


The Man God Uses

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word”
(Acts 6:4).

God is searching for men who will return to the established priorities found in the Word of God. These are:

 Prayer

 Ministry of the Word

A minister in God’s kingdom has many responsibilities, but none as important as these. The Word of God and prayer can be compared to the two wings that lift and carry a bird in flight. They provide a balance in our lives and ministries. Prayer and the Word of God keep us moving forward and upward.

God is looking for good men. They seem to be in short supply. Why? Could it be that men do not want to be trained? Could it be that leaders do not do their best at passing the truth to the next generation? There must be a reason.

Rev. H. E. Scism, a long time General Director of Foreign Missions said to a group of leaders, “God sought for a man. Not a program. Not a plan. Not a book. God sought for a man.”

Warren Wiersbe pointed out:

- God sought for a man (1 Samuel 13:14)
- God found him (Psalms 89:20)
- Chose him (Psalms 78:70)
- Appointed him (1 Samuel 13:14)
- Provided a king (1 Samuel 16:1)

“The devil is in constant conspiracy against a preacher who really prays, for it has been said that what a minister is in his prayer closet is what he is, no more, no less.”
(Vance Havner)

God is looking for “the man of God, with the Word of God, in the Spirit of God, for the glory of God.” (T. J. Bach)

John Wesley once said, “Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth.”

Randy Adams, a missionary friend in West Africa says that a true man of God is:

- God’s man
- Doing God’s Work
- In God’s Way

- In God's Time

"By the grace of God, I'll be that man."

"Years ago, a young salesman heard a preacher make what seemed an incredible statement, 'The world has yet to see what God could accomplish through one man wholly dedicated to Him.' As incredible as the statement seemed, it stirred a sense of challenge deep within his being. As he left the meeting that night, young Dwight L. Moody made a personal commitment, 'By the grace of God, I'll be that man,' he purposed. The subsequent influence of his life through his preaching and publications was such that the English-speaking world was compelled to hear about God." (*Rivers of God* by Dutch Sheets, page 233)

A. W. Tozer said, "God is looking for (people) through whom He can do the impossible—what a pity that we plan only the things we can do ourselves."

Paul was the type of man God could use to accomplish the impossible. The world felt the impact and influence of his ministry. He was firmly committed to the Lord and constantly in touch with the Spirit.

"The only hope for a better world is that men in the world become better men."
(Anonymous)

E. M. Bounds said, "The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. If we have the right people almost any method will work, but if we have the wrong

people then no method will work. Great ministries begin with great people who develop great programs."

Prayer of the Man God Uses

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

This prayer is mentioned in other lessons. It is important to commit it to heart and pray it on a daily basis.

Keeping Our Sacrifice on the Altar

"Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now perfected in the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3).

Craig Sully writes, "Like the Galatians, we began our ministry in the Spirit. Every sermon we preached was a result of hours of prayer, study, and thought. When we stepped into a pulpit,

we were full of godly fear. Every word we spoke was uttered under the anointing of the Spirit of God . . . Few of us had natural preaching ability. We begged God to bless our small sermons. When God filled someone with the Holy Ghost, we were almost shocked with such a blessing on our ministry. Every day, every sermon, we were completely dependent upon the Lord.

“In the beginning we had nothing to depend upon but God. Now we can depend upon our own talents . . . We do not have to prepare for hours to teach a Bible study. We pride ourselves on being ‘instant in season and out of season.’

“When we started our ministry, we truly were in the Spirit. We prayed, we fasted, and we begged God to use us. For some, it is not that way anymore.

“It is time for us to get back in the Spirit. It is time to make up our minds. We are going to stay in the Spirit. We will pray. We will fast. We will wait on God. We will fear God. We will seek God’s face until we have a fresh word.

“What is needed now is spiritual ministry. God needs anointed men, not carnal men. God needs praying men, not talented men.

“Hear Paul’s cry to the church in Galatia. Do not be so foolish. You started the right way. Get back to the basics with which you started your ministry. Back to prayer. Back to study. Back to fasting. With such a spirit, we will reach and change our world.” (“Avoiding the Trap of a Carnal Ministry”)

A Personal Commitment

“Meanwhile, we’ll stick with our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God’s Word. The congregation thought this was a great idea” (Acts 6:4, *The Message*, Eugene Peterson).

“So let’s keep focused on the goal, those of us who want everything that God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet” (Philippians 3:14-15, *The Message*, Eugene Peterson).

Study Questions

1. What established ministerial priorities are found in the Word of God? _____

2. Compare these priorities with the wings of a bird. _____

3. Vance Havner claimed the devil is in constant conspiracy against _____

4. What did H. E. Scism say as recorded in this lesson? _____

5. What type of man does T. J. Bach say that God is looking for? _____

6. What did John Wesley think he could do with one hundred preachers who desire nothing but God? _____

7. What is the difference between what God and what the church is looking for (E. M. Bounds)? _____

8. According to Craig Sully, what type of men are needed in the church today? _____

9. What does Craig Sully consider to be the basics of ministry? _____

10. What is the only hope for a better world? _____

11. How did Randy Adams describe the true man of God? _____

12. What is the scriptural prayer that the man of God uses? _____
