



This week, we are looking at the sermon Ps Louis shared on “**Kingdom Rising Through Prayer**” (see Acts 13:1-3).

God calls each of us to rise to fulfill our kingdom ministry. Now, what does “ministry” mean? Ministry refers to, “The *investment of self for the benefit and advancement of others*”. In a kingdom context, we have to begin with God, and then other people. All of this starts with prayer.

We get 3 categories of prayer: Firstly we have intimate prayer where we hear from God quietly. Secondly, we get warfare prayer, this prayer focuses on taking ground for the Kingdom. The most important category is **ministering unto the Lord**.

The primary call on our lives is first of all to minister to the Lord. Ministering to people without coming from the Lord is dead works. This can lead to discouragement, and therefore we need to correct the order. First, we must minister to the Lord. Then we can minister from the Lord. Only after that, we can minister to the people.

What does ministering to the Lord look like?

1. To Focus on God

We need to shift our focus from ourselves toward God. When the focus shifts to God, technology, the band, etc. suddenly don't matter anymore. When you realize that you are focused more on what is going on around you than God you are focusing on the wrong thing - He is near.

2. We need to give God attention

This looks like giving His word attention.

3. Praise and Glorifying God

We should enter God's gates with thanksgiving and praise, not with problems. Proclaim who He is. Before you talk to God about your situation, remind your spirit: *Bless the Lord Oh my soul, and bless His holy name, despite how you feel*. That is when we realize that God is bigger than our circumstances. Once we have entered correctly we can wait on God.

4. Ministering to God through the Word of God

God's word is a prophetic book. Heaven and earth will pass away but His word will always remain (Matt 24:35). We need to get into the word of God and get to know it. We need to proclaim Who God says He is in His word.

There is power in ministering to God together. In Acts, many people of different cultures and backgrounds fasted and prayed together. Then the Holy Spirit responded and spoke. Not the pastor, prophet, etc. but God Himself responded.

Before we encounter God for ourselves we can not rise or do anything (See Acts 13). Doing so is only dead works. God speaks, enables, and anoints us to fulfill our Kingdom assignment. He becomes our inheritance.

Reflection:

Just take a moment to put your focus and attention on God. Praise and thank Him for what He has done and who He is. Find a Psalm that focuses on praising God, and just minister to God by reading and meditating on it.