

## Consider These Things

What are some points of advice I could offer those who are entering ministry for the first time or for those who are entering a new ministry? I can think of at least three essential things you should consider.

#1. Know Your Heart: (Deut. 8: 1-3) God is constantly working changing our hearts. He is the expert transformer. (Phil. 1:6) He knows what will move us closer to Him. He may even choose to send us difficulties and trials. Interestingly enough in Deut. 8:1-3 we discover another purpose. "...to test you in order to know what is in your heart...". God knows our hearts. He wants us to know our hearts. So what does this look like? Knowing our sin, knowing who we need to make things right with, knowing our strengths and weaknesses, Knowing our wounds, knowing what holds us back, and you can add a few more to this list. Don't try to be someone you are not. All of these things relate to our relationship with Him. Other people will try to tell you who you are, Let God do that. Listen to Him, He gets it right every time.

#2. Life Comes from God: (Deut. 8:1-3) Deut. 8:3 "to teach you that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord". Keeping a fresh time with God is totally essential for serving Christ. Listening and responding to His voice is the most important thing we can do as servants. Have a structure for prayer. I picked this up from Stephen Olford years ago. Monday- Pray for foreign missionaries. Tuesday- Pray for the task God has given you to do. Wednesday- Pray for Home workers. (Church planters, inter city workers, etc.) Thursday- Day for thanksgiving. Friday- Family under fire. I pray for my wife and children and grandchildren. Saturday- Pray for Saints, especially young believers. Sunday- Pray for sinners, those who are close to decisions etc.

#3. Be an Evangelist: Paul tells Timothy to "be an evangelist", in the imperative. Nothing is presented here concerning the spiritual gift of Evangelism. Simply put no matter how we slice it we are to be an evangelist. If you don't share the gospel with others your church will follow you. Set a goal for yourself, Share the gospel with at least one person a month. Teach your people how to share the gospel with others. I take people with me when I make an evangelistic visit. I have been using the E. E. (Evangelism Explosion) method for the last 40 years. Evangelism Explosion is a material that was created by Dr. D. James Kennedy from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Coral Ridge Fla. There is a book and a workbook. Dr. Kennedy is now with the Lord. I have trained many people with this material, and have trained people to train people. If you have any questions, please contact me. You can get my cell phone from the CB North Central office.

I pray for you as you enter ministry. Being a servant of the Most High God is the greatest privilege we could ever have.

*With His Blessing, Gary Glidden  
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