

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

FUNDAMENTALS OF MINISTRY



Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

**TOPIC :The Fundamentals of Ministry -
Apostolic Input Thabiso**

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TIME TO PONDER:

This week we are going to meditate on the Apostolic input of Thabiso who spoke on the fundamentals of ministry. Bringing a very fresh perspective on age old truths.

Entering into a war is never taken lightly as such before warfare there was always discussion and deliberation as to strengths and strategy before engagement. No one enters into a battle they don't believe they can win. As such the most important part before a war is the information you receive and are able to gather. Because you plan your strategy around the information that you have. About what you have heard.

This is why it is essential that we be careful **how** you hear and how we bring a message to an army about to engage. The incorrect or incorrectly processed information can lose us the battle. As believers in Jesus we have a great grace on us. The onus as such is on us to make sure we are hearing correctly what the Spirit of God is saying to us.

2 Kings 7:1-7.

7 Elisha replied, “Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, a seah[a] of the finest flour will sell for a shekel[b] and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.”

2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, “Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?”

“You will see it with your own eyes,” answered Elisha, “but you will not eat any of it!”

3 Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, “Why stay here until we die? 4 If we say, ‘We’ll go into the city’ —the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let’s go over to the camp of the

Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die.”

5 At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, 6 for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!” 7 So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.

In this example we see how the Lord had caused the Armenians to hear something that was not there in the natural. He had fed them

misinformation. The sound of a great army coming and they had fled.

When the word of God comes to us it is essential that we mix it with faith in order for it to come to pass. We will remain where we are if we don't take a step of faith. Just like what the lepers said, if they act and are wrong and are killed they are no worse off than if they did not act at all. To risk in faith that we have heard God even if we are wrong we are no worse off but God could have so much more for us if we take a step of faith.

Question 1: When last did you act on something you believe you had heard God say to you? How did that work out?

Fundamental number one of ministry is having a Rhema [living, now word] word from God for every occasion so that we can make the right strategic choice in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

TIME TO REFLECT:

1 Samuel 17:51-53

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath[a] and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

Goliath was speaking misinformation. God had told Israel that the Philistines had been given over to them. But they listened to the enemy, not God. But David heard God and acted.

When the Philistines saw that David had conquered Goliath they ran for their lives. A large army greater than the Israelites army, yet they fled. A perception had been created about Goliath which made them think that the entire army was lost because Goliath was defeated.

Just like David was able to fight Goliath because he knew God was with him, so too is

it for us. Our hope is in Christ. He will be victorious. He is the right hero for our battle. God demands us to give our all. It's just where we work out that call that differs. We are always His ambassadors. Always on duty.

1 Tim 1:12

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

God is the one who has considered you faithful despite you. The consideration of our faithfulness is considered before we are appointed. He has already called us and is not dependent on our actions. His stamp of approval is already on us.

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God will bring his work in us to completion.
The work God does in us is to bring Him
Glory. He works them for our good.

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

God is working in us to will and to act.

Fundamental number two is your calling and faithfulness has been acknowledged by God before he even appointed us, because he empowers us if we act in faith.

Question 2: How assured are you in your calling and the significance God places on you working out that call through your life where He has placed you?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

Romans 8:2

2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Because God does His good in you, He will do His good through you. The law of life is that Jesus is the life giving spirit. God is able to lay down his life and raise it up. The Law of life can only do one thing - produce life. The tongue can produce either life or death, but the Spirit can only produce life.

God can do more through us because of His resurrection power in us. The Law of life is the anointing. This can bring even the dead to life. We want the law of life to be automated and not have to be constantly activated.

God is the rewarder of those who faithfully seek him. Seek His life. Seek His word. Seek His face.

Fundamental number three is that in Jesus there is life. If we allow Jesus's life to shine through us we will be life giving to those around us because of the Life of God in us.

Question 3: How much of a life giver are you? Have you allowed the life of God to so permeate your life that those around you are touched by it?

ACTION STEP

- This week let us open our ears to the voice of the Lord that we would be prepared with strategies for whatever it is that we may face.

- Let us walk in the faithfulness that God has entrusted to us, reliant on Him to complete the good work He has begun in us.
- Let us be so filled with the life of God that we can bring life and healing and God's resurrection power into any situation that we may find ourselves in.

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