

Notes

- The preparation of the man or woman of God for the Altar Ministry is critical and cannot be rushed. Jesus was approximately 30 years old when He started His ministry.
- Our focus must be upon our relationship with God and not our ministry.
- God is concerned about two things:
 - ◆ God is looking for a relationship with you.
 - ◆ God is not concerned about your ministry rather He is more concerned about your character and character building takes time - Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- Miracles and signs are intended to validate God and His message but never the person's character, lifestyle or spiritual authority or even spiritual maturity (Mat. 7:22-23).
- Fruit - Godly character qualities - are God's focus in our lives.
- When we talk about the Altar Ministry, God's preparation in our lives is essential.
- Two ways that God works on our character to transform us:
 - ◆ **First way - Living life with all its tests, trials and temptations**
 - In the midst of difficulties, we learn about God's faithfulness, comfort, and love (II Cor. 12:10; II Cor. 1:4).
 - God will also use circumstances. God will use people to disappoint us and disagree with us and push all of our buttons.
 - The purpose for all of this is to show us what is really in our heart so the Holy Spirit can bring it to death (Deut. 8:2).
 - When we begin to affect the Kingdom of Darkness, the darkness will fight back. When we affect his kingdom, we declare what Jesus did and that the Kingdom of God is at hand - satan's kingdom will fight back.
 - The Darkness will look for character weaknesses and use those weaknesses to pull people away.
 - Ministry is to come out of who we are as a person and not what we can do through our spiritual gifts.
 - God may withhold His full anointing if He sees that we don't have the integrity or strength of character to handle His blessings.

Notes

◆ Second Way - Spiritual disciplines

- The practice of spiritual discipline brings us into the presence of God so we can develop an intimacy with our Heavenly Father (and position ourselves to receive more from God).
- We are talking about disciplines, NOT absolute rules that must be followed like a law.
- Purpose of disciplines is to seek God with all of our heart (Jer. 29:13)
- Five spiritual disciplines:
 - * Studying the Word of God
 - * Meditation
 - * Solitude
 - * Prayer
 - * Fasting
- Solitude - Jesus sought solitary places - away from people, crowds, and the needs of the people so that He was better able to hear His Father's voice.
 - * A deep inner silence so I can hear God's voice.
 - * Examples are: Luke 4:1-2; Luke 6:12; Matthew 14:13; Matthew 14:23; Luke 22:39-45
- Prayer
 - * Jesus spoke words He heard His Father speak (Jn. 12:49).
 - * Jesus spoke with authority because He knew the will of God before He began to pray.
 - * We need to learn how to listen and then pray with the same authority.
 - * When we hear God speak, those words become a living, creative word that imparts life and wholeness to a person.
- Fasting
 - * Its purpose is not to twist God's arm and make Him do something.
 - * The purpose is for each of us to draw closer to God and thus enrich our relationship with Him.
 - * Fasting is not for ourselves - it is for others (Is. 58:5-12).
 - * Fasting declares that we are not looking for our will to be done but His will through us.
 - * Fasting will also reveal any strongholds in our life. What is a stronghold? It is what occupies most of our thinking.
- It is God's desire that we be men and women of faith and possess Godly character.