

The Biblical Role of the Pastor  
Joe Kidder  
July 18, 2006

What do I do as a pastor?

You go out there and make the people feel happy (conference president)

Simplicity is very important, not in 21 pages single-lined of what the pastor does.

Today, I will share with you 3 things in leadership:

Overarching theme will be spiritual formation.

I usually conduct this in 3 days, but working on condensing it.

Leadership  
Evangelism  
Spiritual Formation

Biblical role of the Pastor in the Old Paradigm

Greg Odgen, *The Pastor Between Paradigms* or *Unfinished Business*

- Preaching/Teaching/Bible study
- Visitation/Counseling/Care Giving
- Administration
- Rites of passages (baby dedications, funerals, marriages)

If the pastor continues to do this in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, he is “dead in the water.

Old Paradigm

- Teachers of doctrinal tradition
- Caregivers
- Presiders over Rites of Passages
- Public symbols of church
- Administration

New Paradigm

Five Skill-sets of Equipping Leaders

- Visionary leader

Hans Vinzel *Great Leaders*

Counsels the body of Christ working with the pastor and God (shared vision)

Bottom line is whether vision comes from you or from God.

The challenge is for the pastor not to put the vision statement on the shelf, but keep it before the pastor week after week.

George Barna, unless the vision is cast 28-50 times every year, the congregation will not buy into it.

- The pastor as a organizational engineer

The role of the pastor is to simplify the structure of the church.

- The pastor as an agent of change

The reality of need is the change of the heart.

- The pastor as a missiologist

The role of the pastor is to created consciousness that lost people matter.

- The pastor as a leadership developer

One of the things that is killing us is the pastor is not developing new leaders for the harvest.

Studies show that when there is no growth the church loses.

- Leadership base has to increase.
- Ministry base has to increase.
- Self-esteem has to become very healthy.
- Worship has to be very inspiring.
- Ministry to the family

From Church growth institute out of Pasadena, CA

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### The Biblical Role of the Pastor Acts 6:1-7

- The ministry of prayer
- The ministry of the Word
- The ministry of discipleship formation

Everything the pastor does is to be engaged in spiritual formation personally and corporately because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup> But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. <sup>38</sup> "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." **Matthew 9:35-38**

This is the same scenario as in Acts 6.

This one faced by Jesus and the other faced by disciple in Acts 6.

How did Jesus select the disciples?  
Whole night in prayer.

This really goes strongly against the system we have today in selecting leaders.

We're not relying on God to give us the right people.

God has to birth that ministry in the heart of someone.

Selection was by prayer and the criteria was to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

What did Jesus do?

1. He built His relationship with the father.
2. He preached the Word.
3. He ministered to the needs of the people.
4. He built leaders (discipleship formation)
5. He gave of His life

The role of the pastor and His church needs another paradigm

*Spiritual Leadership* Blackaby (move people from their agenda to God's agenda)

Pastor today, HBLondon, 100 evangelical pastors are quitting the ministry every day.

They do not feel that what they are doing is making a difference in the lives of other people.

Could it be that we are not devoting our time to specifics, but to everything, thus getting nothing done.

Passionate Spirituality

- The Ministry of Prayer

## Reflection on Spirituality

A.W. Tozer “Where is the Holy Spirit working in the church today?” If he was removed, would I be able to tell the difference?

There is a serious problem in the church today.

Not just a club with a spiritual bent to it.

## The State of the Church Today

- Apathy
- Shallowness
- Worldliness
- Failure to give
- Pastoral Burnout

This was a survey of the Southern Baptist church where they spent 1000 of dollars.

- Teenage dropout
- Flabby self-discipline

## Roots of our Problem

1. Lack of connectedness (John 15:1-5)

As a pastor I have tried so hard to do so many things on my own...

After 3 years of doing this (doing everything he learned in doctor of ministry program).

We can't do anything apart from Jesus Christ (John 15:5)

MBO

Caring Church

These programs don't work.

That's why we are still here.

“The first lesson to be taught the workers in our institutions is the lesson of dependence upon God... Without Me ye can do nothing.” (7T 194)

The greatest need of the church today is to have people who are connected to Jesus Christ.

8T 53 The importance of earnest prayer.

## Roots of our Problem #2

2. Too much reliance upon human efforts

Zech.4:6 “not by might nor by power says the Lord God Almighty, but by My Spirit.”

### God’s Solution

<sup>8</sup> "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

You receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

“Go forward in His strength...” *SD 279*

109 references to the word “power” in the book of Acts

One sermon with power brought 3000 people to Lord, today takes 3000 sermons to get one person.

Prayer

2 Chron.7:14

Humility, prayer, experience His presence (practicing His presence), and repent from the wicked ways.

This is not about a program, has nothing to do with a program.

Randy Maxwell on 2 Chron.7:14—key text for revival and reformation.

### The Church’s Greatest Need

*SM 120-128* humility, prayer, etc.

Power of touching the people’s hearts.

There’s a link to preaching because the preacher has power.

Eugene Peterson, *Contemplative Pastor* p.27

“But the word busy is the symptom not of commitment but of betrayal...It is not devotion but defection. The adjective busy sets as modifier to pastor should sound like adultery...”

The most important work the pastor does is to be engaged in spiritual formation.

**Luke 6:12** <sup>12</sup> Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Jesus spent the whole night in prayer here as scripture indicates.

Matt. 14:23 also

After every need there is prayer and after every crisis is prayer.

Mark 1:35 too

Jesus lived a life of prayer, a life of connectedness to the Father.

SC 93 His humanity made prayer a necessity

Jesus calls us from loneliness to solitude (Richard Foster)

Prayer brings renewal to the church.

Prayer is the means by which God releases His power.

### Places of Power in Acts

Acts 4:33 “with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord.”

We need Holy Spirit power to do everything in the world today.

For addiction, church growth, leadership, overcoming sin...that's what power is all about.

We are fighting for the wrong kind of power.

We need the right kind of power, for the apostles turned the world upside down for JC.

Prayer is the means to bring about God's growth

### Church Growth

Acts 2:41; 6:1; 6:7

The figures then become 5000 and then multiplied

Nothing the disciples did, for those men were cowards until the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Illustration from Ezekiel 33—Israel was full of dry bones.

**PROBLEM**

“The reason why our preachers accomplish so little is that they do not walk with God. HE is a day’s journey from most of them.” *IT 434*

Personal struggle with this...

My mom was Greek Orthodox, she grew up speaking Arabic, but then read to her children in Aramaic.

Prayer is the means whereby God will use us to bless the world.

Story of Betty winning her 57 family members of Christ.

Fuller did a survey that pastors spent 7 minutes every day in prayer.

The effective pastor spent 1 hour every day.

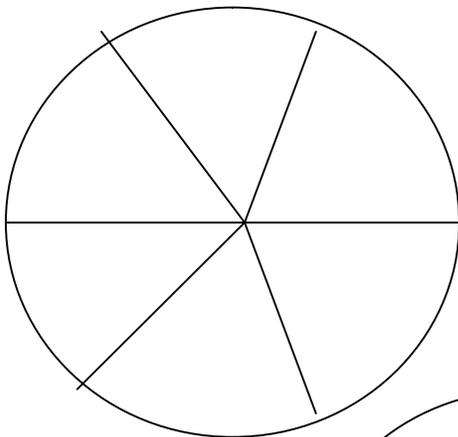
See 1 Thess.5:16-18

Joe mentions how he has gone 3-4 times to Latin America and discovered they don’t teach this issue.

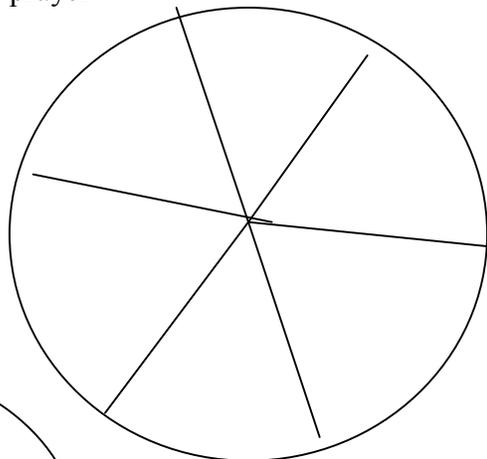
Mark 3:13-15

Jesus calls us to be with Him.  
So He might send us out to preach.  
We do all that through the power of the Holy Spirit

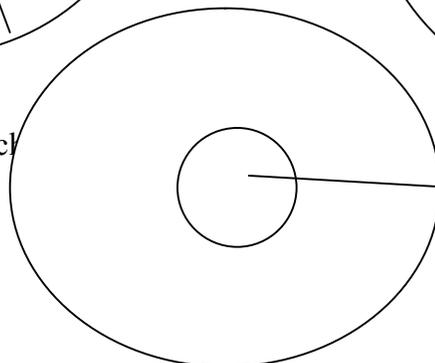
1<sup>st</sup> Circle includes no prayer as ministry



2<sup>nd</sup> circle includes one section of prayer



3<sup>rd</sup> circle includes  
Vital center of the church  
On prayer



Prayer as the  
core essential

## Prayer possibilities

1. Sermon prayer
2. Seminars on prayer
3. Testimonies
4. Pray with leaders
5. BE an example
6. Prayer team
7. Sabbath of prayer and worship
8. Garden of prayer
9. church after church with times of prayer and testimony
10. Church board meeting prayer time
11. 2 hours of prayer for the nominating committee

## Jim Cymbala's Brooklyn Tabernacle

1. Worship & praise
2. Prayer of thanksgiving
3. Prayer needs/anointing

20 minutes of worship for praise and thanksgiving  
Then coming to the front for needs 30 minutes

Casting the vision goes thru 3 stages

1. That's nice
2. We're sick and tired of hearing about this
3. You know that is very important

Pastor does 3 things

Prayer  
The word  
Discipleship formation

Heb.4:12 The Word has power to change

Too often our study of the Bible is to get information, but we really need transformation.

Look at Ps.33:6,9

Heb.11:6

Isa.40:8

Story in the Great Controversy – Voltaire lifted up the Bible in the French Revolution.

They brought 1000's of Bibles and burned them.

100 years to the date the French bought his castle and used it to print the Bible

The Word of God will stand forever.

If you continue in my Word...John 8:31,21

John 17:17

The Word of God's gives us power, vision, content of our preaching (doctrine, felt needs, spiritual growth, stewardship, seasonal, and vision casting)

89% of pastors have no idea where they are going in the aspect of vision

Informational reading vs. Formational reading

Formational refers to what is it in my life that needs to change—a personal change.

Essence: Lord, what is it that I need to hear from You today?

What it means rather than what is meant.

Allow the text to master us

<b>Informational Reading</b>	<b>Formational Reading</b>
Seeks to cover as much as possible	Focuses upon a small portion
A linear process	An in-depth process
Seeks to master the text	Allows the text to master us
The text as a object to use	The text as a subject that shapes us
Analytical, critical, and judgmental	Humble, submissive, willing, loving approach
Problem-solving mentality	Openness to mystery

Formational is the critical part—you do have some informational part.

### Spiritual Vitality

1. God's Word gives us life (Phil 2:16)
2. God's Word can make you righteous (1 Cor.15:1,2)
3. God's Word can produce growth (1 Pet.2:2)
4. God's Word sanctifies us (John 17:17)
5. God's Word gives us wisdom (Ps.119:98)

We have conditioned our members with so much informational reading that they cannot even move to formational reading.

Joe cites the example of the SS class sharing the informational discussion rather than sharing a story of personal forgiveness from a formational standpoint (real theology)

### Bible Study as a discipline of spiritual formation for transformation

6 major types of Bible study

1. Facts or knowledge
2. understanding, wisdom, implication
3. application of self
4. teaching for others
5. memory
6. transformation/formation

Josh McDowell, 4 forces that are shaping our world today...*Age of Intolerance*

1. lack of trust
2. tolerance
3. truth
4. television

Biggest problem with TV is the absence of the presence of God

The Word of God is the answer to the 4 forces above

### Five Minute Preaching Lesson

Rule 1 – preach with internal passion

Most sermons turn out flat because they haven't done anything to the speaker.

Most sermons are informational rather than transformational

Rule 2 – preach to two people

The seeker hearing it for the first time.

Then there is the individual who is hearing it for the last time.

Rule 3 – Preach Biblical and relevant sermons

*Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*, Tom Rainer

Rule 4 – Preaching simple and yet challenging sermons

Rule 5 – Always cover the following:

- Teach something new
- Awe them the glory of God
- Delight their hearts with hope and the gospel
- Inspire them to connect with God and live a holy life for Him

Living in the Context of Eternity

Acts 2:42-47

- Fellowship
- Communion
- Worship
- Teaching
- Word of God
- Learning
- Praise

Worship gives us a different perspective on life

Today, church, family, work, rest, entertainment, devotion

Real model should be life center as Jesus Christ with all the lifestyle issue surrounding us.

Teaching people how to live for Jesus Christ is the heart of spiritual formation.

I go to work to make a difference for Jesus.

Individual in Kent, WA was very active in giving studies to people.

Mel said, I am already a pastor with 126 people working under me. They would never go to a pastor, but they come to me for counsel and seeking resources.

Mel took Jesus Christ into the market place of work where the people are.

Stephen in the Bible was still preaching even when a deacon.