

THE MINISTER AS A BUILDER

Torchworld Ministries Int.

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Ministry Monday

We are still looking at Apostolic perspectives of ministry. The Apostle Paul is still painting pictures of a minister for us.

Today I want us to look at the minister as a builder.

1 Corinthians 3:10

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise architect, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon."

Here, Paul referred to himself as a wise master builder. He was the one who laid the foundation of Christianity in the Corinthian church. A minister is like a builder. He builds people with the tools God has given him under the auspices of the Holy Spirit.

As ministers we must know how to build people. These days it is not uncommon to come across believers who have not been built solidly in their Christian faith. Some believers have rather been built on the pet doctrines of their churches but they have not been built solidly in Christ.

I want us to look at how to build people in Christ.

First of all, as a minister make sure you yourself have been thoroughly built. You can't give what you don't have. The minister must be furnished fully for every good work. You are not qualified to lead and build people if you have not been thoroughly built. Remember, you can't lead people beyond your own practical experience of God. You can only lead people to how far you have gone in God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Once you are matured in the Lord and thoroughly furnished, there are three main ways to build people in Christ.

A) FEEDING

Every minister must feed the people he has been assigned to in order to help them grow. Feeding is different from teaching even though they are both administered through instruction. Feeding goes to the heart while teaching goes to the mind. We must not just give them information but we must give them relevant spirit inspired revelation of the word that will engender transformation. Paul was talking about feeding the Corinthian Church in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Feeding is releasing truths that you have encountered and have become a part of you, from your heart to the heart of your hearers, communicating spiritual truths with spiritual words (1 Cor 2:13). That is what ensures growth. Living water comes out of the heart not just the mind (John 7:37). The Apostle Paul only communicated things that were a part of him to his people. In that case he will not just speak what he knows but who he is to them. That kind of communication goes to the heart of the hearers.

Romans 15:18

"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not wrought in me, in word or deed, to make the Gentiles obedient

B) PRAYING FOR THEM

The next thing we must do as ministers if we want to build our followers is to pray for them. We see that also in the life of the Apostle. He prayed many prayers for the people he fed.

Ephesians 1:17

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:"

Galatians 4:19

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"

Colossians 1:9

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that all of you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"

The above scriptures are showing us the kind of prayers Paul prayed for his followers. These were deep prayers for their spiritual development. This is really what the Bible means by the Leaders watching out for the souls of their followers (Heb 13:17).

This is the second way to build up the people you lead.

C) MODEL A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THEM

The third main way to build people is a good example. A good example speaks louder than a thousand sermons. The best message you can preach to your followers is to model what you teach them for them to see. It is said that children for instance learn 85% of the time through observation.

Paul was bold to tell his followers to follow him as he followed Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Be all of you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:6

"And all of you became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit."

2 Thessalonians 3:7

"For yourselves know how all of you ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;"

Dear minister of God, if you want to build your people in Christ, Feed them, Pray for them and Be a good example to them.

Blessings.