

Notes for Class 4/4/24.

Introduction to the Deeper Life. Part 1

Steve Porter

Choosing a Ministry Path: A Call to Deepen Relationship with Jesus
`ministry` `relationship` `divine guidance`

📄 Basic Information

- * Date & Time: 2024-04-04 23:51:55
- * Location: [Oasis Bible Training Center]
- * Instructor: [Steve Porter]

📝 Summary

This teaching emphasizes the importance of choosing a ministry path guided by a deep relationship with Jesus. It explores various ministry options, the significance of love and devotion, and the ultimate call to minister unto the Lord. The speaker shares personal experiences, highlights the need for divine guidance, and prays for a visitation of God's presence. The students are called to build a house of devotion and make a decision regarding their ministry path, with an assurance of divine blessing and grace.

Allegory: Choosing Your Heavenly Calling

A. Doors representing different ministries:

1. Healing
2. Miracles
3. Prophecy
4. Evangelism
5. Teaching
6. Love
7. Intercession

B. Final door: Ministry unto the Lord

1. Hidden away, ministering to God's heart
2. Key that opens all other doors

📌 Knowledge Points

1. The teaching narrates a spiritual journey where the listener is invited to choose their ministry path, emphasizing the importance of following divine guidance to find one's unique calling.

* **Importance of the message** *

The speaker emphasizes that the message being delivered is the most important one in their 30+ years of ministry, suggesting its significant impact on the students.

* **Change in teaching plan** *

Originally planned as the final message of the class, the speaker felt led by spiritual guidance to present it first, indicating a non-linear approach to teaching.

* **Personal encounter with the divine** *

The narrative involves a visionary journey where the individual is called by God to choose their ministry, highlighting a personal and direct interaction with the divine.

* **Vision of Gabriel Hoffman** *

A powerful vision given to Gabriel Hoffman is shared, illustrating a journey through different ministries, culminating in the ministry unto the Lord.

* **Options for ministry** *

Several ministries are presented as options, including healing, miracles, prophecy, and evangelism, each with its unique attributes and divine endorsement.

* **The path less traveled** *

The narrative culminates in the introduction of a narrow, less attractive path, suggesting a ministry choice that is less popular or recognized but deeply significant.

2. The teaching emphasizes the importance of various ministries in the Christian faith, particularly focusing on the ultimate ministry of devotion to God, and the necessity of love and personal relationship with God as the foundation for effective ministry.

* **Five-fold ministry** *

The teaching discusses the concept of the five-fold ministry, emphasizing the roles of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, and their equal importance in the Kingdom.

*** **Ministry of teaching****

Teaching is highlighted as a crucial but often undervalued ministry, essential for spreading the anointed word of God.

*** **Ministry of love****

The teaching underscores the power of love in ministry, referencing 1 Corinthians 13 to illustrate that without love, other spiritual gifts are ineffective.

*** **Ministry unto the Lord****

The ultimate ministry is described as one that is directed towards God Himself, emphasizing worship, devotion, and seeking God's presence above all.

*** **Importance of devotion****

The teaching stresses that ministry should flow out of devotion to God, with a personal relationship with God being the foundation of effective ministry.

*** **Knowing God's ways****

It is important not just to know about God's acts but to deeply understand His ways, which comes from a close, personal relationship with Him.

*** **Ministry burnout****

The speaker shares personal experiences with ministry burnout, emphasizing the need for a ministry that is rooted in God's calling rather than self-promotion.

3. The main theme is the deepening of personal and intimate relationship with Jesus, moving beyond seeking blessings to seeking His face and heart.

*** **Desire to minister unto Jesus****

The speaker expresses a strong desire for themselves and their audience to minister unto Jesus, emphasizing a personal and intimate relationship with Him.

*** **Moving beyond seeking blessings****

The focus is on moving beyond seeking God's blessings and manifestations to seeking a deeper relationship with God Himself.

*** **Seeking a face-to-face encounter with God****

The speaker desires a direct, personal encounter with God, emphasizing the importance of knowing God intimately.

*** **Impartation of desire by the Spirit****

The speaker acknowledges that the desire to deeply know and minister unto Jesus can only be imparted by the Holy Spirit.

****Falling in love with Jesus****

The speaker encourages the audience to fall in love with Jesus, not just His ministry or blessings, but His person.

****Hiding behind the cross****

The speaker emphasizes the importance of humility and ensuring that Jesus is always seen and known, rather than oneself.

****Raising up leaders****

The speaker prays for the raising up modern individuals like Enoch, Moses, and David, who had intimate relationships with God.

****Seeking God's heart****

The focus is on seeking God's heart and His kingdom, rather than merely seeking His blessings.

4. A call to deeper spiritual commitment and the importance of divine guidance in ministry choices.

****Invocation for remembrance****

The speaker prays that the words spoken, which are from the heart of Jesus, will be remembered like an earthquake, never to be forgotten.

****Distinction between divine and human words****

There's a clear distinction made between the words of the speaker, referred to as 'Any of Steve Porter words', and the Lord's words, with a preference for the latter to be remembered.

****Call to build a house of devotion****

The speaker encourages the audience to begin building a house of devotion, which is presented as an entry point to a deeper spiritual life.

****Divine wooing****

God is portrayed as wooing or drawing the audience closer, indicating a personal and intimate call to each individual.

****Past experiences leading to present decisions****

The speaker suggests that all past experiences have led the audience to this moment of decision regarding their ministry and spiritual path.

* **Choice of ministry** *

There's a moment of decision where the audience is asked to choose their ministry, with an assurance of divine blessing, strength, and grace.

* **Prayer for visitation** *

The speaker prays for a divine visitation for every student, both online and on campus, indicating a desire for a tangible experience of God's presence.

? Questions

1. How does the vision of choosing a ministry at the throne room of God challenge our perception of what truly matters in our spiritual journey and calling?
2. In what ways can focusing on "ministering unto the Lord" through devotion and intimacy with God transform the effectiveness and impact of our ministry to others?
3. Why do you think the path leading to the door of "ministering unto the Lord" was narrow and less traveled compared to the other ministry paths?
4. How can we cultivate a heart that seeks to know God's ways, rather than just seeking His acts or blessings?
5. What is the significance of the golden key given to those who choose to minister unto the Lord, and how does it relate to the other ministries mentioned in the vision?
6. How can we balance our desire to serve God and others with the need to prioritize our personal relationship and devotion to Him?
7. In what ways can self-promotion and striving in ministry hinder our ability to truly know and follow God's will for our lives?
8. How does the principle of building God a house of devotion, so that He can build us a house of ministry, challenge our approach to serving God and others?
9. What steps can we take to ensure that our ministry flows out of our devotion to God, rather than becoming a source of burnout or self-reliance?

10. How can we cultivate a heart that desires to know Jesus intimately, like John the beloved, and to walk with God like Enoch, even in the midst of the demands and distractions of ministry?

Quotes

1. "If you build God a house of devotion, He will build you a house of ministry. Ministry should always flow out of devotion."

2. "You can know the acts of God, the blessings of God, the hands of God, or you can know His ways. You can go deep enough into His heart and know His ways."

3. "I realized that I can self-promote myself or I can allow the Lord to place me at His place at His time. If I have to make things happen in my own strength, I don't want to do them."

4. "We want to move beyond just the manifestations, just the acts. We want to know your ways. We want a head-on collision with you, Lord, a face-to-face encounter with you."

5. "Let us not fall in love with your hands and just seek after you selfishly for the blessing all the time. But Lord, let us seek after your heart. Let us seek for the Kingdom of God, and everything else will be added unto us."

6. "I want to dry the Father's tears. I want to be like John, the beloved, and lay my head upon the heartbeat of Jesus. I want to walk like Enoch, walk with the Lord, and be like Moses, who knew Him face to face."

7. "You can go your entire ministry and not know the Lord. You can be a human doing, where you're always doing, doing, doing, and never be a human being, where you learn to just be with Jesus."

8. "I realized that the secret to ministry is getting on my knees and spending time with my Father, or else I'm just going to wear myself out doing a lot of good things that are not God things."

9. "We must know you, Jesus, sweet Master. Let us fall in love with you all over again. Impart that desire to minister unto you, that we would fall in love, not with a ministry, but with a Man whose name is Jesus."

10. "Let this night be a cornerstone and a shift in people's ministries, where they begin to build God a house of devotion, which is an introduction to the deeper life in Jesus' precious name."

📖 Assignments

- Read Draw Me book by Steve Porter
- Study the teaching notes and answer the thought-provoking questions in your notebook