

# **Your Professional and Spiritual Life**

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## I. Your professional life.

### A. Magnify the ministry of others.

1. Jesus recruited men as individuals but developed them as a team.
2. Almost everything Jesus said was in reference to the group.
3. There is no second class citizen in the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12)
  - a. We do not have all of the gifts.
  - b. We need to be exposed to people with other gifts.
    - 1) The example of Barnabus and his discernment.
    - 2) The reversal of roles for Barnabus and Paul.
4. Paul is always magnifying the ministry of another man. (Colossians 4:10)
  - a. The common man is scared to magnify the ministries of others because he is afraid that he will lose.
  - b. It is a great opportunity to be surrounded by men with different gifts.
    - 1) Personal example of two men with different gifts.
5. You will never magnify the ministry of others until you realize that you are God's gift to all.
  - a. There is no limit to what you can do if you do not care who gets the credit.

### B. Accent your role as a servant. (Matthew 20:24-28)

1. There are two strands to significant spiritual communication (1 Thessalonians 2:5-8):
  - a. Theology and relationship.
  - b. Or the gospel and our souls.
2. The impression of Peter in the Upper room: submission.
3. Incarnational living is an essential.

### C. Model what you wish to communicate.

1. Paul exhorts his listeners to do what he does. (Philippians 4:9)
2. Jesus Christ's life reinforced everything he said; therefore, he was a great disciple maker.
  - a. The student will become like the teacher. (Luke 6:40)
  - b. Personal example of seminary professors not modeling what they teach.
3. Three basic principles of coaching:
  - a. Get the team in condition.
    - 1) This involves what happens in between practice too.
    - 2) They can tear down faster than you can build them up.
  - b. Teach them the fundamentals.
  - c. Develop them to work as a team, not individuals.
4. A coach should never ask his team to do what he himself will not do.
  - a. Jesus made such an impact on Paul that he said, Follow me as I have followed Christ.
  - b. We have a profound responsibility to model for those following us.

## II. Your spiritual life.

- A. Maintain a regular routine of prayer and Bible study.
  1. The law is our meditation and is to be loved. (Psalm 109:97)
  2. Personal example of Dr. Chafer influencing speaker to commit to daily time in the Word apart from anything else that he was doing.
    - a. It creates a reservoir - studying consistently helps you to counsel, teach, and disciple in a more consistent fashion.
    - b. Some people give you everything they have, but those who are in the Word daily can keep giving and giving.
  3. You cannot communicate out of a vacuum, and you cannot communicate someone else's notes.
- B. Do not underestimate the power of the enemy.
  1. The temptation of Jesus. (Luke 4)

a. Jesus never underestimated the power of the enemy - we cannot afford to either.

b. Jesus is not living dangerously; he is living dependently.

2. Genesis 1 - the serpent was more subtle than all the beasts of the field.

3. The more significant you become, the greater his focus is on you. The devil will use others.

C. Stretch your ability to trust God.

1. The “catalogue of biggies” (Hebrews 11) - A collection of sinners that have all one thing in common - faith.

2. There are those who say that they are just a group of “grasshoppers,” and then there are those who are willing. (Numbers 13) The ‘majority’ did not enter into the promise land. The few chose to trust God - they saw Him.

3. The size of your God may well determine the size of your vision or your ministry.

4. What are you trusting God for in the next six months that only God can do?

a. We must trust God for things that we cannot do.

b. It is tragic when the boards of secular businesses are no different than the boards of churches - there must be a touch of miracle.

c. The statement in the Gospel, Jesus could not do his mighty works there, is disconcerting; their unbelief prevented things from happening.

Application Questions:

1. What does it look like to magnify the ministries of others? Who is in your circle of friends or co-laborers who you could do better to affirm? How can you go about doing that?

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2. What does it look like to live Incarnationally? What are some of the most outstanding characteristics of this kind of lifestyle? What are the most important things you want your disciples to take from your time with them?

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3. What are you trusting God for in the next six months? Why is this something that you could not possibly accomplish on your own?

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