

INTRODUCTION

- Tonight's topic is by no means a way for me to toot my own horn.
- The Lord gave me this revelation to strengthen the Body (you), so that you can develop your full potential as a child of God.
- Tonight I am going to help you become a better sheep, enabling you to have better results when it comes to your faith.
- Too many times, we as Christians depend on others to help us through trials, never giving **God's** resources a chance to do what **He** created them to do.
- We often use God as a last resort.
- After tonight, you will have the necessary information to get you through any obstacle that life may present and come out victorious.

Hebrews 13:17 (KJV)

*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

-How many of you want your pastors to be **happy** that we are your pastors?

(MSG) *Be responsive to your **pastoral leaders**. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. **Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?"***

GOD'S GIFT TO MAN

- As pastors, my wife and I encounter many different walks of life.
- All though many people have different issues and circumstances, they all have one thing in common; they are all coming to **us** for advice.

Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 (KJV)

8 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

11 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

- How many of you know that your pastors are a gift from God?
- We didn't make this up; God's Word says this.

12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

- As your pastors, we are to play three important roles in your life:

- 1.** We are to perfect things that are lacking in you.
- 2.** We are to perform the work of the ministry to you and your family in order to enrich your life.
- 3.** We are to build up the Body of Christ, enabling **you** to perform the work of the ministry that **you** are called to do.

Numbers 27:16-17 (KJV)

16 *Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,*

17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; **that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.**

- God wants you to have a shepherd/pastor.
- God has a specific plan for us as your pastors and a specific plan for you **through** your pastors.

Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)

*And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall **feed you** with knowledge and understanding.*

- A pastor is placed in your life to help you, however, we are not your substitution for the resources that God has **already** given you.
- Many people rely on man's wisdom and counsel rather than God's.
- By no means am I telling you that a pastor is not wise, or that you should not go to them for counsel.
- Pastors are absolutely here for the Body to come to in times of need and receive Godly counsel.
- What I am going to teach you tonight is how to receive **confirmation** from your pastors rather than **information**.
- Information** is tossed to the side once someone thinks that it will not work on their specific case or need.
- However, **confirmation** is something that agrees with what you have already received from God Himself.
- You cannot toss God's Word aside and look for another; God does not change.
- As your pastors, our counsel towards you will always line up with God's Word.

-We are not going to go against what God's Word says about your situation.

HOW NOT TO FRUSTRATE YOUR PASTOR

- As pastors, many people come to my wife and I for a wide variety of things.
- Most of the time they are coming to us for things that we are not authorized to help them with.
- We are not authorized to help them with certain things because there is no short cut around God's original plan and process for their life.
- We do not have a better way of helping you than God's way. Our way is His way.
- There are four things that you can do in order to ***not frustrate your pastor.***

#1 – PRAY

- Many people come to us and ask for advice about a certain situation or a decision that they are about to make.
- The first thing that I ask them is, "***Have you prayed about this?***" or, "***What has the Lord spoken to you concerning this.?***"
- More times than not the answer is, "***No!***"

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

14 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

15 *And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

John 14:13 (NIV)

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)

pray continually,

-I am not a fortuneteller or a magician and neither is my wife.

-There is no magic advice that we can give you other than God's Word to help you in your time of need.

-Many people never take the time to pray and ask God what to do about their situation; instead, they cut God out and go right to the pastor.

-If you would pray and seek the Lord, once you receive the answer, then you can come to us (your pastors) and share with us what the Lord has revealed to you, looking for **confirmation** from us rather than **information**.

#2 – READ YOUR BIBLE

-Again, many people come to us and ask for advice about a certain situation or a decision that they are about to make.

-I ask them, "**What scriptures are you standing on?**" or, "**What does the Word say about that?**"

-More times than not they reply, "**I don't know.**"

Psalms 119:105 (KJV)

Thy **word** is a **lamp** unto my feet, and a **light** unto my path.

-The Word of God will show you what to do in every situation that life presents.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT)

12 For the **word of God** is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one **to whom we are accountable.**

Hebrews 4:12-13 (MSG)

12 God means what he says. **What he says goes.** His **powerful Word** is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

13 Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. **We can't get away from it—no matter what.**

- You cannot find a way around God's Word.
- Your sob story, all though it may pull on someone's emotional strings, still cannot change what God's Word has to say about your situation.
- Your pastors are not talk show hosts.
- We are not going to pat you on the back and join in on your pity party, nor will we choose sides on the basis of emotion.
- The Bible says that we are a gift from God.
- Any gift from God would not contradict God.
- We are going to give you advice that comes from **God's** Word, helping you to overcome in that area.
- However, **our** revelation may not be **your** revelation.
- God's Word will come alive to you concerning **your** situation, allowing you to obtain faith to overcome and guidance for whatever decision that you need to make.

#3 – GO TO CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV)

“...that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith...”

(AMP) “...that we may see you face to face and mend and make good whatever may be imperfect and lacking in your faith...”

(MSG) “...asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again and doing what we can to help when your faith falters...”

(NLT) “...let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith...”

-As your pastors, we can perfect the things that are lacking in your life if you will let us.

-Us not being able to see your face will result in you continuing to lack in areas that only we can help you with.

-The reason that your pastor is the only one that can help you in certain things is because **Jeremiah 3:15** says that God gives you a pastor according to **His** own heart.

-It is God’s heart to see you prosper and flourish in **His** plan; this will take **His gifts** in order to get you there.

-One of **His gifts** is the pastor.

(Ephesians 4:8,11)

Hebrews 10:25 (AMP)

...Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people...

-Remember, God set us over this congregation as a gift **to you. (Ephesians 4:8,11)**

-If you are not there to receive your gift then you can't get upset when you don't have in your life what only that gift can provide.

-Many people would have the answers that they are looking for if they would simply show up to church and hear the Word that God has given to their pastors.

#4 – PAY YOUR TITHE

-I cannot begin to tell you the frustration that a pastor feels when people do not support the very thing that they are depending on the most to help them.

-You wouldn't go to a restaurant, order everything that you desire, eat, and then skip out on the check would you?

-The waiter/waitress worked hard at serving you, the cook took his time to prepare the meal to your liking, the owner paid for the chair that you were comfortably sitting in, and paid for the lights and the air conditioning to make your visit a pleasant experience.

-Someone had to pay for what you were receiving.

-You wouldn't go and rob a bank and then show up the next day and ask for a loan would you?

Malachi 3:8-11 (KJV)

8 Will a man **rob** God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, *Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.***

9 *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the **storehouse**, that there may be **meat in mine house**, and **prove me now** herewith, saith the **LORD** of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

11 *And I will rebuke the devourer **for your sakes**, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

- Too many times people rob from God, then come and ask Him to bail them out, via the local church.
- One of the biggest frustrations of a pastor is giving people the truth on what can save their life, and watching them refuse to use it.
- People come asking the church for money because they are experiencing devour in their life.
- If people would simply tithe, **God Himself** said that **He** would **rebuke** the devour for **your** sake.
- Did you know that statistics show that **4%** of Christians actually tithe?
- That means that **96%** of Christians are thieves.
- 96%** are making the **4%** pull **their** weight too.
- Metro Life Church could do so much more through the vision that God has placed inside your pastors if everyone would simply pull their own weight.
- If every Christian would learn to do these four things (Pray, Read Your Bible, Come To Church, and Pay Your Tithe), your pastors could operate in their **gift (Ephesians 4:8,11)** the way that God designed for us to.
- Every Christian has the same tools as any other Christian.

-We all have the same Holy Spirit, we all have the same ability to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, we all have the same freedom to worship together in an assembly or church, and we all have the opportunity to put God first in our lives financially.

-If you can master these four areas this year, the sky is the limit to where God will take this church through the direction and leading that He has given my wife and I.

-Now you know ***how not to frustrate your pastor.***

-Make the decision tonight to link arms with us as your pastors, and together we will take this city for Christ as you grow into the person that God desires for you to be.