

The Weakest Link: Pt 5: Serving On A Ministry Team

Intro: Wayne Cordeiro "Paddling a Canoe" pg 13

We can do more together than we ever can alone!

Talk About: Serving On A Ministry Team!

Continue Series: The Weakest Link: 6 Goals For Every Member

Our spiritual life is like a chain, with different disciplines or activities forming the links. If there is a weakness somewhere....

Review: Worshipping Weekly; Maturing Measurably; Giving Generously; Gathering Small Group; Serving Ministry Team

7 Benefits of Serving On A Ministry

1. SMT Moves You Along the Process Of Spiritual Growth We Have Developed At RTBC.

2Pe 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

ILLUS: THE PATH: Worshipping; Gathering; Serving; Sharing

It is not the ONLY system...but it is our system...We are throwing everything we have into this process.

We believe these are the four things that will move you along the path toward Christlikeness.

When those 4 things are present in your life...you are walking the path of maturity...

2. SMT Connects You With God's Plan To Change The World!.

Mt 16:18 "...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Bill Hybels says it better than anyone..."The church is the hope of the world!"

Political, Educational, Humanitarian,

If you want to be on the front line of God's work...get involved in the church..Only things God promised to bless

I believe in the parachurch organizations...provide tremendous support and ministry...But front line...Church

When you step up and say...I'm going to invest my life in Church...serve on a ministry team....

Connect to what God is doing...Engage with Him

The way to change our world is through the church....Want your life to matter...invest it in that!

Illus: Church is the only human organization Jesus promised to bless

3. SMT Fulfills The Need of The Heart To Do Something Significant...Something That Matters.

Ecc1: 3:11 "He (God) has also set eternity in the hearts of men

Lk 5:1-11 pg 728 Nets almost broke....Wildest Dreams...."Fishers of men"

There is something in the heart of every person that lives that wants to touch eternity...to make a difference, to have the world be a better place because you were here. When you serve in ministry...It touches that need...Fills that need.

There is nothing like lying your head on the pillow at night and KNOWING you made a difference!

ILLUS: When you invest your time and talents in ministry...You are touching the ONLY thing that will last for eternity

4. SMT Enables You To Make Your Worship More Than Just Words.

Rom12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship"

Rom 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service."

In our mind we often separate the two...God never does!

In fact, both in the OT and the NT the words for worship and service are used interchangeably!

ILLUS: OT Priest...went up to the temple during his rotation...Worship was serving...Serving was worship!

We try to distinguish between the two...and in fact they are two sides of the same coin.

Here is what I believe God is teaching us. You Cannot have one without the other

Genuine, authentic Worship always results in Service

And service from the heart is offered up to God as Worship....and received that way by Him!

Truth of the Spiritual Life: God wants more from us than just words of worship

ILLUS: Greatest Commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind strength, Neighbor
You cant do that with just words!

5. SMT Deepens, Strengthens and Stretches Your Faith!

Lk 9:13 “You give them something to eat!” pg 733

When you serve, and others have expectations of you...it stretches you! You go further than you ever imagined

- 12: Send them away, we don't have what it takes!
- 13: You give them something to eat!
- 16: Gave to the disciples to set before the people
- 17: Collected 12 baskets of leftovers

Ministry puts you in a place where you go further, do more than you would ever have imagined.

At long as you are safe on the sidelines, you underestimate what you can do...

But when you put your name on the dotted line..step up to the plate...God stretches you

Cor: Not that we are competent in and of ourselves...God has MADE US COMPETENT!

ILLUS: I will never forget my first day in ministry: Orange Desk...What were they thinking! Pastor walked w me!

ILLUS: The PATH:

You will only go so far in your spiritual maturity without service and ministry.

You can only learn so much...without putting it into practice.

Until you do that..you will stay stalled...not moving forward...

6. SMT Provides The Support System You Need When Things Get Tough.

Eccl 4:9-12 “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work, If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

There is tremendous strength and encouragement in a ministry team.

- When you are tired they lift you up
- When you are discouraged they encourage you
- When you are out of the game...they pick up the pieces for you.

ILLUS: Anytime you are in ministry, it will get tough...and you will want to quit.

That's when you need that team around you...encouraging, motivating...even carrying you when they have to!

7. SMT Multiplies Your Strength And Helps You Accomplish More Than You Could Alone.

So I am sitting at my desk on Friday, and I have written the point... You need others...but for life of me I didn't know what bible verse I wanted to use to make my point! Earlier in the day, my bible verse of the day friend called...and I was in a meeting so I couldn't answer....left it on the phone...

Took a break..no verse, walked around no verse comes to mind...Check the phone..no calls..wait..a message

Pr 15:22 “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

What does it say...we need others...to help us accomplish more!

When Jesus sent out the disciples...he sent them...2x2!

ILLUS: Synergy:The final outcome of an operation when two items are working together is greater than the sum of its parts

OXEN: One can pull 4000 pounds by itself:

Two can pull..not 12000!

Now that you understand the Benefits...How Do you put them into practice...

1. IF you have never served before...never joined a team....
 - a. Take a Connection card...Fill it out...
 - b. Go to kiosk...Great Design Reps help you find your fit....(Basic inventories)
2. Know what you want....Ready to check it out...Take a glimpse...One time...One hour test...dip toe in water
3. Maybe you have done that..didn't work..or, signed up last time, somehow we missed you....

Had hundreds...so quite possible....try it now...let us know how we can serve...

Community Groups Slide

