



EFFECTIVENESS

IN

Ministry



Welcome to this Reading Class!

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

Now let's get started.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson,

- A. You will understand what it means to be Effective in Ministry.
- B. You will learn the importance of putting your ministry to the Lord ahead of your ministry to others.
- C. You will also have a better understanding of your personal role in being more impactful in the ministry the Lord has committed to you.

INTRODUCTION

The call to the ministry of Christ is the highest commendation and a most honourable one.^{1,2} It is the call of God to bear the gospel and is the greatest call on earth. The Apostle Paul described it as a High calling,³ because there is no greater honour than building lives for the Lord. Realize then that the Lord is absolutely passionate about His work and anything to do with the gospel means the most to Him. It therefore matters that you are effective in all you do for him.

Paul alluded to this in his first epistle to the Corinthians, where he stated that the Lord has made us competent or adequate ministers of the New Testament.⁴ It's not enough to heed the call of ministry and be available, it matters that we are effective in what the Lord has called us to do.

¹Hebrews 11:24-26 ²Mark 1:16-18 ³Philippians 3:14 ⁴2 Corinthians 3:6

LOOKING AT EFFECTIVENESS

Let's look now at some simple definitions of the word **Effective**.



Effective means producing a decided, decisive or desired effect.⁵

It also means being successful or achieving the results that you want.⁶

In looking at Effectiveness in ministry therefore, we are considering the enablement, empowerment or capacity to produce the right and sustainable results in our ministry work. The Lord Jesus said concerning us: *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you"*⁷

MAN'S TRIPARTITE NATURE

Man was created as a spirit who has a soul and lives in a body. In our realm of existence, it's the spiritual that gives birth to and controls the physical. In other words, if you want to be effective outwardly, you need to first be effective personally; on the inside. The scriptures reveal to us how our outcomes in life are very much determined by what we have on the inside.⁸

As a minister, you are called to improve the lives of those the Lord sends you to, but the key to your effectiveness in ministry lies in your personal ministry to the Lord. Be careful to never put your ministry to others ahead of your ministry to God. If you do that, it could eventually be quenched.

Point to Ponder: *The less you minister to God, the less effective and impactful your ministry to others will be.*

⁵Merriam-Webster Dictionary ⁶Cambridge Dictionary ⁷John 15:16 ⁸Luke 6:45

YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY TO THE LORD

We have already established that there is a direct relationship between your outward effectiveness in ministry to the world and your inward effectiveness in ministering to the Lord. Now we will see a correlation between our personal ministry to the Lord and that of the priests in the sanctuary under the Old Testament in the Bible.

The Ministry of the Sanctuary

The Priests in the Old Testament were chosen representatives from the Israelite tribe of Levi. They were ordained by God to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people and to teach the law among other things. They had a most important ministry in the sanctuary (which was initially the tabernacle and eventually the temple when Israel became established as a nation).

Within the sanctuary were kept certain items namely: The Menorah, The Table of shewbread, and The Altar of Incense situated just before the veil into the Holy of Holies⁸. Each of these items had great significance in the ministry within the sanctuary and they were representative of our personal ministry to the Lord as ministers today.

I. The Menorah (Exodus 26:35)

It was a candle stick with six branches (making seven altogether) made from a single piece of gold. The priest's duty was to trim the wick and keep the lamp lit at all times.



II. The Table of Shewbread (Exodus 25:30)

It was also called 'the bread of His presence' because it was meant to be in the Lord's presence perpetually. It had 12 loaves of bread representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Every week, fresh loaves were put on the table which were to be consumed by the priests who were there on duty.



⁸Hebrews 9:2

III. The Altar of Incense (*Leviticus 16:12*)

The Alter of Incense was placed in the Sanctuary directly in front of the veil that covered the entrance to the Most Holy Place. The High priest was instructed to burn incense on the altar every morning and at twilight as a regular offering to the Lord. He would come in with a golden censer, put in some of the incense from the altar, and then take it into the most holy place.



THE RELEVANCE OF ALL THIS

The Priests of old had a ministry within the sanctuary that was a shadow of our ministry to the Lord today. It is this ministry that determines the effectiveness of our ministry to the world.

Let's look at the comparison below.

— MINISTRY TO THE LORD TODAY —

The Menorah

God told the priests to keep the physical lamps burning every day. The seven lampstands represent the fullness of the Spirit. The scriptures reveal to us a remarkable revelation about the Holy Spirit, expressed in 7 unique characteristics or features of the selfsame Holy Spirit, to help us understand and function in the fullness of the Spirit. Now, this does not mean there are 7 Spirits, but refers to the many-sided dimensions of the Holy Spirit, which are all to our benefit⁹. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we have all of Him (*Revelations 4:5*).

They are listed for us from *Isaiah 11:1-2* as follows:

- I. The Spirit of the Lord
- II. The Spirit of Wisdom
- III. The Spirit of Understanding
- IV. The Spirit of Counsel
- V. The Spirit of Might
- VI. The Spirit of Knowledge
- VII. The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest blessings of the new creation and the Lord wants us to have and experience being filled to maximum capacity. A Child of God can be filled with less than the fullness of God but that's not the Lord's plan. Paul in his prayer for the Ephesian church declared that they be filled with ALL the fullness of God (**Ephesians 3:19**)

Ephesians 5:18 AMPC says, *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be ever filled and stimulated with the Holy Spirit.”*

As a minister of God, one of the most important things for life and ministry is to be constantly filled with the Spirit, not once in a while but always.

It's not enough to have received the Holy Spirit; you must be full of Him. Therefore, practise being filled with the Spirit- Pray a lot in the Spirit and offer words of praise to the Lord. In addition, being filled with the Spirit increases your capacity-your power or ability to do more. This is essential because the greater your capacity, the more you can accomplish in Ministry.

The Shewbread

The Shewbread was to be changed just once a week but had to be there every day. It was to be eaten by the priests and was not for distribution. Bread represents the Word which we must give ourselves to every day, through study and meditation. (**Colossians 3:16**)

The Lord will only walk with you to the extent that His word affects your mind. Therefore as a minister, regularly and consciously give yourself to the meditation of the word and your profiting or progress will be evident to all. (**1 Timothy 4:15-16**).

The shewbread was for the Priest's personal consumption; don't study the bible only for the sake of ministering to others. It should all start with meditation for yourself which makes your ministering to others more effective. Meditate on the Word so much that it talks to you and through you now and then. It will align your mind, your thoughts, your interests and your priorities with the Lord's plans and purposes.

The Altar of Incense

The altar of incense was placed in the Holy Place directly in front of the veil that covered the entrance to the Most Holy Place: Here, preparation was made to enter the most set-apart place (Holy of Holies). It was the place of ultimate worship, prayer and intercession just before entering into the most intimate place of all. In Scripture, incense is often associated with prayer. David prayed, *"Let my prayer be set before thee as incense;..."* (**Psalm 141:2**). In his vision of heaven, John saw that the elders around the throne were holding golden vials full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (**Revelation 5:8**). As Zechariah the Priest was offering incense in the temple in Luke 1:10, the whole multitude of people were praying outside.

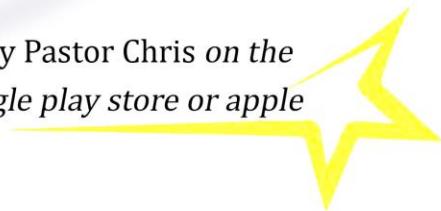
The fact that the incense was always burning in the sanctuary is indicative that we are expected to pray always (**Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18**).

Your most important assignment as a minister of God is prayer. Thus, to be effective, you ought to be very submitted to a lifestyle of prayer. You should also always be at the forefront of prayer in the congregation or group that you lead. You must enjoy private prayer which affords you privacy with the Lord and synchronizes your spirit with Him. Be sure that you are always offering the highest forms of prayer which are Prayers of Worship (Praise and thanksgiving) and Prophetic Prayer (inspired speaking through the Holy Ghost using coded chanting in other tongues that He brings to you)¹⁰



⁹ *Study the Book: The Seven Spirits of God* by Pastor Chris, available at www.loveworldbooks.org

¹⁰ *Watch the Video Message INCANTIONS* by Pastor Chris on the *pcdl* app available for download at the *google play store or apple appstore*



Point to Ponder: *Before Revelation is Isolation. You need to enjoy privacy with God. Sometimes you aren't even saying anything, just enjoying yourself in Him*

ACTION NOTES: To be very effective in Ministry, first be effective personally on the inside in these three areas:

- 1.** *Practise Being Filled with the Spirit Always*
- 2.** *Meditate on the Word constantly*
- 3.** *Pray without Ceasing*

A FINAL WORD

Every minister should be effective in the work the Lord has called him to do. This means your outcomes or results in ministry should far outweigh your input. If this hasn't been the case, then the three elements in the ministry of the sanctuary aren't working out well. You need to review them again.

We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

Visit our website with details below for More Information.

www.school.christembassy.com

Thank You.