

MINISTERING TO THE LORD #2

REVIEW;

Acts 13:1-2

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 16:23-25

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

(KJV)

Col 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

(KJV)

I. ONE VEHICLE TO MINISTER TO THE LORD IS PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS.

Please don't feel left out if you do not sing well.

Notice the CONTENT of these songs: GIVING THANKS

Eph 5:17-20

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

(KJV)

Giving of thanks blesses The Lord!

It ministers to the Lord.

I'm convinced that over in Acts 13;1 they were giving thanks as they "ministered to the Lord."

You can offer expressions of gratitude verbally by saying it and not singing it. This is also ministering to the Lord.

TO GIVE THANKS:

- 1) THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR
- 2) PLACE A VALUE ON IT
- 3) SAY (OR SING) THANKS OUTLOUD

Thanksgiving requires the operation of your flesh and your soul your mind and your mouth, your thoughts and your words.

1 Sam 12:22-25

22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.
(KJV)

II. **HOW DO WE START TO BE THANKFUL?**

Begin your quiet time thanking him.

Remember Psalms 100;4

Ps 100:4

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

(KJV)

Most people enter their time with Him with petitions (needs), and supplications, or intercessions.

Enter with your mind on Him.

1Thes 5:16-18

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
(KJV) concerning you.

Heb 13:15

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
(KJV)

Col 4:1-3

1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

(KJV)

1 Tim 2:1-4

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

(KJV)

Ps 150:1-2

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

(KJV)

The more you know about Him, and The Word, the MORE you'll have to give thanks for.

Start by thanking him that we no longer have to live in the kingdom of darkness, or under the dominion of the wicked one. We don't have to serve or even listen to the father of lies.

Father, I thank you that you set your love upon us while we were yet sinners. You delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of your dear son.

Thankfulness is only meaningful if you communicate what you are thankful for. This takes effort.

III. **WHAT SHOULD WE BE THANKFUL FOR?**

1) GRADITUDE FOR WHO HE IS

- 2) THANKFUL FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE
- 3) THANKFUL FOR WHO WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP TO HIM
(i.e. accepted, loved, forgiven, conquerors, righteousness, etc.)
- 4) THANKFUL FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO OUR ENEMY
(This one should probably not be first)

Just another helpful hint, don't separate yourself from people and family to minister to the Lord. This is not a closet thing. Do it at home, in the office, in car, sing and minister to Him. (There is a time to separate yourself, but not continually)

IV. YOU CAN THANK HIM IN TONGUES

Acts 10:45-46

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
(KJV)

1 Cor 14:14-18

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:
(KJV)

You can direct your speaking in tongues.
You can do it when you don't know what else to pray
I'm convinced that we should start out praying all we can think of in English and then move over into tongues and then when the Holy Spirit reminds you of something, switch back to English.

Rom 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
(KJV)

V. **BEING THANKFUL IS A SIGN OF MATURITY**

Babies and young children have to be told to say thank you.
It's great when children say thank you on their own.

THE FATHER IS INTERESTED IN THREE THINGS;

- 1) THE LOST BEING SAVED
- 2) HIS CHILDREN RECEIVING HIS GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRITS INFILLING
- 3) HIS CHILDREN GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY

We are suppose to grow up into Him.
Take the time and put in the effort to thank others also.
In healing lines I try to remind you to always thank him
after you've been prayed for.

Mark 11:24

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

(KJV)

WHEN YOU RECALL WHAT HE'S DONE, WHO HE IS,
WHO WE ARE IN HIM, HIS DEFEAT OF OUR ENEMY
DO NOT THANK HIM JUST FOR YOUR PERSONAL
VICTORIES. THANK HIM FOR WHAT MADE THOSE VICTORIES
POSSIBLE.

Examples:

I'm not just thankful that I'm healed, but I'm thankful for what He gave me
that got me healed - THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION WHEREBY HE
RESCUED US FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND THE PENALTIES
OF GODS VIOLATED LAW.

I'm not just thankful that I have the peace of God, but I'm thankful that He
He leads me beside the still waters. HE TOOK THE PUNISHMENT
THAT PROVIDED ME PEACE.

WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR NEED TO BE MET?

You get the idea.

VI. **THE BENEFITS OF BEING THANKFUL**

Our motive in being thankful is to minister and bless Him

never to receive any benefits. However, these are natural benefits as a result of being thankful.

Some blessings only come to our lives as a result of being a doer of God's Word.

1) **YOU BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

(We've already discussed this enough)

Acts 13:1-2

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

(KJV)

The Holy Ghost will speak to you in an atmosphere of thanksgiving.

2) **BEING THANKFUL PUTS THINGS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE**

Without being thankful, PROBLEMS SEEM BIG, and Jesus seems small. Doug Jones once asked Sister Silvia from Farmerville church where Dr. Hagin pastored, "What's the difference between the way we pray today and the way the old timers used to pray? She said people talk so much about their problems and they make their problems so huge that when they finally do pray Jesus is too small to help.

When you take time to think about what he's done, who He is, etc.. and you enter His gates with thanksgiving first, this allows you to put your problems in proper perspective before you knock on heavens door.

Acts 4:23-30

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.
27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.
29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
(KJV)

It wasn't until verse 29 that they discussed their problem.
Even then they prayed the answer in faith.

You should know more about the Father than you do your problem .

Example;

"Father, I thank you that you sent Jesus to be my healer. You gave me also another comforter who quickens my body as He quickened Jesus from the dead. Thank you I'm redeemed from the curse of the law. Thankyou Jesus that you became a curse for me. Now Lord, behold this negative report from my doctor...."

Example; David and Goliath

1 Sam 17:33-37

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.
34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:
35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.
36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.
37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.
(KJV)

3) **BEING THANKFUL RENEWS YOUR STRENGTH**

Wait upon Him

Isa 40:28-31

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
(KJV)

The word also tells us to consider Jesus and what He's done and we won't grow weary. And if you're weary, here is the answer for you.

Heb 12:2-3

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(NIV)

How much you consider what He's done for you determines your strength.

Heb 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

(KJV)

Heb 11:11

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

(KJV)

Sara pondered on God's attribute of faithfulness and she received strength to conceive seed.

I know I was barren and I conceived through this force of thanksgiving.

4) THANKSGIVING IS A TOOL THAT CONNECTS YOUR MOUTH TO WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

Mark 11:23-24

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

(KJV)

2 Cor 4:13

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;
(KJV)

Most of us go to God with our mouths connected to our flesh. We are usually so sense ruled. We're so moved by our feelings. Unfortunately, God is moved by our faith in His word and not by our needs.

Step towards God first with gratitude and praise and then your mouth will connect with what you believe in your heart. This is the time to pray and speak faith over your problems. Remember Acts 4 ; 29-30?

Acts 4:29-30

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

(KJV)

They were not angry and praying down fire on their enemies. Their mouths were connected with what they truly believed which was that they would continue to preach and heal in the midst of their threats.

1) Please remember this teaching and practice the dying art of being THANKFUL!