

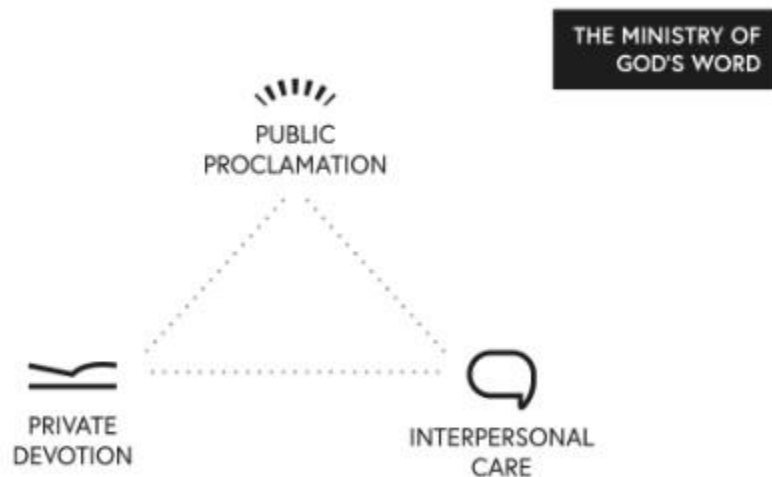
Brian Chesemore

## SESSION 1 | Instruments Who Love

### I. INTRODUCTION:

#### A. Why this book?

- What comes into your mind when you consider the ways God brings his Word into your life?
- Consider the different ways God ministers His Word to His people:



- Scripture presents an undeniable case for personal ministry

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025  
INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMERS HANDS:  
HOW TO BE A PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN OTHER PEOPLES LIVES

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“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4.11-16)

“The ministry of the word reproduces itself in the ministry of the people...This is what happens when the word of God as it were ‘jumps’ from the pulpit and starts running around our lives. We begin to discover that the gifts the Lord has given to us as individuals are sharpened and honed and strengthened...in order that in due time we may be able to serve and minister to others.” Sinclair Ferguson

“I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.” (Romans 15.14)

“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3.12-13)

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

## **A. Ministry Begins with Christ's Work in Us**

1. Recipients of a Great Salvation
2. No Longer Living for Ourselves

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

## **B. Christ's Model of Ministry:**

1. Appreciate what is unique about each person
2. Discern what is unique about each situation
3. Understand the common aim in ministry: The Heart

# **II. A PARADIGM FOR PERSONAL MINISTRY**

## **A. Love, Know, Speak, Do**

Paul Tripp offers a biblically informed paradigm for helping others to experience the transforming grace of God. His paradigm is captured in these simple, but scripturally informed themes:

1. Love
2. Know
3. Speak

4. Do

### **III. BEING AN INSTRUMENT WHO LOVES**

#### **A. Why love is foundational in all ministry**

#### **B. Redemptive Relationships: God's Intent for us**

1. Recognize how God has worked in us
2. Implications for our relationships with others

#### **C. Elements of Loving Relationships**

1. Enter the Person's World
  - The idea of Entry Gates
  - Evidence of Change:
    - Horizontal Trust
    - Vertical Hope
    - Commitment to the Process
2. Incarnate the Love of Christ
  - Wearing the "Right Clothes for the Job"
    - As a protection for my heart
    - As a living example
    - As evidence of Christ's power
    - To keep Christ Central

"The most important encounter in ministry is not the person's encounter with us, but his encounter with Christ. Our job is simply to set up that encounter, so that God would help

people seek his forgiveness, comfort, restoration, strength, and wisdom.” Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemers Hands*, 138

### 3. Identify with Suffering

- Recognize the reality of Suffering
- Christ Identifies with Us
- We too suffer on the road to Glory

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.” (2 Cor. 1:3-6)

### 4. Accept them and invite them into God’s Agenda

“His acceptance is not the end of his work; it is the beginning! Our justification must never be separated from our sanctification. They are two parts of a seamless work of redemption.” Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemers Hands*, 158

“Therefore it is wrong to approach a struggling brother or sister with a condemning, self-righteous spirit. This puts you in the way of what the Lord is doing in their lives. You must grant them the same grace and love that you received from the Lord. At the same time, you do not want that offer of grace to be misunderstood. God’s grace is always leading to change. Since God’s purpose is that we would become “partakers of his divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4), change is his agenda. As we offer people a humble, patient, gentle, forbearing, and forgiving love, we must never communicate that it is okay for them to stay as they are...so we sturdily refuse to condemn, but we also refuse to condone. We accept people with a grace that empowers us for God’s work of heart change.” Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemers Hands*, 159

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