

MANAGE YOUR MINISTRY

through

PRAYER



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MANAGE YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH PRAYER

If you're like me, you have asked many, many questions about ministry. And, you have probably struggled with feelings of inadequacy and perhaps even incompetence.

I have good news for you... and for me, too: God doesn't want us to serve him with feelings of doubt. He doesn't want us to operate our ministries under the cloud of inadequacy! He tells us that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength! He desires to make us more than conquerors! Are we taking full advantage of his offer of help?

Consider the following questions about managing...

- your people
- your responsibilities
- your administration
- your "yieldedness"
- your expansion
- your resources

Q: How many **people** should be on my direct team?

A: Only as many as you are willing and able to pray for daily:

For their personal needs and their families.

This is how you should pray for them primarily. It reveals a genuine concern for them as people, and it reminds you that they are indeed given to you first and foremost so that you can serve them. This kind of praying will make it less likely that you view those who follow your leadership as means to your ends. Instead you will see them as people who need you and your care.

For their ministries.

You should pray for each area that they are responsible for. Pray that God would give them wisdom and favor. Ask God how you can help them!

Q: How do I stay on top of many and varied projects and **responsibilities**?

A: In the form of another question: Have you tried prayer? Through prayer God will give you a greater perspective and will open your eyes to see how everything relates. He will reveal to you those he has chosen and prepared to help you with the many demands and details of your ministry.

Q: I sometimes feel overwhelmed by the **administration** of my ministry. Is there any help for me?

A: Remember: God is not the author of confusion. He is not the God of disorder. If he were, the stars would be running into each other! Prayer puts you in touch with the most thorough Mind in the universe! As you talk to him, he will help you with the details.

Q: I want to **yield** myself and my ministry to him daily, to pray, “Not my will, but yours be done, O Lord.” How can I do that?

A: You need to tell God that on a regular basis. It is only as you yield your will to his in prayer that he will help you operate on that principle. Remember this: “What you say is what you become.” Prayers of surrender translate into the realized reign of God in your life. But you have to be genuine!

Q: Does God want my ministry to **expand**? What can I do about areas of growth that I may be missing?

A: First of all, don't stop serving! It's easier to turn a ship that's underway than it is to start one moving again. Second, never assume that “this is as far as God wants me to go.” As you go along, always check the signals from God to ensure you are headed in the right direction. Acknowledge him in prayer and he will direct your path!

Q: I have lots of ideas and I'm excited about my ministry, but where will the **resources** come from? Will there be enough? What happens when things come along that I wasn't expecting?

A: Recognize the biblical truth that God is able to do “immeasurably more” than we could even imagine asking! If you can ask for it, God can do it! And even more! So, ask.

Does all this seem overwhelming? Don't panic! Instead, manage your ministry through **P.R.A.Y.E.R!**

People

Responsibilities

Administration

Yielding

Expand

Resources

MANAGE YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH PRAYER

Pray **daily** for your...

P People

- The staff who works directly under you, beside you, and over you
- Their personal needs
- Their families
- Their ministry areas and assignments
- The challenges they face in their ministry areas
- A clear vision from God for each of them
- How you can help them achieve God's vision for them

Notes:

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Pray **daily** about your...

R Responsibilities

- Your ministry areas and departments
- Your active projects
- Your regular tasks and responsibilities
- For God to give you a vision of the results he desires
- Then for those envisioned results to be achieved

Notes:

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Pray **weekly** for clarity in...

A Administration

- Communication
- Organizational and structural needs
- Relationships between and outside your departments
- Wisdom in dealing with boards and teams
- Reports that inform and stir the heart
- Calendaring
- Are there scheduling conflicts that I am not seeing?

Notes:

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Pray **daily** to...

Y Yield

- Your opinions, preferences, desires, and feelings
- Your pre-conceptions and blind-spots
- Your fears
- Ensure that you are going the same direction as your leader and your peers

Notes:

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Pray **regularly** to...

E Expand

- In personal spiritual matters – going deeper with Christ and reaching higher in him
- Seek God’s vision for new areas where each of your ministries should go
- Should you consider new assignments within or new areas outside your ministry – revealed by God or others?

Notes:

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Pray **confidently** for...

R Resources

- Spiritual power and authority for you and those you lead
- The anointing of God upon your ministry areas
- Human – laborers for the harvest for each of your departments and ministries.
- Are there people “out there” that I am overlooking – people who are waiting to be asked and led into meaningful ministry?
- Financial – may the needs be met and may we have wisdom in allocating resources
- Physical – supplies, equipment, space, and curricula
- Wisdom and Direction – for you and for those who work under you
- Help to meet unexpected crises and opportunities

Notes:

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As you pray for your ministries in this way, God will help you keep them all sorted out.

To manage your ministry through **P.R.A.Y.E.R.**, you will need to structure your project and people files and your prayer list in the same way that your ministry is organized. Then, make three prayer lists:

1. Your supervisor and peers
2. The leaders and departments who report to you – your “team” – and their tasks and projects
3. The tasks and projects for which you are personally responsible

Then you will need to apply these guidelines to each area.

Make it a habit to pray with pen and paper handy. You do expect God to speak to you, don't you? And what he says might be important, don't you think? So, wouldn't it be important to remember what he says? So, shouldn't you be ready to “take notes”? Remember even Moses needed the 10 Commandments written down! Don't rely on your memory! A short pencil is better than a long memory!

You are responsible before God and the church to “cover” your ministries. That includes ensuring that they are covered with prayer. You must pray for the people and ministries directly under your care and then lead your staff to do the same. In this way all of our ministries and workers will be prayed for daily!

Praise the Lord! He will surely bless and empower us, our ministries and our team as we pray!