

God's Leaders in the Church: The Process of Becoming a Pastor

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, (1 Tim 1:12)

1. The PREPARATION of a Pastor (Acclimation): _____ by God

- **Matt 25:21** His lord said to him, 'Well [done], good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (v. 23)
- **1 Cor 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.
- **1 Tim 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful...
- **1 Tim 3:6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the [same] condemnation as the devil.
- **2 Tim 2:2** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Illustrations of "Seasoning:"

- **Army Training** (basic, advanced, progression in time, grade, increasing responsibility)
- **Joseph** – Loss of a mother at a young age. Favoritism by his father. Antagonism by his brothers. Obedience to his father. Betrayal by his brothers, being sold into slavery in Egypt. A servant in Potiphar's house, learning management and faithfulness. Wrongful accusation while being faithful. Wrongful imprisonment. Learning to serve and manage in a terrible place. Forgotten promise of the butler. Does God know what He's doing?
- **Moses** – God trained Moses for 80 years for 40 years of service. Education by his own mother as a nursing infant. Education in the courts, apparently including military training. A decisive moment when Moses chose his connection to his people over his status as a rich and powerful leader in Egypt, and possibly as Pharaohs' successor. Education in the wilderness for 40 years with sheep!
- **David** – Given least desirable job – shepherd – this responsibility allowed him to learn (1) faithfulness; (2) responsibility; (3) endurance in hardship; (4) victory in danger; (5) care for sheep; (6) time to think; (7) time to practice music and munitions [sling]. All these things prepared him for Goliath, military leadership and conquest, and kingship. Though God had him anointed as king in his teens, God took him through years of increasingly difficult circumstances to draw David closer to God, and to develop skills necessary to lead.

- **Paul** – Erroneous training as an unbeliever. Zealous support of erroneous beliefs. Converted in his 40s or 50s. Trained by God in the wilderness of Syria for 3 years. 13 years in obscurity in his home region of Tarsus. Sought out by Barnabas 13 years later to help out at Antioch.

Preparation takes time → YEARS. (establishing faithfulness, developing endurance, gaining knowledge, experience, & wisdom)

Application: Are you expecting God to work on your time table to prepare you for your life's work, or are you willing to let God prepare you for as long as it takes? Will you yield to the Lord, who knows you better than you know yourself, to develop you and give you the experience, the wisdom, the skill that only comes through His time-consuming training in the day-to-day assignments of life? Do you feel stuck in a place or responsibility that no one wants or no one notices? Be faithful! God is working on YOU!

2. The ENABLEMENT of a Pastor (Ability): _____ by God

- **Rom 12:4-8** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,⁵ so we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, [let us use them]: if prophecy, [let us prophesy] in proportion to our faith;⁷ or ministry, [let us use it] in [our] ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **1 Cor 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
- **1 Pet 4:10-11** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.¹¹ If anyone speaks, [let him] speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, [let him do it] as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- **1 Tim 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me...
Identify → Seek Input → Develop → Use

3. The QUALIFICATION of a Pastor (Approval): _____ by God

- **1 Tim 3:1-7** This [is] a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;⁴

one who rules his own house well, having [his] children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the [same] condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- **Titus 1:5-9** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- ⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Spiritual maturity is for everyone. Are you aware of what spiritual maturity involves? Which areas need work? What are you doing to grow in these areas?

4. The DESIGNATION of a Pastor (Appointment): _____ by God

- **Acts 20:28** "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
- **Eph 4:11** And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
- **1 Tim 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me ... putting [me] into the ministry,
- **2 Tim 1:11** to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
- **Rom 13:1-2** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.
- **Heb 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Do you recognize that God places us all under faulty human leadership?

Are you yielding to your leaders?

5. The CONFIRMATION of a Pastor (Affirmation): _____ by Men

- **1 Tim 3:1-7** This [is] a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be...
- **1 Tim 4:14** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
- **1 Tim 5:22** Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.
- **Titus 1:5** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

Primarily to the Men: Are you allowing yourself to be examined by your spiritual leaders? Are you getting input from leaders as far as your abilities, weaknesses and areas of growth? Are you responding to that input?

Ladies: Are you seeking your husband's input on your spiritual growth?

Kids: Are you seeking your parents' input?

6. The FUNCTION of a Pastor (Activity): _____ by God

- **John 21:15-17** So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed** My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend** My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Feed** My sheep.

A. **Feeding**

- truth to believe
- truth to live

B. **Leading**

- toward righteousness
- through difficulty
- away from danger
- to maturity, unity, & ministry

What are you expecting your pastor to do?

Is God expecting him to do that?

Have I examined God's job description for the roles that I fill?