

# Finding The Right Place To Minister

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God often leads people, very obviously, to the “right place” for them to serve Him. It is wonderfully exciting to see God’s “fingerprints” in a ministry placement. It is very assuring to know that this is exactly where God wants you to be! But He doesn’t always do that. Sometimes, He gives us hints that we need to interpret and analyze. God is always guiding those who seek His will, but He doesn’t always tell us specifically, where to go. He lets us struggle a bit. This struggle drives us to our knees before Him. This is exactly what He wants!



The question we may all ask at some point in our ministry lives is, *"How do I find the right place to minister?"* We often ask a very similar question after serving for years at a ministry location which has become “uncomfortable.” We may question if the “fruit” of the ministry is worth the struggle that we experience. At these times, we may ask, *"Where do I go to start over?"*

Surprisingly, the process that God uses to lead us to a new ministry location, or to tell us to “stay put,” is the same process. Here are my thoughts on the steps in this process. The three major steps can be identified as “Remember,” “Be,” and “Focus.”

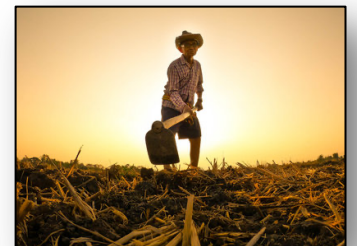
## REMEMBER who God is

- **God is not blind** - God knows what He's doing with you! He gave you the gifts that you have (creative, problem-solving, process-building passion!). He is **Omniscient** (all-knowing), **Omnipresent** (not restricted by space or time), **Omnipotent** (all-powerful)!
- **God never forgets or regrets** - He never has His "head" in his hands, saying, "Oh no, now what am I going to do?" He permitted you to experience these ministry experiences for a reason!
- **God treasures endurance, the ability to overcome, and long-suffering** - Read Romans 5:3, 4; Hebrews 10:36; James 1: 2, 3; Rev. 2; Galatians 5:22. He is doing something in you! Don't lose heart or be discouraged!



## BE who He wants you to be

- **Be faithful** - I don't know of any verse in the Bible that implies that we should "bounce around" in ministry looking for the "perfect place." Instead, He tells us to be faithful, and to be willing to serve Him no matter what! 2 Chronicles 16:9 tells you that He is searching for people "whose hearts are totally His"! He identifies the importance of being faithful in 1 Corinthians 4:1-6. Jesus tells a parable about faithfulness in Matthew 25:14-30. So, be faithful in using your gift and do well with what is placed in front of you! Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart! (Psalm 37:4).
- **Be open** - How do you discern God's leading or "voice" in your life? He speaks to all of us differently. Does He "speak" to you, or lead you by giving you "bad" experiences? Does He "speak" to you, or lead you by giving you peace? Does He "speak" to you, or lead you by sending people alongside you to counsel you? (Prov. 15:22) He encourages us to "acknowledge Him" in all



our ways, and He will "direct your path." (Prov. 3: 5-7) So, be open to what He's doing. Don't stop looking, asking, or knocking on the doors of the Church!

- **Be at rest** - It is okay to "take a Sabbath rest" from ministry if you feel you need to. Restoring from a challenging experience is something that Elijah did. In 1 Kings 19, is the story of Elijah needing some rest. God let him rest and cared for his needs. BUT, after God felt he had rested enough, He told Elijah to "Get up" and return to the work that God called Him to do. Do you know for sure that God has called you to lead a children's ministry? If the answer to that question is "Yes," then resting is okay for a short time, but you must get back to it soon. If the answer to the question is "I'm not sure," then you need to seek God about the calling on your life. If you aren't sure what it is, rest long enough to get clarity from God, and then go back to it!



### **FOCUS on what He's already shown you**

- **Focus on your experiences** - Ask God to clarify what He wants you to learn from your past ministry experiences. What did you learn about people? What did you learn about the requirements or challenges of ministry? What did you learn about your gifts, calling, and abilities? What did you learn about church politics? How do all these lessons affect your decision about where to minister? Your past experiences with ministry and people will help you "filter" any future possibilities.
- **Focus on your interests and needs** - Ask God to clearly identify what church qualities you want. Do you want a large church, small church, or a mega church? Do you want a church that is "traditional," or a church that is more progressive or "trendy"? Do you want a church that supports women in ministry leadership? Do you want a church that is ready to invest time and money into the CM? Can you serve at a church who only wants to pay "part-time," but expects full-time work? Can you serve at a church where the children are less important than the youth? Can you serve at a church that expects you to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Make a list of the qualities you want, pray about them, and wait for them!

