

Balancing Devotion, Ministry, and Family: Lessons from Enoch

Devotion Ministry Family



Basic Information

- Date & Time: 2024-04-11 19:07:32
- Location: Oasis Bible Training Center
- Instructor: Steve Porter
- Title: "Building God a House of Devotion" - Intro to the Deeper Life Lesson 2



Summary

In this thoughtful teaching, we explore the crucial importance of prioritizing personal devotion to God and family over ministry work. Drawing from the example of Enoch, we discover how his faith and intimate fellowship with God transformed his life, leading to divine approval and prophetic ministry.

Through this message, you will learn:

- The dangers of neglecting personal spiritual growth and family life in pursuit of ministry success
- How to cultivate a deep, transformative relationship with God like Enoch
- The significance of discernment, accountability, and proper training in spiritual leadership
- Strategies for handling disagreements in ministry with respect and restoration

- The necessity of seeking divine guidance and approval before undertaking ministry tasks

Don't let your ministry work come at the cost of your personal and spiritual well-being. Join us as we explore the Enoch Principle and discover how prioritizing your devotion to God and family can lead to a more fruitful, impactful, and sustainable ministry.

Hashtags: #EnochPrinciple #DevotionToGod #FamilyPriority
#MinistryLife #SpiritualGrowth #LeadershipDiscernment
#MinistryAccountability #DivineFavor

Teaching Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Welcome and announcements
 - B. Opening prayer
 - C. Disclaimer about the principle to be taught
- II. The Principle: If you build God a house of devotion, He will build you a house of ministry
 - A. Importance of placing God first, then spouse, family, and then ministry
 - B. Consequences of making ministry an idol
 - C. Cultivating a strong marriage and family life
- III. Enoch: A Man Who Walked with God
 - A. Enoch's name means "dedicated"
 - B. Enoch walked with God (Genesis account)
 1. Genesis 5:21-24
 2. Fellowship equals devotion
 - C. Enoch pleased God (Hebrews account)
 1. Hebrews 11:5-6

2. Pleasing God equals approval
- D. Enoch prophesied (Jude account)
 1. Jude 1:14-15
 2. Fellowship and approval equal ministry
- IV. The Importance of Speaking to God Before Speaking for God
 - A. False messiahs and false Christs in the end times
 - B. The danger of taking shortcuts in ministry
 - C. The need for accountability and teachability in leadership
- V. Jesus' Example: Fellowship, Approval, and Ministry
 - A. Mark 3:13-14
 - B. The disciples first came to Jesus, then were sent forth
 - C. God's provision for God-ordained ministry
- VI. The Importance of Being Sent by God
 - A. Exodus 3:10
 - B. The difference between good ideas and God ideas
 - C. Seeking God's will for your life and ministry
- VII. Conclusion
 - A. Recap of the main points
 - B. Encouragement to prioritize devotion and walking with God
 - C. Closing prayer



Knowledge Points

1. The importance of prioritizing devotion to God and family over ministry to prevent personal and spiritual losses.

- **Importance of Devotion** The speaker emphasizes the importance of building a house of devotion to God before focusing on building a ministry.
- **Consequences of Prioritizing Ministry Over Family** The speaker warns that prioritizing ministry over family can lead to personal losses, such as marriage and relationships with children.
- **Balance Between Ministry and Family** The speaker stresses the need to maintain a balance between ministry work and family life, ensuring neither is neglected.
- **Personal Anecdotes** The speaker shares personal experiences and anecdotes to illustrate the consequences of neglecting family for ministry.
- **Scheduled Family Time** The speaker advises scheduling regular, dedicated time for family to ensure relationships are nurtured despite busy schedules.
- **Principle of Devotion Leading to Ministry** A principle is shared that devotion to God leads to a successful ministry, as stated by Walter Buechler.
- **Enoch's Example** The biblical figure Enoch is used as an example of someone who prioritized walking with God, which is presented as an ideal model of devotion.
- **Symbolic Meaning of Numbers in Scripture** The speaker discusses the symbolic meanings of numbers in the Bible, particularly in the context of Enoch.
- **Transparent Relationship with God** The importance of having a transparent and honest relationship with God is highlighted through the example of Enoch.
- **Progressive Revelation in Walking with God** The concept that walking with God involves progressive revelation, where understanding deepens over time, is discussed.

2. The transformative power of faith and fellowship with God as exemplified by Enoch's life, leading to divine approval and prophetic ministry.

- **Enoch's Pleasing of God** Enoch pleased God through his faith and walk with God, which is highlighted as a significant testimony in his life.
- **Faith and Approval** Faith is essential to please God, as demonstrated by Enoch's life, where his faith led to divine approval and his eventual translation to avoid death.
- **Fellowship with God** The teaching emphasizes the importance of fellowship with God, suggesting that close, consistent, and sincere walking with God is crucial for gaining His approval.
- **Ministry through Fellowship** Fellowship with God leads to approval, which then equips and enables a person for ministry, serving as God's mouthpiece.
- **Prophecy of Enoch** Enoch not only walked with God but also served as a prophet, foretelling the judgment that would come with the Lord's return.
- **Warning Against False Prophets** The teaching touches on the need for discernment in the end times, warning against false prophets and messiahs as described in biblical prophecy.

3. The critical importance of discernment, accountability, and proper training in spiritual leadership to prevent deception and ensure integrity in ministry.

- **Importance of discernment** Discernment is crucial in distinguishing true spiritual leaders from false ones, as exemplified by the tragic event in Jonestown.

- **Dangers of following unaccountable leaders** Leaders who lack accountability and proper training can mislead their followers, potentially leading to harmful doctrines and practices.
- **Role of training in ministry** Proper training and dialogue with God are essential for those who wish to speak on behalf of God, avoiding the pitfalls of self-proclaimed ministers.
- **Consequences of misinterpreting scriptures** Taking scriptures out of context can lead to the propagation of false doctrines, which may be harmful to believers.
- **Accountability in leadership** Effective leaders in the church set up accountability structures and are open to correction and guidance from others.
- **Teachability of leaders** A good leader remains teachable and open to feedback, which is crucial for personal and ministry growth.
- **Personal holiness and responsibility** Leaders bear a great responsibility for their actions and teachings, which should be guided by a commitment to holiness and accountability.
- **Protection through accountability** By placing themselves under the oversight of trusted ministries and individuals, leaders can safeguard themselves and their ministries.
- **Importance of financial transparency** While it is acceptable to ask for financial support, transparency and the right motives are essential to maintain trust and integrity.
- **Judging by fruits, not appearances** Christians are encouraged to discern the true nature of leaders by their fruits (actions and results) rather than their charismatic appearances.

4. Handling disagreements in ministry with respect and restoration

- **Respect for other's anointing** The speaker emphasizes the importance of not interfering with or disrespecting another pastor's anointing or spiritual influence.
- **Private confrontation** If a minister is doing wrong, the speaker advocates for confronting them privately rather than publicly, to maintain respect and dignity.
- **Approach with a spirit of restoration** When addressing issues with another minister, it's important to do so with a spirit aimed at restoring rather than condemning.
- **Avoid public condemnation** The speaker advises against publicly calling out or condemning other ministers, suggesting it's better to handle disagreements discreetly first. (Matthew 18)
- **Pray for others** For those ministers with whom one disagrees, the speaker suggests praying for them silently rather than criticizing them openly.

5. The necessity of divine guidance and approval in ministry, and the importance of personal devotion and fellowship with God before undertaking ministry tasks.

- **Importance of Divine Approval** The speaker emphasizes the significance of receiving divine approval before undertaking ministry work, as exemplified by Jesus' baptism and subsequent ministry.
- **Role of Fellowship in Ministry** The teaching highlights the role of fellowship and spending time with Jesus as a precursor to being sent out to preach, as demonstrated by the disciples.
- **Distinction between Self-sent and God-sent** A key point made is the difference between self-initiated projects and

those ordained by God, with the latter being supported and provided for by divine means.

- **Financial Provision as a Sign of Divine Will** The speaker recounts personal testimonies where financial provision was seen as a confirmation of God's involvement and approval of their ministry activities.
- **Building a House of Devotion** The concept of building a personal devotion to God before embarking on public ministry is stressed, suggesting that personal spiritual depth is crucial.
- **Impact of Divine Calling on Personal Life** The lecture suggests that a true calling from God will not bring stress, chaos, or negative impacts on personal relationships like family.
- **Encouragement to Seek God's Plan** Students are encouraged to seek God's specific plan for their lives, which will align with peace and purpose without causing undue stress.
- **Testimonies as a Form of Encouragement** The speaker invites participants to share their testimonies, highlighting the importance of shared experiences to encourage and build faith in others.

? Questions

1. Why does the speaker emphasize the importance of building a “house of devotion” before pursuing ministry? What are the dangers of neglecting this principle?
2. How can prioritizing ministry over one's relationship with God and family lead to burnout, broken marriages, and children resenting the church?

3. In what practical ways can one cultivate romance and prioritize their spouse, even amidst the busyness of life and ministry?
4. What does it mean to have a “transparent” relationship with God, as Enoch did? How can we develop this in our own lives?
5. The speaker mentions that God reveals Himself progressively as we walk with Him. Have you experienced this in your own life? How has your understanding of God deepened over time?
6. Why is it crucial to please God before seeking to minister to others? What role does faith play in this process?
7. How can we discern between true and false teachers/ministries? What are some red flags to watch out for?
8. The speaker emphasizes the importance of accountability and teachability. Why are these qualities essential for a leader, and how can they be cultivated?
9. What is the difference between a “good idea” and a “God idea”? How can we discern whether a ministry opportunity is truly from God?
10. How does the principle of “who God guides, He provides” apply to our lives and ministries? Have you experienced this in your own life?
11. What does it mean to be “sent” by God, and how does this differ from sending ourselves?

12. Why is it important to ask God what His specific plan is for our lives, rather than assuming or comparing ourselves to others?
13. How can we maintain a heart of love and restoration when confronting those who are in error, while still exercising discernment?
14. In what ways can we prioritize our relationship with God and build a “house of devotion” in the midst of a busy schedule?
15. The speaker concludes by saying that even if we never do ministry, we should be satisfied with being in God's presence. How does this perspective challenge our motivations and priorities?

Quotes

1. “If you build God a house of devotion, He will build you a house of ministry.”- Walter Beuttler. This principle is the very heart of God. Many people in the body of Christ are running after ministry opportunities, placing ministry as an idol, but the Lord has never called us to lay down our lives for ministry. He's asked us to lay down our lives for Him.”
2. “You must cultivate romance in your marriage. Tell your spouse: “If you ever feel neglected in any way, tell me, so that I make sure our marriage is before ministry.” Those you minister to will not stand with you through thick and thin, 'til death do you part, in richer or poorer, but your spouse always will. They're with you forever.”

3. "Enoch walked with God in transparency. As you walk with Him, when He speaks to you, it's progressive. What He's sharing with you now is not what He's going to share with you tomorrow. He's going to build upon the revelation, unveiling layer upon layer of His heart."
4. "Fellowship precedes approval, and approval precedes ministry. Enoch spoke to God before he spoke for God. Ministry should always flow out of devotion, out of relationship with the Lord."
5. "If an idea comes from God after spending time in His presence, He will send you forth with His stamp of approval. When God sends you, His plan will not bring stress, chaos, or confusion; instead, it will flow naturally. This doesn't mean you won't face challenges or attacks, but if you have followed heavenly protocol by putting God first, He will send you into the world to be His light and salt, making a positive impact wherever you go."

Assignments

-Read your assigned 2 books -Read and study your notes and answer the study questions