



Just Going Through The Motions



By: Rev. Dale Stringer

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No More Going Through the Motions

Did you ever feel like you were just going through the motions in your ministry?

Did you ever find that your ministry took up so much of your time that you didn't have time to spend with God?

Did you ever feel like you were doing your best but it just wasn't enough?

Do you now or have you ever felt like a failure in ministry because you could just not balance it all?

Are you ready for a release from all of that pressure?

What if I told you, it's yours for the taking?

What if I said that you can start making steps out of that today, even right now?

What if after this Webinar you could shut your computer off and finally have some peace?

YOU CAN!

Let's Read: **Isaiah 1:10-19**

Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. **11** To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. **12** When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? **13** Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting. **14** Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear *them*. **15** And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. **16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; **17** Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. **18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **19** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:



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WHAT WAS WRONG?

Verses 16 & 17 God told them:

- ✓ Wash yourselves and be clean (Repent) Turn away from your sins!
- ✓ Put away the evil doings (Turn from time stealing practices) Anything that is a time stealer and causes you to be distracted from your mission.
- ✓ Learn to do good (Start new positive habits that observe your mission)
- ✓ seek justice (Do what is right in the eyes of God)
- ✓ Rebuke the oppressor (Kick the Devil Out of YOUR Life)
- ✓ Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow (Take care of God's people) This is true ministry

HOW DO WE REPAIR THAT?

Though this was an extreme example, God Doesn't want Leaders who merely go through the motions. These People were clearly following the rituals of the church but their heart was not toward God.

- ✓ This did not all happen overnight. It was a gradual process possibly over a few generations.
- ✓ Their vision and their values didn't match!
- ✓ They had become empty and hollow leaders!
- ✓ They had grown distant and cold toward God.

Are You Burned Out?

Have you grown distant toward God? (It's not that you have backslidden. It's just that your zeal and zest for ministry is growing cold and you find less joy in what you do now.)

Do you find yourself avoiding the church and others when you are not doing your ministry?

Jesus said His yoke is easy and His burden is light. If it becomes too heavy there is a good chance it's not His.

Pray - Fast - & Study! This is not an option!!! The lack of these 3 things in your life will kill you!



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WHAT ARE SOME CAUSES OF BURNOUT?

Leadership Issues

You need to also make sure as a leader you are helping to avoid burnout on your team.

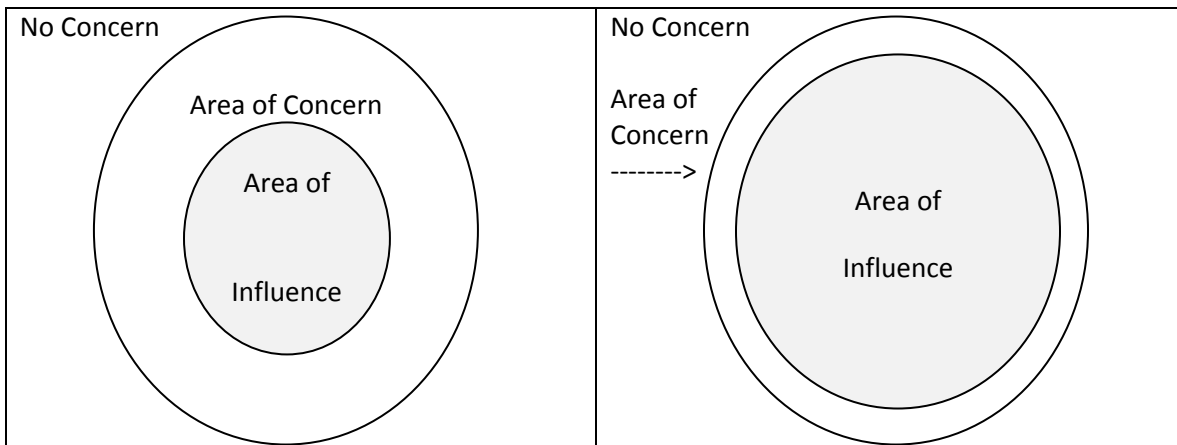
- ✓ Disagreements with upper leadership
- ✓ Feeling under appreciated by upper leadership
- ✓ Lack of trust in upper leadership

Working Outside of Our Calling

- ✓ i.e. Trying to lead kids when you are called to teen ministry.

Being Over Worked

Effect only the things you can effect within your circle of influence. (Stephan Covey: "The 7 habits of Highly Effective People")



We need to concentrate closer on our area of influence rather than our areas of concern.

Don't get so busy doing the "work" of the ministry that you forget to have a relationship with Christ or your family! Spend time with those you love.

There is nothing you do worth losing your relationships over. So learn when to say no!

You will only have your own children for a short time so make good of it.



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Lack of Planning

What is your vision (mission) for your ministry?

Is your vision clearly defined and do those who labor among you know your vision well enough to follow it?

Does your values (actions) match your vision?

What steps are you taking to accomplish your vision?

Set Small Achievable Goals

Don't Downsize, Prioritize! (Balance) Create a Step by Step Diagram but don't create laws that you can't follow. (Remain Flexible)

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

Lack of Team Building

Surround yourself with quality people that make you stronger! Teamwork has Power! Don't be afraid to move people to other positions where you need them more.

Never ask someone to do something you won't do yourself.

In Closing

Never Give Up!

Be Open to change - or change will open you!