



Lesson Twelve

“Ministering the Word of God”

Objective: To train and equip students to assist in teaching, preaching, and exhorting others with the word of God!

I. Ministering the Word of God

1. The bible teaches us to _____ instructions to men and women to minister the word of God to others.

2 Timothy 2:2 AMPC *And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.*

In this passage of Scripture Paul is instructing Timothy to impart and deposit instructions for others to teach the Word of God. It is awesome to note that the main criteria for those teachers is faithfulness. **God makes the faithful able.** It is true that some are called to the five-fold ministry and have a special endowment from the Holy Spirit to proclaim the word of God but this Scripture is very encouraging in that if you are faithful, God will make you competent and able!

Eph 4:11-12 AMPC *He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. ¹² His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church)...*

MSG *He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.*

2. Paul encouraged Timothy to _____ and skillfully teach the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 AMPC ***Study and be eager*** and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, ***correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.***

Whether you are teaching for a small group class, Celebrate Recovery, Men's group, children's church, or public teaching or preaching ministry, you must study your topic and be fully persuaded and full of the accurate truth of it so that you can deliver the word accurately.

a. _____ and study time in the Word along with time with God is essential to be effective as a teacher.

Research: *a systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach conclusions; exploration; analysis*

b. Start with _____.

- Ask God for fresh bread for the people.

Matthew 7:7 NKJV *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

- Ask Him to open your eyes with crystal clarity to see the truth He wants to communicate to His people.

Psalm 119:18 NKJV *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

- Pray that revelation knowledge will flow unhindered by any force.
- Clear your heart of any clutter or unforgiveness through prayer.
- Pray that people would receive the word and bear fruit.
- Pray that people will win the battle to show up for the word.

c. Establish a study _____ and _____.

Get in a quiet place where you can hear God, depending on your generation or personality type – some people study better with music playing and can tune out distractions very easily.

Luke 5:16 NKJV *So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*

For my study time, I have to have little to no distractions and the flow from God to my spirit is clear and open and fast. It usually takes me about 6 hours of continuous study to complete a Sunday Sermon. Conference speaking sermons usually take longer if I have been asked to minister on a topic I don't usually teach.

Ecc. 12:12 NKJV *Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.*

d. Know your _____ and _____.

Ask yourself two questions. What is my topic and who am I giving it to. Research the topic fully through other **qualified** ministers' material available on the internet or books and gather scriptures that reveal the heart of God on the matter. Set it all in order.

Ecclesiastes 12:9 NKJV *And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set^[a] in order (arranged) many proverbs.*

Ecclesiastes 12:10 NKJV *The Preacher sought to find ^[b]acceptable words (delightful words); and what was written was upright—words of truth.*

Pastor Sally Preferred Practical Study Tools:

- **Biblegateway.com** is my preferred online study Bible.

I keep it open in the first tab to the left and use it to look up, copy and paste scriptures.

- I listen the Holy Spirit about looking up **different translations** of the same Scripture. My favorites are: NKJV, AMPC, MSG, NIV, NLT, TPT – So if a second translation makes the point more clear, I will include both or even three.
- **Google is the best Bible concordance!** Just type in a small portion of a scripture you know but don't know the address and it will pop up. Then I enter that Scripture into Biblegateway.com so I can look at the different translations and copy and paste into my sermon notes.
- I have an **extensive library of Apostle Hilliard's teaching material** that I refer to when I need information on a particular subject. Sometimes I just read a few pages and God gives me direction that has nothing to do with what I'm reading. That has to do with spiritual fatherhood, covering and connection. It is very powerful!
- I study **online material from other preachers** like, Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Joseph Prince, etc. You can Google the topic along with the ministers name and their online blogs will show up. I will take from several ministers what I learn, and from my own experience and knowledge to construct a sermon that is full of Godly wisdom leaning towards the Word of Faith.

e. Use personal testimony and _____ that will bring the sermon to life.

The sermon is like a skeleton and the stories add flesh and life to the sermons. It makes it real! Jesus used parables to teach Kingdom truths. If you do not have a story of your own, use mine, or go on the internet and find a story about someone or something that fits and illustrates the truth you're communicating.

Mark 2:2 AMPC *And He taught them many things in parables (illustrations or comparisons put beside truths to explain them),*

Many times when I am preaching, the Holy Spirit will bring a story or illustration I never thought of beforehand to my mind. I've learned to respond to that thought and use that

example. Even if you think it may not fit, the Holy Spirit has someone who will get it through this illustration. I've learned to trust the Holy Spirit when I am preaching.

Use humor and be willing to be transparent and laugh at yourself. People love to laugh! The Bible says its good like a medicine! The more you can connect with people through your own trials, mistakes, triumphs, and faith, the more they can receive from you. You always want to be likeable but not afraid to tell the truth.

f. _____ your sermon.

Yes! Get in front of the mirror and practice your sermon!

Proverbs 22:29 NKJV *Do you see a man who ^[a]excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before ^[b]unknown men.*

Excel: *to be exceptionally good at or proficient in an activity or subject; shine*

g. Get plenty of _____.

You need to have plenty of rest before you minister. It has been said that delivering one sermon is like working a full day at work. The anointing lifts you and makes you stronger and alert, but physically you need to be rested and refreshed.

Guard yourself from satanically inspired distractions and drama before you minister. (someone whispered bad news in my ear during worship)

Daniel 7:25 KJV *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High*

h. Preach with _____.

When you have filled your spirit with the Word of God and you feel the unction of the Holy Spirit, knowing you have a word from God that will help people, it's hard to keep quiet! Believe me, it will flow out!

Jeremiah 20:9 AMPC *If I say, I will not make mention of [the Lord] or speak any more in His name, in my mind and heart it is as if there were a burning fire shut up in my bones. And I am weary of enduring and holding it in; I cannot [contain it any longer].*

When your motive is to help people to know God better and be victorious by living according to His word, you will experience the power of God to make you successful in that teaching moment. You are not preaching alone! HE is preaching through you!

2 Cor. 5:20 NIV *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

Hit the nail on the head! Make sure that you stay on topic and finish on time.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 NKJV *The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of [c]scholars (masters of assemblies) are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.*

II. Things to avoid while ministering the Word of God

Even if we have the best of intentions, we can be less effective as ministers of the word by making mistakes in our delivery. With practice, you will get better at these things.

1. Being extremely _____.

Your body reacts to situations where you experience anxiety. Your mouth gets dry, you can tremble, your voice can sound shaky, or you stumble around in your delivery. Nerves are normal for speaking in front of people and is named as one of the greatest fears that people have.

I say that being nervous means that you care and that you are being pushed past your comfort zone. I also say... do it scared! You may tremble or studder at first but if you keep going, you will get better and by the end you will be exhilarated!

2 Tim. 1:7 NIV *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

2. Going off _____.

Stay on track with where you are going in your sermon. You are going somewhere. What do you want to challenge the people to know, do or be? Stay focused toward that end! People will lose interest if you go off on a pig trail.

3. Saying _____.

Things like this can be annoying when you are the listener. You may not even realize you are doing it. It is a really good idea to record yourself ahead of time to see if you do it.

I've heard other preachers make a statement over and over like, "I wish I had a church up in here," or "come on somebody," or "yall aint saying nothin," or Amen?" It becomes annoying and really says you are relying on that feedback from people rather than the Holy Spirit. Stay focused and keep preaching.

Don't ask the people to tell their neighbor too many things. I'll do it a few times but I've heard preachers do it every other sentence. I just ignore it after a couple. You do not want to be ignored by your audience.

4. Being _____.

Never use a monotone! Use inflections in your voice and study other preachers and their rhythm. But mainly communicate with people in a way that is enjoyable and refreshing!

Some people use manuscript sermons. In other words they read their sermon as it is written from beginning to end. (John Hagee) It is very effective if you can do it without just keeping your eyes down the whole time. You can glance at it and then deliver it by looking at the people.

5. Wearing anything _____.

Anything during your sermon that is a distraction is a problem. People getting up and down, sound problems, and children crying are all distractions that take the attention off of the sermon and could cause someone to miss their moment. The last thing you want to do is to be a distraction yourself with distracting wardrobe choices.

The Bible says we should dress modestly, which I totally agree with. Wear your clothes loose fitting enough so that no one is distracted by your body. We are men and women of God and we should dress modestly yet stylishly for the world we are preaching to. (skinny pants, cleavage, short dresses, tight shirts or pants on men)

1 Sam. 16:7 NIV *People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

6. Going over your _____.