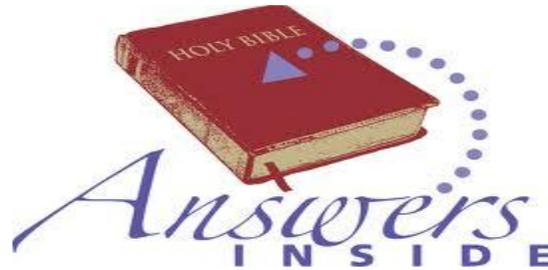


Some Questions / Some Answers



Dear Pastor

May I ask some questions concerning your church and ministry?

1. Are you envisioning or do you have a vision for your ministry at the church God has placed you in?
2. Are you strategic about the ministry that God has called you to at this time in your life?
3. Are you discouraged about the ministry that you are currently in right now?
4. Are you considering leaving your church or the ministry altogether?

Dear Pastor

May I offer some answers to these questions?

1. A vision is something that you can see God doing with and through you to achieve His goals and His will at the church and ministry that He has you at right now. Maybe you just need to ask God what He wants you to envision for your particular ministry and how to carry it out with what and whom you have to work with now.

Pro. 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish”

2. By “strategic” I mean a plan of action concerning your church and ministry. Someone said that “if we fail to plan we plan to fail” and that is certainly true in the ministry. There are countless things and ways of planning for your church and ministries, but you will have to choose what is best for you and the church that God has placed you in to serve.

Here are just a few suggestions;

- Plan a yearly church calendar (events, preaching, activities).
- Plan a study schedule (reading, books, subjects, more education).
- Plan a big activity with the church twice a year.
- Plan a time for your family to do things together.
- Plan a soul-winning and visitation for you and the church.
- Plan to do something for someone else just for Jesus sake.
- Plan to plan and don't forget to work your plan.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

3. Everyone gets discouraged if they are in the ministry for any length of time, but we don't have to stay discouraged for the whole time that we are in the ministry. Discouragement is the devil's tool that he most often uses against God's ministers. If we don't recognize where this discouragement is coming from then we will fall into the trap of despair. Satan wants to make things look hopeless and to get you to think that there is no way out of your situation whether it is the church, family, health, finances or a dozen other things if we listen to him. Just remember that he is a liar and the truth is not in him, he will continue to lie to you until you submit to God and resist him from his lies. Remember that the truth of the scriptures, are not ours unless we take them to be ours and resist the devil with the truth, in the Spirit of God.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Eph 6:12-13 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

4. If the Lord is giving you a change in ministry it will be done according to the will of God through confidence in the Word of God guided by the Holy Spirit of God. There are times that God changes our direction in ministry along with the location for that ministry also. But more times than not we want things to change in the ministry where we are at, when all the time God is trying to change us in that ministry where we are at. It is never the will of God to just quit the ministry or the church that you are at just because things are not going well. The time to really make a change is when everything is going good and God has spoken to you about a new direction. Before leaving the present ministry, please pray and seek the Lord for a certain period of time to make sure it is the Lord and not yourself or others who are making the move. Remember God does move us sometimes, but just make sure He is the one doing the moving and don't just quit.

Ps. 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Ps. 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isa. 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Isa. 52:12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward.