

Embrace Your Ministry

Paul's work in Thessalonica is an amazing testimony to what can happen when we determine to let God work. Paul moved forward in faith ... in the fields where God assigned ... and God brought the increase. Availability. Readiness. Flexibility. Humility. Dependence and trust in God. Seeing oneself as a tool God can use in His providence. These are the ways we can embrace our ministry. What can we learn from Paul's ministry? How can you embrace your ministry?

I. What Can We Learn from Paul's Ministry?

- A. Take Risks
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 2.2 - Paul shared of himself and the gospel despite *great **opposition***.
 - 2. Are you willing to invest your time, energy, money, and emotions?
- B. Be Genuine
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 2.3 - He demonstrated total integrity & purity.
 - 2. 2.4 - His highest calling was to please **God**, not himself.
 - 3. 2.6 - *we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others.*
- C. Open Your Heart
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 2.7 - It was never about power ... it was all about love and affection.
 - 2. 2.8a - He made himself vulnerable.
 - 3. 2.8b - Demonstrated tender affection. *You had become **dear to us**.*
 - 4. You can't be used by God if you won't open your heart.
- D. Treat People Right
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 2.10 - He was holy, righteous, and **blameless** among them.
 - 2. We must not compromise integrity if we want to be effective in God's service.

II. How to Embrace Your Ministry

- A. Commit to Knowing Each Other
 - 1. We won't know everybody ... *but everybody can know somebody.*
 - a) Consider one another *in order to provoke to love and **good works***, Hebrews 10.24.
 - b) Commit to admonishing, encouraging, and **help** others, 1 Thessalonians 5.14.
 - c) Find others with whom you can **rejoice and weep**, Romans 12.15.
- B. Be Willing to Give
 - 1. Ephesians 4.12 - you have been saved with a purpose ... *for the work of ministry, to **build up the body of Christ**.*
 - 2. Self-giving is part of your new identity in Christ.
 - a) John 4.14 - *whoever drinks from the water that I give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I give him will become a **well** of water springing up in him for eternal life.*
 - b) John 7.38: *The one who believes in me, will have streams of **living water** flow from deep within Him.*
 - 3. God has recreated you ... for the purpose of sharing your life with others.

III. Conclusion

- A. You have received the good gifts of God. Are you willing to share what He has given you with others?
- B. Will you let God work?