



BY GRACE

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Title: Growing as a Pastor

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“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

1. INTRODUCTION

A. As pastors, we have the opportunity to study the Scriptures more than most people: the stories, the characters, and the doctrine of the Scripture.

1. Yet, that knowledge does not always guarantee us passionate personal growth.
2. As we strive for external success, it becomes a temptation to mistakenly prioritize external growth over our own personal growth and devotion to Him.

B. Build where the Bible teaches us to build.

1. Without question, we must keep careful priorities in our lives. It is important that we keep our:
 - a. Own walk with the Lord first in our priority.
 - b. Family second, only to the Lord.
 - c. Ministry following in third place, but greatly enhanced by keeping the first two life priorities in their proper place!



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2. It is our purpose in this session to give attention to growth in the third level of our priority, our lives as pastors, always remembering that we must keep life balanced.

2. FOUR WAYS THAT WE CAN GROW PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY

A. Grow in _____

1. Attitude plays such an important role in what we do.
2. How often we get caught up in the chaos of the temporal and miss the spiritual opportunities.
3. The Lord reminds them about the readiness of the spiritual harvest and their responsibility to both see it and participate in it.

B. Grow in _____

1. John 15 teaches us that just as physical trees need pruning and feeding, so do our spiritual lives.
2. You and I must be willing to be purged and cooperative in the process.
 - a. Regularly examine your life.
 - b. Set targets of growth for yourself.

C. Grow in _____

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

1. A pastor is a teacher!
2. Our purpose is to teach them how to recover themselves from the trap the devil has set for them.

Two essentials for growing in patience as we pastor hurting people.

1. Remember where God got you! In ministry, we deal with problems. However, we must always remember that we have problems!

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
(Ephesians 4:32)*

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” (Colossians 3:13)

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10)

2. Seeing a person recover and grow. We must love and invest in people believing that God can help them as He has helped us.

D. Grow in _____

Three competent practices that will enable growth.

1. Disciplined personal time management
2. Dedicated devotional life

*“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”
(Isaiah 40:31)*

3. Discerning prayer

“And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to

go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.” (1 Kings 3:6-10)

3. CONCLUSION

- A. If we are going to help others grow, we must be growing ourselves.
- B. Give attention to growth in:
 - 1. Perspective
 - 2. Purpose
 - 3. Patience
 - 4. Productivity

If you have a question for one of the Q&A sessions, please submit it to **QA@lancasterbaptist.org**.

