

# SEVEN STEPS TO FRUITFUL MINISTRY

- in Obeying the Great Commission
- and Establishing New Testament Churches

## STEP 1: PRAYER

Two or three or more gathering together is the place to begin (**Matt.18:18-20**)

**Agreeing with His word: Matt.18:19** - two or three gather in His name to agree concerning the will of God

**His will is for the gospel of the kingdom to be preached: Matt.24:14**

**Pray according to His will: Matt.28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16 & 20; Luke 24:46-49; John 21:15-17** - the Lord clearly commands us to preach the gospel and make disciples.

**Asking for labourers to be raised up to preach the gospel: Matt.9:37-38**

**Praying for souls to be saved: 2Pet.3:9** - it is the Lord's desire that none should perish.

**Pray for the lost by name: John 6:44; John 6:65; Ps.2:8**

*Out of prayer comes action!  
Regular committed prayer based on the Word of God leads to fruitfulness, that is, the salvation of many souls, and the encouragement of many other saints to become fruitful.*

## STEP 2: EVANGELISM

Evangelism means 'going out with the message'. This is the action that comes out of prayer - evangelism; the Lord will direct! The Great Commission is His command. He wills for every person to be evangelised (**2 Pet.3:9 & 1Tim.2:4**).

Every disciple of Jesus is to witness, having received the power of the Holy Spirit, (**Acts 1:8; Lu.24:48-49**).

Out of the prayer, God will lead you to people. The goal is to share Christ with them. If we are faithful in prayer, then this strategy will not fail. God will give "divine appointments" that are exciting, meaningful and fruitful. It is time to witness!

The church has already been planted, and it is functioning with two or three members. The evangelist preaches "***the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ***" (**Acts 8:12**). "***He who believes and is baptised will be saved*** (**Mark 16:16**). These ones are added to the church.

Peter said on the day of Pentecost "***Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit***". This is how 'souls are added'.

## STEP 3: NURTURE

Nurturing is looking after new believers. **How do we nurture babes in Christ? It is by feeding them.**

Jesus commanded Peter "***feed My lambs***" (**Jn.21:15**) and "***feed My sheep***" (**v.17**). Babes need milk so we must feed them **the**

milk of God's word. **1 Pet.2:2** "***as newborn babes desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.***" This is the good news of salvation: as the apostle John said, knowing your sins are forgiven (**1 Jn.2:12**).

**Teach foundations: Heb.6:1-2.** These six foundations are the milk of the word "***the first principles of the oracles of God***" (**Heb.5:12**). Until we have these foundations properly laid, we cannot go on to **perfection/maturity** (**Heb.6:3**).

Nurturing means leading the new Christian through these foundations ensuring that each one is properly laid. This is the milk of the word.

**How do we nurture the young Christian?** It is by feeding them the word of God: the word concerning **salvation**, the word concerning **healing**, the word concerning **restoration**. When the day of Pentecost came and the Holy Spirit was poured out and 3000 souls were converted, the new believers continued in 4 things: **the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers** (**Acts 2:41-42**).

It is the word of God that teaches, trains, corrects and reproves the believer (**2 Timothy 3:16**). Nurturing is a full-time commitment; we need to learn to be discerning in how we nurture the new Christians.

## STEP 4: DISCIPLINE

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded the apostles in **Matt.28:19** to go and make disciples. "***Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you***" (**v.20**). The next step for

those who have believed and been baptised, and had foundations laid, is to be discipled.

The goal of discipling is:

- i. **to have each new Christian discipled to the word of God**, not to a person.
- ii. **to teach every believer the precepts and principles of the word of God**, that they may grow.
- iii. **to establish the believers in an understanding of the Lord's Table**
- iv. **to teach the disciples how to do basic Bible studies**
- v. **to teach the disciple to hear the 'rhema' word of God (Rom.10:17)**
- vi. **to set the disciple basic assignments of Bible reading and study, prayer and witnessing.**

Sheep need **solid food**. The **solid food** is the **word of righteousness (Heb.6:13)** and the solid food is for the mature. The solid food leads to an includes the knowledge of the mysteries.

Discipling is a specific discipline to lead people to be disciples of the Word and to a full knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ  
*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you ..."*  
Colossians 3:16

### **STEP 5: TRAINING and EQUIPPING**

Once a new Christian has been nurtured [all the foundations properly laid, **Heb.6:1-2**] and discipled [adequately taught and related to the WORD, **Matt.28:20**], there is a **time of training and equipping that leads to maturity.**

There has been a progression from the milk of the word (**Heb.5:12, 1 Pet.2:2**), to the meat of the word, the solid food (**Heb.5:12-14**), then coming to understand the deeper wisdom which is for the mature (**1 Cor.2:6-16**).

**Training:** the first level of training is for each saint to be able to **"teach the first principles of the oracles of God"** Heb.5:12.

From there the trainee needs to understand the **"deeper wisdom"** concerning God's eternal purpose (**Eph.3:8-11**)

Paul said to Timothy **"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others"** 2 Tim.2:2.

➤ *Training is being taught the word until the trainee is studied in the word and able to teach others!*

**Equipping:** refers to **training in ministry; understanding and exercising ministry in the Spirit, (2 Cor.3:2-6) and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:4-11).**

It includes understanding the operation of the grace gifts of **Romans 12:4-8** and recognising these gifts in the lives of the saints, **encouraging each one to function in the gift** or gifts they have been given.

There needs to be **teaching and understanding of the five ministry gifts of Eph.4:11**, that are given to bring the church to full maturity according to **Eph.4:14-16.**

Training and equipping includes teaching, practice and experience.

### **STEP 6: CHURCH PLANTING**

As those who have been trained and equipped are sent out to minister, new churches will be planted. Believers will gather in houses, doing the first works of **Acts 2:42**, **"continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, the fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers"**. The pattern of the early church, **Acts 2:41-47**, will be set in place.

The ministers will do the work of discipleship, fulfilling the Great Commission. Biblical foundations will be laid.

As disciples are gathered together to do the first works, the church is planted.

### **STEP 7: EMERGENCE of NEW MINISTRIES**

As the church functions in New Testament ministries, every saint will grow with **"every joint supplying"** and **"every part doing its share"** (**Eph.4:16**).

As the ones sent out begin to function in ministry, the five ministries given in **Ephesians 4:11**, and other ministries (**1Cor.12:28**) will emerge and a new generation of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers will be raised.

A key aspect of apostolic ministry in the church is to recognise the emergence of new ministries and raise them up, working with the local eldership to release and set these new ministries in place in the Body of Christ.

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