

## **Aspiring to be an Elder: A Motivation to Elder Ministry**

**Phil A. Newton**

Two questions will help to frame this idea of aspiration, according to Bobby Jamieson.

1. Are you qualified to serve as an elder?
2. Should serving as an elder be your job?

### **1 Timothy 3:1–7**

1. Aspiring to the office of overseer/elder is a noble task

- Overseer
- Elder
- Pastor

Note four details about the term “aspire.”

- (1) Singular verb
- (2) Middle voice
- (3) Present tense verb
- (4) The word’s meaning

2. How do aspirations to eldering develop?

- (1) By reading God’s Word
- (2) By the Holy Spirit’s nudging
- (3) By growing love for the flock’s welfare
- (4) By seeing the fruit of his teaching moving the body to health
- (5) By observing good models for eldering
- (6) By finding satisfaction in shepherding the flock
- (7) By loving partnership and cooperation in shepherding others

3. How do you test aspiration to eldering?

- (1) You test drive shepherding in the body.
- (2) You spend time with elders.
- (3) If you’re married discuss with your wife your aspirations to elder.
- (4) You find affirmation in the church.

4. Most importantly, do you have the character called for in elders? (ESV, 1 Tim. 3:1–7)

- *Above reproach*
- *Husband of one wife*
- *Sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable*
- *Not a drunkard, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money*
- *Manage his own household well, with all dignity, keeping his children submissive, but if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
- *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil*
- *He must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

5. Do you desire the noble task of serving your church as an elder?

- (1) What you receive.
- (2) Who you represent.
- (3) Who you serve.
- (4) What treasures you send ahead.

**The Task of Elders**  
**Phil A. Newton**

What elders do:

1. Feed the Flock

2. Lead the Flock

3. Care for the Flock

4. Protect the Flock

**Why Not to Aspire to be an Elder**  
**Phil A. Newton**

Note five reasons that aspiration to eldering may not be a suitable fit (or further convinces you to move ahead with pursuing eldership).

1. Aspiring to the office of elder is a dangerous calling, fraught with difficulties, hardships, and challenges.

2. Aspiring to the office of elder challenges men to consistency in their spiritual walk and service.

3. Aspiring to the office of elder means it's a public ministry that requires public scrutiny and accountability.

4. Aspiring to the office of elder means the weightiness of caring for the souls of others.

5. Aspiring to the office of elder means a life with unique accountability to the Lord.