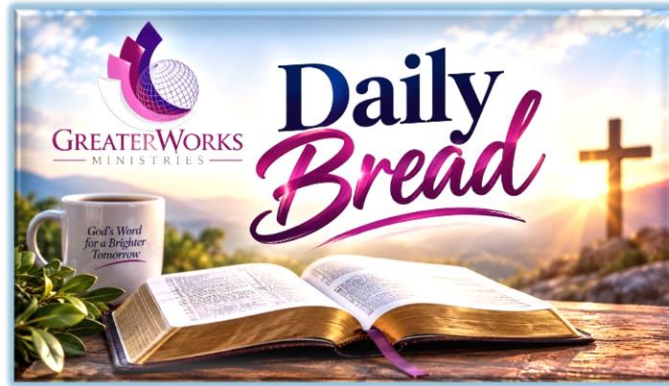




3/11/2021

Golden Secrets of Ministry (Part 1)

To succeed in ministry, there are things that you will need to get right. Success in Ministry is not by chance. It is a combination of many factors some of which we are going to be discussing in this series.

1. The Foundation of Ministry is Character.

Your character is the bedrock of your ministerial success. Having a gift is not enough. You need to have a good character too, or rather a godly character. Many people would be very far had it not been of their character pulling them back. Their gift would take them high but their character brings them to the ground.

Character is your moral quality. You always have to check those qualities whether they are in conformity with the word of God. Your true character is shown when you are alone as in what you think and do. Without a godly character, you are the next example of a wasted potential. Some people may be highly gifted and anointed but with a very bad character. Samson was highly anointed and gifted; he had a unique gift but died a miserable death because of a rotten character. If you are confused as to whether the person is a man/woman of God, do not look at their gifts, look at their character(fruits). Jesus said "you will know them by their fruits" (Mathew 7:15-20)

2. The Motive of Ministry is Love.

Without love for God and for His people, whatever we do is just an act. Anything you do for God should be motivated by love. Always check your motives. Are you in ministry for the love of God and His people or for self-aggrandizement. Never do ministry to be seen or for fame. It is too dangerous because ministry is spiritual. If you do it for the wrong reasons it can destroy you.

Anything not done out of love has no meaning before the Father. You must serve not because of yourself but because you love God and His people. Always check if you are still walking in love, examine your motives. The scripture teaches that all works of men shall be tested by fire. Anything not done in love will not stand (**1 Corinthians 3:13-15**).

3. Tools of Ministry are Prayer and the Word.

You cannot execute effective ministry work when you dread prayer. Anyone who serves in whatever capacity in the work of God should pray. Ministry is spiritual. It cannot be done with human intelligence or experience. It does not matter how intelligent you are. If you are not prayerful, you will fail. You do not learn ministry from university but from the Holy Spirit. Commit yourself to the discipline of prayer. It is not easy but you can.

A minister should subject himself/herself to the Word of God. You cannot be a successful minister when you are not full of God's Word. It is the Word that builds you up in the Lord (**Acts 20:32**). Read the Word and listen to it.

God bless you. Hallelujah.

Pastor C&S

04/11/2021

GOLDEN SECRETS OF MINISTRY (PART 2)

Let me define ministry as any service you do for God. It can be music, hospitality, transport, media, evangelism, administration and anything else that one can do in church. Anyone who is doing anything for the Lord or for His people is in ministry.

We continue from where we left yesterday.

4. The Purpose of Ministry is to Glorify God.

If ministry is done for anything else apart from glorifying God, then it is just an act. We should always seek to give God all the glory in whatever we do. Do not draw glory to yourself because by doing so you will be pitting yourself against God. Consuming God's glory is consuming poison. Be careful when people praise you, receive the praise and pass it to God. Glory is sweet. If you are not careful, you will want it for yourself every day. Learn to pass the glory where it belongs. You are just but a vessel used.

There is nothing good that anyone can do except by the power and enablement of God, so why take the glory for yourself? If you are a singer, it is not you who gave yourself that gift, it came from God so you need to return all the glory to Him. If you give and your gift has saved lives somewhere and people are talking about you all over, do not take all that glory for yourself, give it God who gave you power and the opportunity to give.

Many people have fallen because of consuming praise that was meant for God. They forgot that they are just instruments that God is using to bring Him glory. Humility is understanding that it is not about you but all about God. God can use anyone else if He wants to. It is not that you are the best but it is only that the privilege has been given to you. Lucifer envied God's glory and wanted it. That is why he fell. Never consume glory!

Some people say, "If it was not for us the church would have fallen by now," really? How does a mere man like you help God? Is it not only a privilege that you found yourself at a place where you can be important in the Kingdom of God? Do not let God prove to you that He is God in your life but rather show Him every day that indeed He is the owner of everything that you have. All those things that you are doing, someone else can do it better only that God has granted you that opportunity. He can replace you with someone else better.

You did not get that family because of your wisdom. It is God's blessings. Even when you did not know Him, He allowed you to have what you have for a purpose. Be careful not take glory away from Him.

Some people give God's glory to other people. They over praise their parents, children, jobs, pastors etc and forget to glorify God who gave them those children. They forget to give glory to

God who gave them the good pastor they have, by so doing they set those individuals against God and there will be only one winner there....

Make sure that God gets the glory from your achievements. Make sure when you win God wins. Some only speak about God when things are hard for them, when they make it, they do not even mention His name. They do not pass the glory to Him. They claim that they were intelligent enough to come out of their problems.

Corona has killed a lot of people around the world but you did not get it or you got it and recovered. Why do you then attribute that to your strong body or to luck? Do you not see that God rescued you? When are you giving God His glory?

Pastor C & S

05/11/2021

GOLDEN SECRETS OF MINISTRY (PART 3)

When we are doing anything for God, we have to do it right. If we do not, we risk running our race in vain. The race of ministry has its own rules. The winner is not only the fastest but the one who runs according to the rules.

5. The Nature of Ministry is Service.

You cannot separate ministry from serving or from being a servant. The word "minister" means the one who serves in some capacity. Jesus came to call us to be servants not lords. Many people get confused. They think that when they get a title in church or in God's work it is for them to be bosses yet it is for them to be servants. The higher you go, the more humble you should become.

Read carefully **Luke 22:27**, Jesus said "I am among you as he that serveth." Anyone in ministry must understand that the nature of ministry is serving. Jesus came to serve. There is no time to tell people who you are. Let your service confirm who you are.

Jesus said " the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few." (**Mathew 9:37**) which means He is looking for workers/labourers not bosses. It does not matter who you are or what you do, when you come to ministry you become a servant. If a president comes to church, he becomes a servant of God and is expected to serve. If we protect them from serving, we are stealing their reward from them.

It is easy for God to use someone with the servant spirit because just like any servant, that person has surrendered his/her rights to the master. You cannot serve God when you are conscious of your rights...Serving God, being abused and being stupid are in the same league such that if you are not careful, you can easily see serving God as being stupid or as being used. I am a servant of God. If God wants me to wake up midnight and pray, who am I to say no?

Finally, servants are not thanked when they serve. It is their duty. We have a problem in churches of people who want to be thanked each time they do something for God. They want everyone to know and everyone to thank them. Such people have no servanthood in them.

There is no problem in thanking someone but there is a problem when people serve to be thanked. The master does not thank faithful servants but He rewards them. Do not allow people to steal your reward by unnecessarily thanking you. Your reward for doing comes from

the master not from people. **Hallelujah!**

Pastor C&S