

“ESSENTIALS FOR AN ESSENTIAL CHURCH”

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SOUTHWEST DISTRICT PLANNING MEETING



**ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR AN ESSENTIAL CHURCH
POISED FOR EFFECTIVE “21ST CENTURY MINISTRY”**

**Successful and Effective Twenty First Century
Ministry must have core ingredients:**

**PRAYER (INDIVIDUAL AND COOPERATE)
PRECEDES ALL ELSE**

Jesus, says in Matthew 18 verse 19, 20, “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything; that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.” – There is great authority in prayer, particularly corporate and agreeing prayer. The reason is that where two or three are gathered together in faith and commitment to Christ, he is in their midst. His presence will impart faith, strength, direction, grace and consolation

BELIEF BUILT ON FAITH IN MOTION.

David in 1 Samuel 17 visited his brothers in the battlefield as they faced the Philistine army. Goliath, of course, was the giant Philistine who threatened the Israel army every day. David believed that God was bigger than the giant, and he believed his God-given ability to defeat the enemies. Because his faith in God and the ability that he possessed allowed him to slay loins and bears in the past, he now believed he could take on a giant.

**PASSION THAT STIRS AND ENERGIZES
FROM THE THE INSIDE OUT**

The Prophet Elijah, in 1 Kings 18, confronted 850 prophets on top of Mount Carmel. Elijah was fed up with the apathy of his own people and wanted to prove to them that the Lord was the true God and deserved their commitment. Although he was greatly outnumbered, his passion enabled him to confront the false prophets, call down fire from heaven, and direct the people back to God. The fire from heaven was symbolic of the fire (passion) that was burning inside of Elijah; it allowed him to bring everyone to a point of decision – and cure them of apathy.

**INITIATIVE TO GET MOVING AND
SMOTHER OUT COMPLACENCY**

In Acts 9 and 27 Paul exemplifies a vivid account of initiative; he was a prisoner on board a ship, with no rights or authority, but he took initiative when the ship and crew encountered a storm and saved the day.

FOCUS THAT DIRECTS

- Includes and involves **every representative age group** that makes up “The Body.”
- Is unselfish and has a sense of **purpose beyond ones self.**

In Genesis 6 Noah was confronted by God and told to build an ark. - So that he could preserve himself and his family, he stayed on task for 120 years; he withstood criticism and was the brunt of jokes as he prepared for the flood. His focus allowed him to use his abilities and succeed in sparing the human race. Who will be the beneficiaries of your focus?

PREPARATION THAT POSITIONS FOR SUCCESS

Take a look at Moses, in Exodus 2-4. Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s palace in Egypt and was given all the education and resources he needed to succeed in his adult life-except for one ingredient. God had to prepare his heart . . . God sent Moses into the wilderness for forty years where He could prepare him for the job of leading the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and into Canaan. You see, God took forty years to get Moses ready for his mission; the job was too big for a novice. God made sure Moses’ head, hands, and **heart** were ready before turning him loose.

PRACTICE THAT SHARPENS AND ENGAGES

Let’s look at the 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10th chapters of Daniel. – Daniel was a young man when his country was overtaken by the Babylonians. While in a foreign land, he never left the practices that made him such a sharp young leader. One of his gifts was the ability to interpret dreams and visions. Through the years he practiced his gift by helping king after king; so when he was called in to help a king who didn’t even know him, he was prepared, and because of his sharp talent he attracted still another king to God.

PERSEVERANCE THAT SUSTAINS THE EFFORT

Consider Joseph in Genesis 41. Joseph was given a dream from God as a young man. He was gifted to be a leader, and one day he'd have the opportunity to play that role. As the story goes, there were great obstacles to face along the way; his brothers were jealous of him and treated him abusively. Later they sold him into slavery and while serving in Egypt, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. When he refused to lie with her she blackmailed him and had him imprisoned. He was soon forgotten, but eventually got to use his talent to lead when Pharaoh needed it. He first, however, had to persevere through severe hardship.

COURAGE THAT MOTIVATES AND STIMULATES

Take a look at Deborah in Judges 4. Deborah possessed amazing talent to plan strategy and lead the people of Israel. In her story, however, she faced an intimidating enemy in the army of Canaan. They were ruthless, possessing 900 iron chariots. Deborah called for Barak, the commander of Israel's army, and gave him a plan to defeat the Canaanites. Do you trust your plan enough to use it in the face of a bigger enemy?

TEACHABILITY THAT ALLOWS FOR EXPANSION AND GROWTH.

Consider Simon Peter, in Acts 10. Peter was talented preacher. He was the one who preached the first sermon as the church was launched in Acts 2. He spoke all over Jerusalem and clearly, was the "senior" spokesman for the gospel in the first eight chapters of the book of Acts. However, in Acts 10, God challenges Peter with a new insight-that the gospel was meant for the Gentiles too, - not just the Jews. Peter had a difficult time embracing the idea, but thankfully, his teachable spirit opened a door for him to take the gospel to those outside of the Jewish faith.

Adapted from John Maxwell's
writing - "Talent is Not Enough"
