

- A faithful pastor models for his people a heart to reach the lost.

4. A faithful pastor continues pastoring to the end.

...fulfill your ministry... 2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)

- Fulfill your ministry means accomplishing all God has given us to accomplish. It means leaving nothing left undone.

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

- When a faithful pastor gets older, he shifts to a lower gear. He doesn't shift into neutral and coast.

Application — The goals of a faithful pastor should be the goals for all of us.

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. How do Spurgeon's questions help weed out those who are not truly called by God? Why is it important to identify false calls to the pastorate?
3. What does it mean to be sober-minded? On a scale of 1 to 10, how effective are you at being calm and collected in the midst of a storm? Why is this attitude essential for pastors? Where does a pastor find the calm he needs in the middle of a storm?
4. A faithful pastor must endure suffering. What kind of suffering can a pastor expect to experience both inside and outside the church that is unique to his job?
5. Why must a pastor have the heart of an evangelist? How does a pastor's evangelistic heart change the way he leads the church?
6. What does Paul mean by telling Timothy to fulfill his ministry? What is your ministry? How might you live out your calling to fulfill your ministry rather than flounder in it?
7. Which of the goals of a faithful pastor is most important for you to apply to your life this week?



2 Timothy 4:5 – What Is A Faithful Pastor? – Part 3

May 30, 2021

How do I know if God is calling me to be a pastor?

A. All Christians have a general call to ministry.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

B. God gives some Christians a specific call to pastoral ministry.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,...
1 Timothy 1:12 (ESV)

For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
1 Timothy 2:7 (ESV)

C. One knows they are called to pastoral ministry because they are internally compelled to preach the word.

"An irresistible overwhelming craving and raging thirst for telling others what God has done to our own souls,..." — Spurgeon, Lectures To His Students

...Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16 (ESV)

- Do not enter the ministry if you can help it. Only enter the ministry if you can't help it.

"If any student in this room could be content to be a newspaper editor or a grocer or a farmer or a doctor or a lawyer or a senator or a king in the name of heaven and earth let him go his way, he is not the man in whom dwells the Spirit of God in its fullness, for a man so filled with God would utterly weary of any pursuit but that for which is in most soul pants... We must feel that woe is unto us if we preach not the gospel. The Word of God must be unto us as a fire in our bones, otherwise if we undertake the ministry we shall be unhappy in it, shall be unable to bear the self-denial incident to it and shall be of little service to those among whom we minister." — Spurgeon, Lectures To His Students

D. One knows they are called to pastoral ministry if God has given them the innate gifts necessary for the job.

- Does not nature itself teach you that if God called an animal to fly, He would give it wings? If God has called a man to preaching and teaching, will not God furnish him with the gifts necessary to accomplish the task?
- God will order circumstances and provide opportunities for gifts to be developed so a man's calling can be brought to fruition.

E. One knows they are called to pastoral ministry because their church affirms the calling.

- The church should be able to affirm that they see God's calling upon a man and the character of a pastor/elder in a man.

F. One knows they are called to pastoral ministry when a church receives a man and it becomes effective under that man.

"If your call from the Lord be a real one, you will not long be silent. As surely as the man wants his hour, the hour wants its man." — Spurgeon, Lectures To His Students

- If God has called someone into the pastorate, there will be a church ready to receive him and that church will become effective for Christ under him.

What is a faithful pastor?

1. A faithful pastor remains calm in the midst of a storm.

As for you, always be sober-minded,... 2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)

- Sober-minded describes a person who is calm and collected in times of stress. They do not freak out under pressure.

2. A faithful pastor is willing to endure suffering.

...endure suffering.... 2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,... 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. Hebrews 13:23 (ESV)

3. A faithful pastor has the heart of an evangelist.

...do the work of an evangelist... 2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)

- A faithful pastor doesn't just have a heart for the sheep but he cares about the lost.
- A faithful pastor is not content with relationships inside the church but he desires to build relationships with those outside the church.