

## Putting It To The Test The Work of Faith

### Determining Your Ministry Direction

Now that you have been introduced to your divine design and the pieces of your puzzle are taking form, you need to understand your ministry direction, and validate the accuracy of your discovery. This consists of two steps: identification and confirmation.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ starts with various positions in ministry and matches them to your design.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ involves projecting your design to a particular ministry. You build the ministry around the person.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ concept looks to particular individuals whom God has chosen to bless in a particular ministry. In other words, you're looking for similarities in design. If the design is similar, then the direction might be too.

**Confirmation:** While the identification step serves to help you discover your ministry direction, the confirmation step seeks to validate the accuracy of your discovery. It also consists of three phases:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ *Phase:* In essence this involves self-observation based on the knowledge of your past consistent behavior and/or ministry experience. You carefully examine the results of the identification process and ask yourself, Is this true of me? Is this what I think I can do?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ *Phase:* In essence this phase involves intentionally seeking and accepting wise counsel and advice from others regarding the accuracy of your ministry direction (see Prov. 15:22; 19:20; 12:15; 13:14, 20; 20:18; 24:5, 6; 27:9).

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ *Phase*: In essence this phase involves experimenting with your ministry direction by getting ministry experience. It's one thing to think and talk with others about your direction; it's another to experience it.

### **Working Your Ministry Plan**

Once you know how God has basically equipped you and you see your ministry direction, how do you go about working their plan?

*The Problem*: The problem we face in executing our plans is our old ways and \_\_\_\_\_ of doing things. They are highly \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Solution*: So, how do you handle breaking up some of the old habits? You will have to \_\_\_\_\_ (like getting on a bike for the first time), creating new neural pathways.

Here are four areas to help you:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ - To begin with you have to take action. You must get started (Acts 13:1-21:16).

There are three guidelines for taking action:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and consciously choose to be engaged.
- 2) Intentionally \_\_\_\_\_ of the many daily opportunities to work you plan.
- 3) Mental rehearsal or a \_\_\_\_\_ of what you are about to do

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ - You must be focused as you practice you plan. Time and energy are limited so staying and keeping focused will enable you to use both wisely.

\* Watch for those \_\_\_\_\_ - chasing devils rabbits!

\* You must discipline yourself to \_\_\_\_\_.

\* Create a " \_\_\_\_\_ " list.

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ - You need to stick to the plan (Phil. 3:12-14).

This will be a problem because you'll encounter...

\* **disappointment and failure** as you pursue your plan and they can easily discourage you.

\* **living in the past** is like trying to drive somewhere by looking in the rearview mirror. It's nearly impossible.

\* The key then to overcoming failure is not to be overwhelmed by your mistakes but to treat them as **learning opportunities**.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ – Going it alone is difficult even for the extreme loner and introvert. You need to cultivate supportive relationships with people who will be on your side while you work your plan. What does this kind of support look like?

a) They are people who \_\_\_\_\_ you and can be counted on to encourage you in the process.

b) They are people who will provide you with \_\_\_\_\_ where you can address the unthinkable, even questions that challenge our faith.

c) These people will give you \_\_\_\_\_ candid feedback.

d) These people will hold you \_\_\_\_\_ to working your ministry plan

**Now go and grow where you've been planted, for the glory of God  
and the building up of His kingdom!**

"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone." – James 2:17