



General Topics :: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to prayer?

Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to prayer?, on: 2016/3/18 11:16

I have heard it said that the most important work that a man can do is to preach the gospel from the pulpit. Indeed Paul tells us that if one aspires to the office of overseer. It is a fine work he does.

Thus my question. Is the public call to ministry more important than a private call to prayer? Is the call to be a preacher, elder or a church leader, one who has a public ministry, is this more important in God, then the role of an intercessor.

We hear about many great preachers. What does church history tell us of those that have been great prayer warriors. Or is there such a thing. Does the ministry of prayer have value in the eyes of God? Does the ministry of prayer advance the kingdom purposes of Christ?

I used to think I knew the answer to these questions. But now, I wonder if it is the public ministry that does more for the kingdom the role of intercessory prayer.

I don't know saints. I am just musing out loud here.

Respectfully posted.

Brother Blaine

Redited to correct grammatical mistakes.

Re: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to , on: 2016/3/18 13:18

They are both related. Go out and preach and you will realize how much of a prayer life you need. Every great preacher most likely had a deep prayer life. And those with deep prayer lives, can't help but speak in the open what he has heard in secret.

Re: , on: 2016/3/18 13:24

I agree with Julius 100%. When you stand up to preach, make sure you are "shouting from the rooftops what was spoken to you in the secret place". The combination of bold proclamation, study, & prayer dependence are intricately linked.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/18 18:36

I believe that Julius hit the nail on the head. Effective preaching comes from the anointing, and the unction of the Holy Spirit comes from spending time in the prayer closet.

Jesus didn't say that His house would be a house of preaching, but a house of prayer. Every great evangelist that had great success in the winning of souls had intercessors and prayer warriors that were praying for the meetings.

The Holy Spirit can do more through men in 5 minutes, than preaching without the anointing can do in 5 years.

Re: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to , on: 2016/3/18 18:47

You mused:

Quote:

..... Is the public call to ministry more important than a private call to prayer?
.....

examine the post 1904 Welsh revival life of Evan Roberts, which was mainly engaged in secret prayer, and in the Economy of God, can the question of "more important" be applicable?

or, assuming you read "The Life of Brainerd", Brainerd engaged in DAYS of secret prayer in the most dire physical conditions, his ill health(TB) poor food, loneliness, harsh weather, and yet, in the Grace of God, VIA an interpreter, David preached the Word to the Crossweeksung Indians, maybe 300 souls, and God came down in revival.

does the question, "more important" apply?

or was the fact, that David was in his last six months, dying of TB, received into the house of Jonathan Edwards, who appealed to David, to upon his death, to let Edwards publish his private journals and diaries, which David DID NOT intend for public consumption, yet heard the Godly wisdom of Edwards and consented. and to this day, from 1749, "The Life of Brainerd" has never been out of print, and has most definitely, powerfully influenced innumerable men and women of God to follow Jesus with ardency.....so THEN , if we are to parse the "more important" question, then is Jonathan Edwards "more important"?

Wait, it was Jonathan Edwards 16 year old daughter Jerusha, who nursed and cared for a dying 29 year old David Brainerd....and SHE contracted his TB, and six months after David's going to be with the Lord, Jerusha joined him, so the question "more important"? is veiled.

Consider the 12 disciples, standing around fussing about "who is the greatest"....what did Jesus do? Placed a small child among them and said, "unless you become like this child".....well, you know the rest.

You see, when we even indulge in the "more important", in relation to the Body, there's a subtle implication of "more than/less than", which has been the bane of the Body, it certainly highlights the darkness of the roman institution, where "papa" is so blasphemously referred to the "vicar of Christ"...oh, "papa" is definitely "more important", than any of the poor souls trapped in that abominable institution, called the "roman catholic church", and the "protestant church" (with its hundreds of denominations) isn't too far behind.

the "pastor" becomes the "more important", because in the by the numbers ecclesiology of the "protestant churches", he is put on a PLATFORM, (just like rome)...a PULPIT....which is ABOVE, in physical height, OVER the assembled saints, who passively listen to his "message".....considering all this, has the "protestant church" REALLY left rome?...or just become "rome-lite"?

Man, in this deceitfulness and sickness of our hearts, with a "more than/less than" innate outlook, brought INTO any assembly carries with it, the stench of PRIDE, and pride has no place, when the Blood bought saints, who follow Messiah Jesus gather.

so lovingly, I implore, consider your very question.

Its your personal intimate Call, Calling from God the Holy Spirit that is the "more important", rather than the actual ministry, or station, you are called to.....because ecclesiastical pride, is a terrible thing to behold, and has shipwrecked many.

much love brother Blaine, neil

General Topics :: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to prayer?

Brother Mike, on: 2016/3/18 18:52

Quote:

-----The Holy Spirit can do more through men in 5 minutes, than preaching without the anointing can do in 5 years.

amen, dear man of God, neil

Re: Brother Mike - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/3/18 19:03

I agree that the question is not appropriate. It is more important to pray than anything else if that is what God calls you to do. God does not rank callings in order of importance. However, Jesus seemed to stress the secret place, not oration. Paul spoke against such "comparison" thinking in his discourse about the body of Christ.

Apart from great preachers being men of prayer first, think of all the intercession on their behalf that empowers them.

Re: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/18 20:03

There has never been a major revival or awakening in the world without the ministry of prayer.

Jesus taught us how to pray. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Prayer and intercession is the main means that the Kingdom is advanced on the earth.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/18 21:25

"Watchman Nee attributes the recovery of the truth concerning God's kingdom to Evan Roberts. He recounts, "Evan Roberts was sick for a long time. Later he began to realize the truth concerning the kingdom." Before him, there were people who had spoken about the truth of the kingdom, but the reality was not there" (Resumption, 233).

During this period Roberts also exercised a personal prayer ministry. During these hidden years, his major occupation was worldwide intercession. Brother Nee writes, "His prayers were profound. Later he did not engage in any public work for seven or eight years. When a brother met him, the brother asked, 'What have you been doing all these years?' He answered with one short sentence, 'I have been praying the prayer of the kingdom'" (Collected Works, 22:167). Only eternity will reveal the value of this prayer ministry. "

Re: , on: 2016/3/18 21:29

While I agree that prayer is vital, so is the preaching of the Gospel (in conjunction).

How can they hear unless someone preaches & is sent?

Prayer is not a "calling". It's an inherent understood necessity for all believers. Intercession can be a ministry/calling, but we should all be about intercession to a degree too. We should all be ready to preach the Gospel & give a defense for the hope within us. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe.

So again, the original question is the wrong question really, cause it's not either/or, but both. Not all will preach "publicly", but some will. All should be preaching & witnessing to those God has put in their sphere. All should be praying too.

I think it was Spurgeon who said "first talk to God about men before you talk to men about God".

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Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/18 23:01

I agree with you Jeff. Every ministry in the Body of Christ is needed for the furtherance of the gospel and the work of God. Ministry will only be effective when there is prayer and intercession. So in the eyes of God, we can't say that one is more important than the other.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/3/18 23:37

Great thread:)

Isn't it a both and not an either or?

For example we all intercede (hopefully) but some of us are "intercessors" meaning it takes up a greater volume of their time than most, likewise all of us preach the gospel of the kingdom (hopefully) but for some of us this takes up the greater portion. So if I'm tracking with what you brothers are saying,... What's most important for us is more a subjective issue than it is an objective issue, with this being based on our calling/personal ministry.

Am I getting the general consensus of what's being said?

Btw it's very encouraging to see saints agreeing and building one another up, feels like home:)

At the end of the day, we are all lively stones building up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood and we all offer our spiritual sacrifices, pleasing into God thru Christ Jesus. Since that is true, other than the cornerstone it'd be difficult to say one stone was more important than another, likewise the praying and preaching can't really be separated from the ones actually doing it, for without a preacher there is no preaching and without an intercessor there is no intercession and Jesus is our great High Priest who ever liveth to make intercession so He is the perfect example of both showing the vital importance of both:)

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/19 5:31

Amen Fletcher!

All ministry is the ministry of Jesus through the Body of Christ. Jesus is our King and High Priest, and we have been made kings and priests. All of the five fold ministry is the ministry of the Head, and He gave gifts to men, and made some Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. We are co laboring together with Christ. We cannot fulfill our ministry without Him, and He is not going to do anything, but He does it through us. (His Body)

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Re: - posted by ArthurRosh (), on: 2016/3/19 10:44

Sundar Singh was asked what he would do if he had a week all to himself, would he spend it in prayer or in active evangelism, Sundar replied: Can we drink only water or eat only food for a week? We require both drink and food.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/3/20 21:26

Yes and He (Jesus) is our daily bread which came down from heaven and our living water:)

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Re: , on: 2016/3/21 1:24

Jesus demonstrated to all of us a life of prayer and a life of preaching. They go together to form a balanced life for the servant of God.

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/21 4:17

I agree with the other brothers here about the importance of prayer. In prayer we catch the fire of the Holy Ghost to make our hearts burn with zeal for the glory of God to be revealed in his Church and it is in prayer that our burden for the lost is deepened, the burden for lost souls may not always be given to us in prayer, Holy Spirit can give it to us anytime He chooses but in prayer we battle the powers of darkness and claim the lost ground for our Redeemer.

Prayer of faith that comes from a heart that has been cleansed by the blood and purified by the Holy Spirit is very powerful weapon. That's what the Devil fears the most, praying saints who enter by faith the Throne of God and pray that He will set the captives free by the power of the Cross and advance his kingdom in the hearts and lives of men that have been redeemed.

We have thousands and ten thousands of preachers in this country who preach about the truth of God without anyunction or anointing and that does more harm than good, because as Paul said the letter kills but the Spirit gives life. If the Devil has a reason to laugh today he will laugh at those preachers preaching dead sermons to spiritually dead people and this is the curse that has plagued most of American evangelical pulpits.

The preachers may get the praise for winning souls for Christ but often there are those praying saints who pray and agonize in secret behind the doors and intercede for the success and anointing of the preachers. Every genuine spiritual awakening or revival has been preceded by the spirit of prayer and supplication. Before Pentecost the disciples had to tarry in prayer in Jerusalem till the day of Pentecost came and they were endued with power from on high. Without that power of the Holy Spirit they would have lacked any boldness or anointing to preach the gospel.

As far as I am aware throughout the history of the Church when God intends to pour out his Spirit in a fresh way and bring genuine revival, at least one or few men of God will anticipate by faith the outpouring of the Spirit and in bold faith will storm the throne of Heaven and believe and receive the promise of the Father.

Paul said pray without ceasing he did not say preach without ceasing. It is the only command that we should do without ceasing and for many Christians this is a mystery. How can this be even possible? I believe that the secret of a praying heart even when our mind is occupied and busy is praying in the Holy Spirit, it's a prayer that does not even need words to be expressed because our heavenly Father understands the inexpressible utterances deep down in the Spirit.

Prayer dear brother is the first and last thing, without the prayer in the Spirit we can't accomplish our mission or fulfill the plan of God for our lives. That holy prayer of faith seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and God will take care of all our needs. It's the advancement of his Kingdom and the manifestation of his righteousness in men that we should be praying for. This is a holy war, we are called to and we can win our battles with the enemy on our knees or on our feet praying and interceding, when we rise up and go out to witness or preach we reap the benefits of prayers answered.

Blessings in Christ,

Edited

Re: Is the call of preaching more important in Kingdom work than the private call to - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/3/21 7

Quote:
-----by bearmaster
Thus my question. Is the public call to ministry more important than a private call to prayer? Is the call to be a preacher, elder or a church leader, one who has a public ministry, is this more important in God, then the role of an intercessor.

I haven't read any of the responses, just saw your question. Brother, neither is more important in my opinion, because require obedience to the Holy Spirit and dedication to the cause of Christ and keeping your eyes on Him.

1 Cor 3:7-9

So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

God bless, brother
Lisa

Re: , on: 2016/3/21 10:48

I think "pray without ceasing", means don't ever stop praying. How can anyone think it means to be in your prayer closet 24x7x365? Communing with the Lord, abiding in Him are also forms of praying and this you can do without ceasing. There is no point in our lives when we should not be walking "In Christ". Walking in Christ and communing with the Lord is not a theological position but a practical and active stance in our daily life.

Do you know how a background program works in memory? It runs in the background as opposed to the foreground (where you can observe it). He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit, so those of you who are born-again, sense the Lord all ways in your thoughts and at a moment's notice you are speaking to Him or hearing from Him.

Isa 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Pray without ceasing and preach the word "in season" and "out of season". Be ready ALWAYS to give an answer to everyone that asketh the hope that is within you.

2 Tim 4:2 and 1 Pet 3:15

1Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Abiding in the Lord is prayer. Any communing with the Lord is prayer. Prayer is not a religious activity set aside for certain times of the day.