

**Mar. 15 '09 The essentials of ministry Col. 4:1-6. Acts 3:1-10**

There is a call to devote ourselves to prayer, to be watchful and thankful. Are we taking care of those under us as God takes care of us? Not in superiority but as in service. In order to be blessed we need to be a blessing to others.

Paul prays for open doors, open mouths and open hearts.

We often pray for open doors for blessing, for provision, for health for our families and ourselves and that's not wrong; we need to pray more for open doors for the message of Jesus Christ.

Those of us in positions of influence need to take care of those we are influencing not for what we can get from them but for what we can do for them. Pray for open doors for ministry, for the message to go forth. However, we have nothing to say until we've heard from the Lord.

We need to be praying for open doors for our leadership not for the sake of open doors but so that we might have opportunities to spread the message with the prayer of finding open hearts.

We step out and see God step in as we begin to speak. We take what we have and use it to bring change and healing to a hurting world.

We think "spirit filled" always means spontaneous with no structure or discipline. Jesus engaged in traditional, routine events.

Jesus essentials for ministry were: teaching, preaching, and healing. **Matt. 4:23; Matt. 9:35** He was never in a hurry. We don't see miracles happening because what God plans as an opportunity we often see as an obstacle. We try to manufacture the move of the Holy Spirit within the church because we want an experience; when God is calling us to go out and be distributors of His blessings. We don't have what the world needs but Jesus does. The miraculous happens when we see opportunities instead of obstacles. We need to set aside our agenda for His **2 Cor. 10:5**. That comes from an inflow for an outflow. And that happens during our prayer times. A pink slip may be God's miracle in disguise; an open door. These economic times will create opportunities for miracles, for creativity, for healing. We need to retrain our eyes to see from God's perspective. As we honour God in obedience we will come to understand that what happens to us is for a purpose, it is an opportunity for God to show His glory and power. We are too self-centred, seeking to be served rather than to serve. The miracles in the Bible, the moving of the Holy Spirit are directly related to prayer. We are effective in our ministries and CARE Groups, but the real power is in prayer. Can we say that we have nothing to give except Jesus? Most of us have things and money and we give them instead of Jesus. We are too busy to have a move of God. We need to slow down and walk with eyes wide open. Allow Jesus to teach us through the preaching of His word and when we are willing to be channels of blessing that He can flow through we will see miracles.