

# Preparation for Ministry

## Developing Personal Ministry

### The Emmaus Road Encounter

#### Luke 24:13-35

Let's look at the dynamics of this encounter to get an idea of the atmosphere we want to create for Jesus to give us revelation. There are three distinct things here we want to see and experience in our quest for spiritual growth and ministry.

1. They talked together
2. They communed (GR Homileos – conversed)
3. They reasoned (To Investigate jointly, discuss, controvert, cavil, translated: *dispute (with), enquire, question (with), reason (together)*)

*Jesus Interacts with the Disciples.*

4. Communications (GR Logos: Something said, reasoning, mental computation, process)
5. Jesus HIMSELF drew near – Jesus is attracted to serious discussion and reasoning about the things of God.
6. Jesus rebuked them
7. He acted as if to leave and responded to their request to stay
8. He "opened the scripture to them" (revelation)
  - a. Matthew 13:10-12
  - b. Ephesians 1:16-23
  - c. I Corinthians 2:1-16
9. He revealed something and left

### Finding Your Place in the Great Commission

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:16-20

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And

they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." Mark 16:15-20

1. Other Scriptures
  - a. John 20:19-23 We have received the same commission Jesus had
  - b. Acts 1:6 The promise of power to do the job
  - c. II Corinthians 5:16-21
    - i. YOU are an ambassador for Christ
    - ii. The word and ministry of Reconciliation have been given to YOU
2. The Essence of the Great Commission
  - a. They had an appointment: Being in the right place at the right time Matt 28:16
  - b. Understanding generated worship – to be a believer is to be a worshipper
  - c. Jesus speaks to us: John 10:1-18
  - d. The Great Commission started with a Proclamation of Power GR Exousia: 1. Privilege 2. (*subjectively*) force, capacity, competency, freedom 3. (*objectively*) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence [from G1832 (in the sense of ability)] KJV: *authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength*
  - e. Go ye vrs. come ye – traditional church structure vrs. missional church structure
  - f. Preach the gospel (Mark) GR: Kerruso: a public crier
  - g. Teach: GR: matheteuo – to become a pupil to enroll as a student, make disciples (we need to be enlisting disciples, not trying to disciple people who don't want or understand it)
  - h. Baptize: Immersion in water
  - i. Teach: GR: didasko – to teach or cause to learn (If they are not learning, we are not teaching)
  - j. The promise of His presence
  - k. Signs to follow the believers: God did not call you to preach; He called you to witness to the resurrection by preaching. He did not call you to heal. He called you to witness his resurrection by healing people. The gifts of the Spirit and specific ministries ARE NOT the goals but only means to an end—ministry to people and the glorification of God.
  - l. The Spirit confirms the world, not the disciple.

**Discussion Points:**

1. What are some ways you and I can practically fulfill the great commission starting today?
2. What are some corporate things we could do?

**Prayer Points:** Pray specifically in terms of the great commission

1. Pray for power
2. Pray for boldness
3. Pray for wisdom
4. Pray for the gifts of the Spirit
5. Pray for opportunity
6. Pray specifically for individuals
7. Pray for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit

**Action Points:**

1. Find at least one person this week to talk to about Jesus and pray for.

2. Reread this section and spend some time in the presence of God asking for revelation
3. Begin rehearsing your personal testimony so you can share it with others.

# Developing Personal Ministry

## Section 2 – Calling and Equipping

<sup>1</sup>I THEREFORE, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God's service, <sup>2</sup>Living as becomes you] with complete lowliness of mind (humility) and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another and making allowances because you love one another. <sup>3</sup>Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace. <sup>4</sup>[There is] one body and one Spirit--just as there is also one hope [that belongs] to the calling you received-- <sup>5</sup>[There is] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>One God and Father of [us] all, Who is above all [Sovereign over all], pervading all and [living] in [us] all. <sup>7</sup>Yet grace (God's unmerited favor) was given to each of us individually [not indiscriminately, but in different ways] in proportion to the measure of Christ's [rich and bounteous] gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive [He led a train of vanquished foes] and He bestowed gifts on men. <sup>9</sup>[But He ascended?] Now what can this, He ascended, mean but that He had previously descended from [the heights of] heaven into [the depths], the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He Who descended is the [very] same as He Who also has ascended high above all the heavens, that He [His presence] might fill all things (the whole universe, from the lowest to the highest).

<sup>11</sup>And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. <sup>12</sup>His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), <sup>13</sup>[That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. <sup>14</sup>So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead. <sup>15</sup>Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). <sup>16</sup>For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:1-16 AMP

There are some false presuppositions in the Church that hinder the work of the Holy Spirit both in and through individuals. As long as these remain, the Church will never accomplish the task assigned to her. **YOU** are a vital part of God's plan for the Church. Some false presuppositions:

1. Only certain people are called to the ministry. Every Christian is called to serve God (Ephesians 2:8-10).
2. Being called to the ministry means being called to preach. Preaching is not the only ministry.
3. Being called to the ministry means being "full time" like a pastor, evangelist, or missionary.
4. Being called to the ministry means having to go to Bible school.
5. Being called to the ministry means becoming very religious and changing your lifestyle.

### **Exploring Ephesians 4 (Stop and read Ephesians chapter four now!)**

Verse 1: The call to serve is given to everyone

1. Everyone has been called with a "divine calling" and a "summons to God's Service"
2. Live a life that gives credit to that calling

Verse 2: The 5 key life qualities of the successful minister/ministry

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 3: Unity is a prevailing principle of ministry, especially in the local church.

1. A "minister" that is always stirring up trouble and dividing the Body is not of the Spirit of God
2. Heretic: GR *hairetikos* (hai-ret-ee-kos') schismatic, discordant, divisive
3. A HERETIC isn't necessarily one that brings false doctrine – it is someone who divides and causes strife, even with good doctrine (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Verse 4-6: The Oneness of the Church

Verse 7-10: Every person has been given gifts with which to minister

1. "Each of us Individually" God matches your personality, your job, your calling to the gift set that He knows will best suit His call on your life.
2. Five ministry gifts (Ephesians. 4), nine Spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12), and seven motivational gifts (Romans 12)

Verse 11: The 5-fold ministry gifts

1. These are not positions, offices, or titles; they are functions
2. Apostle – literally "one sent" - Establishment
3. Prophet – Direction, Discernment
4. Evangelist - Salvation
5. Pastor – Guidance - Shepherds
6. Teacher – Instruction, Insight, Revelation

Verse 12: The purpose of the 5-fold ministry is:

1. Perfecting the people of God
2. Equipping the people of God
3. "That **THEY** (the people of God, not the ministers themselves) should do the work of ministering and building up the Body of Christ."

Verse 13: The result of the 5-fold ministry is:

1. The church should be ever developing (never stagnant – every living thing grows or dies, it does not remain stagnant for long).
2. The Body of Christ is headed towards unity in the faith
3. Corporately we are to have complete and accurate knowledge of Jesus.
4. Attaining true spiritual maturity corporately (Ephesians 4 is not about individualist Christianity – it is about the corporate expression of Christ on earth – the Body of Christ)
5. The complete expression of Christ to the world through the Church, the Body of Christ

Verse 14: Spiritual stability individually and corporately

Verse 15: The lifestyle of the ministry is:

1. Truth — Speaking the truth in love we grow up.
2. Growth — We do not enter into ministry because we have arrived. Ministry is simply another level that God deals with us in our personal lives.

Verse 16: Understanding the Body of Christ and your place and function in it

1. Joints and ligaments (KJV That which "every joint supplies") Joints and ligaments give the body function by holding it together and creating mobility.
2. Joints are not members – joints are where two members come together to relate to each other. Therefore a joint can be called a relationship.
3. The Body of Christ works ONLY when:
  - a. Each part of the Body is in its proper place, fulfilling its role
  - b. The parts of the Body acknowledge, empower, and receive from the other members. That requires great humility to both know our limited role and the roles of others.
  - c. Relationships are strong and closely knit — a disjointed shoulder does not work like it is supposed to. Pain and limited mobility hinder its purpose and function.
4. The result is maturity in the Body (church). Weakness, strife, division, powerlessness, etc., are all signs of a diseased body
5. Building itself up in love

#### **Self Examination Questions:**

1. Do I know what my place is in the Body of Christ?
2. Am I doing what God has called me to do, where God has called me to do it
3. How is my "lifestyle"? Patience? Humility? Meekness? Love? Forbearance? (Fruits of the Spirit Galatians 5.)
4. What key principles did you learn from today's session?

**Prayer Points:** Pray that God reveals your specific gifting(s), and pray that you either start to develop them or become a better steward of those gifts.

# Developing Personal Ministry

## Section 3 - The Basics of Ministry

**There is a normal progression in the lives of growing Christians:**

1. Believers: Those who have started the faith Journey with Christ and have developed a basic Christian Worldview.
2. Disciples: "Disciplined Learners." The disciple was not only a follower of the master, but lived the life dictated by the master. A disciple was expected to garner more disciples for the master (believing that the master had a truth worth living for). The ultimate goal of the disciple was to be like the master and become a Master himself and perpetuate the teaching and life of the master. MATTHEW 10:24-25 / Matthew 28:18-20
3. Servants/Ministries: Those maturing through the discipleship process were called to greater and more specific service in the Kingdom.
4. Leaders: 5-fold Ministry gifts

**Define ministry:** We have a warped (read that non-biblical) view of ministry today, and it is affecting the Church in numerous ways. Some false ideas include: it's a profession, celebrity status, to be exalted and catered to, pride and arrogance. Matthew 20:20-29 / Malachi 1 1:10

1. Minister: GR **diakoneo** (dee-ak-on-eh'-o)
  - a. to be an attendant, to wait upon (mentally or as a host, friend)
  - b. (*figuratively*) to serve as a teacher
  - c. (*technically*) to act as a Christian steward (deacon)
2. Matthew 20:20-29 Minister
  - a. 1. an attendant, a servant
  - b. 2. (*genitive case*) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties)
  - c. 3. (*specially*) a male Christian serving in a specific function and post (i.e., tending the widows and the poor, teaching, pastoring, etc.)
  - d. [probably from an obsolete diako "to run on errands"]

The Biblical concept of ministry was service:

1. The purpose of ministry:
  - a. Matthew 28:18-20 — Evangelism and Discipleship
  - b. Ephesians 4:11-16 — The Building of the Body of Christ
2. Who are we serving?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c. We are not self-serving
  - d. We are servants of God — serving men. We cannot be the servants of men.
  - e. "If you are going to be used by God, you are going to be used by people." This statement means that people will take advantage of you as a servant of God because of your Christian lifestyle.
3. The motivation of ministry — it's not about you — Jesus came to serve, not be served. There are many false motives for serving God. See 1 Timothy 1:7

- a. Money
  - b. Position / Fame
  - c. Control / Power
  - d. Pride
  - e. False motivations inspired by demonic influence (1 Timothy 1:7, 1 Timothy 4:1)
4. Cultivating Ministry Attitudes
- a. Grace (GR: Charis Char'eese) and Mercy (GR: Eleos) – Hebrews 4:16
  - b. Love: Mathew 9:35-28 — moved with compassion
    - i. Greek words for love:
      - 1. Agape — self-sacrificing love, God's love;
      - 2. Phileo — brotherly love;
      - 3. Storge — friendship;
      - 4. Eros — erotic love, sex
    - ii. Please read the story of Jesus confronting and restoring Peter after his denial (John:21:15-17). Twice Jesus asks Peter if he Loves (agapes) Him. Peter responded with, "you know I phileo you" (love you with a brotherly love). The third time Jesus asks, "Peter do you phileo me?" to which Peter replies, "you know all things, yes I phileo you." The problem was that, prior to the denial Peter boasts he love Jesus more than the other disciples and would die with Him. Jesus was giving Peter and needed an attitude adjustment and pointing out that Peter needed to grow from brotherly love to self-sacrificing love.
    - iii. Consider Jesus' Statement in John 15:13 in a ministry context
  - c. Forgiveness —you WILL BE Hurt in the ministry. Forgiveness prevents bitterness and resentment.
  - d. It is not about controlling people
5. Dealing with offense:
- a. Being offended because of the ministry - Matthew 11:1-6
  - b. John 3:16: The scariest verse in the Bible! Why? (If God did not spare His Son, what makes you think God would spare you?)
  - c. Dealing with others
    - i. Romans 12:18
    - ii. Matthew 5:23-24
    - iii. Matthew 18:15-17
6. Understanding Submission and Authority in connection with Ministry:
- a. Authority — Under and Over — Matthew 8:8-10
  - b. Master/Apprentice model
    - i. Moses and Joshua Exodus 24:13 / Exodus 33:11 / Joshua 1:1
    - ii. Elijah and Elisha: II Kings 3:11
    - iii. Saul and David
    - iv. Mary and Joseph and Jesus — Luke 2:51 Subject unto them (GR: Subordinate; to obey)
    - v. John the Baptist and Jesus – Matthew 3:11-17 before Jesus started His own ministry, He submitted to the admittedly inferior ministry of John. We



must submit to the ministry God has placed over us for the time being – even if our own ministries are to be greater,

7. Finding your place in ministry. Established ministries establish other ministries. Learn to allow your leaders to discern in your gifts and callings and develop them in you (1 Kings 19:15-16, 1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6).
8. Ministerial Ethics
  - a. Character — Develop the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26). Use this as a checklist to see how you are doing. On a scale of 1-10 how are you doing with each fruit? Be honest with yourself and God.
  - b. Confidentiality — Keep your mouth shut. Do not use a person's stuff against them.

**Self Examination Questions:**

1. What are my motives for wanting to be "in the ministry?"
2. Am I willing to submit to older, more experienced ministries for a season?
3. How is my "lifestyle"? Patience? Humility? Meekness? Love? Forbearance?
4. What key principles did you learn from today's session?

**Prayer Points:** Pray that God speaks to you about the issue of servanthood and motives for ministry. Ask God to show you the needs of others and how your ministry can serve their needs.

# Developing Personal Ministry

## Section 4 - Ministering by the Holy Spirit

### Flesh and Spirit

One key thing to remember is that we can operate in both the flesh realm and the Spirit realm. The flesh does not accomplish spiritual things. Only the Spirit of God working through you can accomplish spiritual things in others.

1. II Corinthians 3:1-18
2. John 6:63
3. Romans 8:11-14
4. Galatians 5:16-17; 25
5. Galatians 3:1-3

### The Gifts of the Spirit — I Corinthians 12

1. Verses 4-6; 12-13 Unity in Diversity
  - a. Jesus was the totality of the ministry when He was on earth. When he ascended He gave gifts to men (Ephesians 4). In essence, Jesus broke His ministry into various pieces and parted them to his disciples. (This revelation is the missing picture of communion. Jesus broke the bread and passed it out to the disciples, saying "take eat, this is my BODY which is BROKEN for you. He was referring to His spiritual Body – the Body of Christ—the Church.
  - b. The Day of Pentecost: Acts 2 Cloven Tongues of Fire (GR: Cloven **diamerizo** (dee-am-er-id'-zo) **to partition thoroughly**)
2. Verse 7 – the purpose of the gifts
3. Verse 8 -10 The 9 Gifts of the Spirit
  - a. Revelatory Gifts
    - i. Word of Wisdom
    - ii. Word of Knowledge
    - iii. Discerning of Spirits
  - b. Speaking Gifts
    - i. Tongues
    - ii. Interpretation of Tongues
    - iii. Prophecy
  - c. Power Gifts
    - i. Healing
    - ii. Miracles
    - iii. Faith
4. Verse 11 – The Spirit gives the gifts as He wills
5. Verses 12 – 31 The revelation and acceptance of the diversity of the Body of Christ

# Notes on the Gifts of the Spirit

## **Keep in mind they are spiritual gifts**

1. They are gifts – they are not earned or otherwise merited. Gifts are giving and receiving. Do not limit the Holy Spirit's operation in your life by thinking that you or others are not worthy of the gifts. None of us are worthy. We can only humbly receive and obey.
2. They are spiritual graces (Grace = divine enablement / unmerited favor) – not natural abilities or resources
3. They are to be desired – I Corinthians 12:31

## **Word of Wisdom:**

1. Not "wisdom" A word of wisdom - a distinct piece of information
2. Wisdom is Knowing a piece of information.

## **Word of Knowledge:**

1. Not "knowledge" A word of knowledge - a distinct piece of information
2. Wisdom is Knowing what to do.

## **Discerning of Spirits**

1. Not natural Discernment
2. To "discern" means to understand things by the spirit that you can not know with human understanding. (See 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.)

## **Faith**

## **Miracles**

## **Gifts of Healing**

1. Note the word is plural — more than one kind of healing
2. Instantaneous healing is a gift as opposed to Mark 16:18 which says, "they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover." Recovery is a process. Both are healing and restoration.

## **Prophecy**

1. We must define prophecy: To speak a "right now, today word of God, by the Holy Spirit."
2. There is a difference between the general gift of congregational prophecy and the 5-fold ministry gift of a prophet (Ephesians 4)
  - a. I Corinthians 12:29 compared with I Corinthians 14:1, 5, 29-31
3. The purpose of the general gift of prophecy: I Corinthians 14:3
  - a. Edification
  - b. Exhortation
  - c. Comfort
4. Operating in the congregational gift of prophecy does not make a person a prophet
5. The anointing of the prophet is different than the congregational gift of prophecy. The prophetic office brings:
  - a. Direction
  - b. Correction
  - c. Encouragement

- d. Note that direction and correction were not on the list of congregational prophecy functions.

### **Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues**

1. Understanding the differences between the personal gift of tongues—which every believer needs and should experience in prayer and worship—and the gift of tongues and interpretation to be used in a public meeting.
  - a. Compare I Corinthians 12:30 with I Corinthians 14:5
  - b. I Corinthians 14:18-19 Paul's private use of tongues
2. Use of Tongues
  - a. It wasn't just a natural ability to speak in a foreign language
    - i. I Corinthians 14:2
    - ii. I Corinthians 14:14-15