole city... it was more than a crowd coming to hear him, it was a crowd coming to have a need met by Him!
 - a. If you do not have a heart for people, you will only get vexed and frustrated by their needs.

B- The second request we need is **WISDOM:** What to do, When to do, How to do... it's knowledge applied.

1. You need wisdom for your church, people's lives, location, direction, problems, crisis, trauma, loss, finances...
2. **Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom... Wisdom for the work of God- This is something we need.
 - a. Jesus used wisdom with every interaction- He had a sensitivity to what would be best in the moment.

C- The final request is **DISCERNMENT:** This is the ability to judge things.

1. Discernment involves the idea of SMELL: Like the artificial smell placed into natural gas... to help you detect.
2. This is what we need: We deal with all kinds of issues... we need to judge accordingly.
 - a. Some people may be deceptive, withhold information, others want to take advantage...
 - i. Jesus said there would be wolves in sheep's clothing... I send you as lambs among wolves... We need discernment in decisions.
 - ii. There have been times God has led me through a HG stirring... my discernment was on point.

III ESTABLISHING PRAYER NOW

A- So; The best thing you can do NOW is learn the discipline of prayer.

1. Right now you have help, you have covering, you are under authority... build your prayer life now.
 - a. Luke 11:1 *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*
2. Some men make the mistake thinking: *I will have time when I'm out, then I will have a great prayer life.*
 - a. PG used to tell us on things like this: *You will just be a more expensive version of yourself.*
3. Now is the time to establish this fundamental part of Ministry & Pastoral Ministry.