

## **LIFE OF PAUL SERIES**

### **THE SECOND PHASE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY**

We have just completed the transition of Paul's life and we are going to study the second phase of Paul's life. In our study, we are considering Paul's first missionary journey as his first phase and his second missionary journey as the beginning of his second phase of ministry. Remember that this second phase of Paul's ministry could be the equivalent of the third phase or fourth phase in our life. The second phase in Paul's life was slightly different from the principles we have learned earlier. Paul was separated from Barnabas and now he is united with Silas and they are off for the second missionary journey. As they went forth in Acts 16, we see three major things that took place in Paul's second phase.

*The first was in Acts 16: 1-5. Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in numbers daily.*

In Paul's second phase one of the first things he did was train up others. In your first phase you have to establish yourself in the ministry. Paul had established his ministry and he was recognized and accepted as an apostle to the Gentiles by the Jerusalem apostles in Galatians chapter 2. The same event was recorded in Acts 15. Having established his ministry where there was no more doubt as to his apostleship, Paul began to prepare for the time when his ministry would come to an end and to pass on the baton. So God let him choose disciples to train and

impart that which he had in his life. This is the pattern in the ministry of Jesus Christ although many people tend to focus on Jesus' power when they read the gospels. But behind the scene was Jesus choosing the disciples and training them and they went further than the power He demonstrated. When He chose His disciples, He deposited His power onto their lives so that they could continue the ministry that He has called them to.

Lets look at Paul's choosing of disciples and how we must realize that everyone of us will have to leave behind, of all things, peoples whose lives we have touched and who will continue the work that we have done, whether be it in your business or whether in your ministry. There has to be some sort of discipleship that each one of us does in our lives. Paul chose Timothy and did a few things that were interesting. In Acts 16:3 *He took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.* This was very unusual of the apostle Paul for we know that he does not believe circumcision can save them and that it was just a ceremony to do with the Jewish law. Paul knew that Timothy's father was a Greek and his mother was a Jew and by circumcising him, Paul wanted to maximize the opportunities for Timothy to minister to both the Jews and the Gentiles. In Galatians 2:3 *Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.* So that tells us that Paul did not do it to everybody except to Timothy. Paul realized that Timothy had an advantageous position where if he were circumcised, the Jews will receive him and at the same time the Greek will not reject him. But if he was uncircumcised, only the Greeks will receive him and not the Jews. So for this reason Paul had Timothy circumcised, a practice that he normally does not condone.

And having prepared Timothy and maximized opportunities for Timothy to minister among the Greeks and the Jews, Paul took him along. In Acts 16:6 Timothy went along with them in the second missionary journey of the apostle Paul. Paul's second phase was marked by this missionary journey and it was unique because there was something that God was going to established in his life. Although Paul's ministry was established and recognized, there were yet other things that Paul had to establish that would enable his ministry to continue. In short, Paul has to reproduce himself. And in this phase of our life, we began to do things that ensure succession and continuity even after we are gone.

For many people it could be their third phase but we are referring to Paul's

second phase. We all have only one life and if we just live that one life to the end and finished off with it, when we get back to heaven we realize how short it was. But if we can take our one life and reproduce it into other lives by imparting everything into those lives and when we're gone, the other life or lives will be able to continue the work that we are not able to finish. It's not easy for people to pass on what they have received from God. It's not an easy decision for many people who have started their own business to be willing to let it go. It's one thing to learn to lay hold and many people had learned to lay hold. They lay hold on prosperity and prosper. They lay hold on a successful business and prosper and make a name for themselves. Many people lay hold on God. They fast, pray and travail and they received anointing and a ministry. It's one thing to lay hold and receive a ministry but it's another thing is to be willing to let go. Jesus was willing to let go as much as He lays hold.

Paul in his second phase demonstrated that he was willing to let go and allow somebody else whom he has trained to take over. That's one of the hardest decisions that anybody can make. Even many of you who are parents realize that when your children grow up, one of the hardest things to do is to let them go. There is a stage where children grow and they need to be allowed to make their own decisions after we have taught and influenced them all our lives, to be willing and able to make a decision in their own life without us looking over their shoulders all the time. It is not as easy as you think to let go of those whom you love.

Here Paul chose Timothy to pour his life into it. It is a sign of Paul willing to let go of certain things that God asked him to do so that he could do it through the other person. As we look into Acts 17, be mindful that we are not doing a study on Acts but rather a study of the life of Paul and so we are picking things that affect him personally, not just the general survey of the missionary journey but of the life of the apostle Paul. In Acts 17:13 *But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea: but both Silas and Timothy remained there. So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens, and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.* It was not very long before Paul and Timothy had to part ways and Paul had to depend on Timothy and also Silas to continue the work that he had started. It was a very quick period of training and Timothy didn't have much training as he was with Paul for just a short while and suddenly the apostle Paul sent him out. Lets look over at 1Tim. 1:1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our*

*hope, To Timothy, a true son in the faith.*

Now we begin to list out some of the things that Paul looked for in Timothy. Firstly Timothy was Paul's own convert. In Paul's first missionary journey he possibly has been to Timothy's village and he has brought Timothy to the faith. Apparently Timothy also had some background of Christianity because his mother and grandmother were strong in the faith and possibly by the ministry of the apostle Paul that they both first believed. Lets look at 2 Tim.1:5 *When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.*

Apparently Paul was instrumental in bringing Timothy's entire family into the Lord. It's interesting to note that there was no mention of his father. I checked all the available information possible but we are not sure whether Timothy's father who was a Greek, possibly an idol worshipper, ever came to know the Lord during this time of Paul's writing. He may have come later because I am sure Timothy was praying for his parents but the Bible mentioned a strong influence that Timothy had from his mother and his grandmother. There is no strong evidence to say that his father was not born again, he may have. We reckon Timothy came from a home where his mother and his grandmother were fantastic women of prayer. That tells us something about the men of God who have come and gone. Their ministries have resulted from strong mothers.

Robert Liardon will tell you about his grandmother. Every time he came back from school, his grandma will lay hand on him and cast out every demons possible. So ladies especially those of you who are housewives, you may impart your life to just one person or two persons but their lives will go forth to transform thousands others. So the ministry of a mother is important. Timothy was a convert of the apostle Paul, a genuine son in the faith.

Secondly, Timothy was very prominent among his local church. He was well reported in Acts 16:2. It seems that Timothy has risen to the position of a pastor, one of the key leading pastors at Lystra. As Paul went over to Lystra and Derbe, he spotted this faithful pastor. God didn't just call Timothy to be a pastor. God called Timothy to be an apostle and an evangelist but Timothy started as a pastor. He was faithful to God as a pastor and Paul spotted him. He was established in some sort of ministry before Paul chose him for training. We are talking about the second phase of Paul's ministry and this principle can be applied in your business or in your ministry regarding those whom you really can impart into

their lives are those whom usually you have a hand right at the very beginning of their lives.

Many people made the wrong choices in their successors and one wrong decision in that can destroy your entire life's work. One wrong partner in your business and it's trouble. You have grown old and you said, "I'm tired of just working, I want to do something for God. I want to spend more time for the work of God." So you allow your right hand man to take over your business. If your right hand man who is supposedly your successor to some extent doesn't fit right, he will destroy everything you have built up thus far. So the choice of a successor, the choice of someone to disciple, to impart your life has to be guided by this principle. That is firstly you have to have a hand right from the beginning in that person's life. The association must come when you were a 'nobody'.

Timothy was born again in Paul's ministry before Paul was famous, before the other apostles accepted Paul. See people who come to you after you are successful are not good enough, not to say they can't but they need a longer period of proving. Why, because by the time you have all the money and you are successful in business you will have a lot of friends but I doubt how many of those are truly friends. You can't tell whether they came because of what you have or because of your fame. That is not saying it's impossible for the right person to come forth but we are saying that the person need a longer period of proving.

So the first principle that Paul chose was that he had a personal hand in Timothy's life while Paul was still a 'nobody'. Remember Paul was just the associated minister to Barnabas, who was the leader of the first missionary journey. Paul was not number one, he was number two and he was not recognized. That was when he met and brought Timothy to the Lord and there was a friendship established. In the same way that Barnabas established with Paul, Paul established it with Timothy. The second principle is vital too. That is the people must prove themselves successful in whatever work that you are going to place them in. Most of us know that principle so we won't emphasize that.

Thirdly, in 1 Tim.4: 14 *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to*

*all.* The eldership was possibly a group of people who were in Lystra and Derbe. When Timothy was chosen by the apostle Paul to follow him, Paul and a few other elders had laid hands on Timothy and they set apart or consecrated him to the ministry that God had for him and Paul emphasized especially the prophecies that were uttered over Timothy's life. We could infer that Paul discerned the apostolic and the evangelistic call on Timothy's life.

This is the strange thing about choosing a successor or disciple; that is before you choose him, God must do the choosing first. Elijah could not just simply choose anyone, he need to hear from God who told him in 1 King 19 that he shall anoint Elisha as a prophet in his place. Who made Elisha a prophet? Who chose Elisha to be a prophet? God did. Then when Elijah comes into the picture knowing that Elisha was already chosen by God to be a prophet and because himself was a prophet too, he could train another prophet after him. He took Elisha and they went along and he imparted all his anointing upon Elisha. So this prophecy thing is vitally important. Whether you hear it through prophecy or you hear it from God, whoever you choose must be first chosen by God and no man can choose his own successor for we are talking about the Kingdom of God. If you have dedicated your business to God, remember this, you may have your choice, the world may recommend certain things but we must recognize this fact, all positions are issued from the hand of God. Whether it's a simple position or power and authority the Bible is very clear, all promotions come from God. They are born of God and it is God who has the first choice.

What is the reason in Luke 6 where Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before He chose His twelve apostles? Why spend the whole night in prayer in such a simple decision as choosing people? He had to hear from God. In Acts 14:23 when the apostles have finished the first missionary journey and they were going to leave the believers to grow by themselves, Paul and Barnabas fasted and prayed, then they laid hands on the elders and set them apart and then they went off. They have to fast and pray because they were seeking for God's choice. No man can receive any gift whether through the laying of hands or through any way unless it first comes from God.

Which is why the third key is important. If you have your business and you are choosing for a successor, it doesn't mean that it has to be a natural successor. Most people go by number one and number two. They leave out number three. No. 1 is my natural successor; this guy has been with me from the early days. No. 2 this

guy is capable. But your forgot point No. 3 the prophecy, the word of God, the voice of God. Even Jesus told Pontius Pilate off. When Pontius said, "Don't you know that I have the power to free you or to crucify you," Jesus turned to him and said, "You have no power except what comes from God". He is talking about secular power. Therefore No. 3 is important. I believe it was not just Paul who chose Timothy; it was God who had already called Timothy to the apostolic office. Paul was just the very instrument where he needs someone to impart to and Timothy need to fulfill his call to be an apostle. So one plus one makes two, a good team works together.

As we explore this section on the call of Timothy we also take note of 2 Tim. 4:5 *But you be watchful in all things endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* Paul knew that Timothy was called to be an evangelist. Of course as long as Timothy was in his local scene he could never fulfill that evangelistic office. It was God and not Paul who made him an evangelist. It was God and not Paul who made him an apostle. It was God's initiative but Paul came at the right time and place where it was God's ordination for the two to be one and they could link up together and move into that call that God has for Timothy.

Having this background look over at Acts 16:3 Paul wanted to have him and Paul took him. It was not Timothy who wanted to but it was Paul. How different is the way the world operates in choosing the leaders. God operates where God chose the leaders and God continues to make that choice. It's a totally different thing. It was a flow downwards from the throne of God. Why is it that Paul chose Timothy and not Timothy chose Paul? Because Timothy was in no position to say anything about this matter. Possibility Timothy was contented and was quite satisfied with his ministry but Paul had this stirring in his spirit when he looked at this guy called Timothy. He realized there is something in him that seems to link up together. Sometimes you sense it when you meet people. You sense there is a link up in the spirit and there is something that guy will have to play a part together with you in the ministry in some way. There is a sense of a divine destiny. So these three principles were involved as Paul chose Timothy.

The second thing that happened in Paul's second phase is found in Acts 16:6 *Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the*

*night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."* The Bible records two occasions when Paul had received supernatural direction in his second phase, there could be more but on record are two. The first occasion was to the church in Philippi capital of Macedonia, famously called the 'Macedonia call' of the apostle Paul. If God called you to go to a ministry or to do certain things, it doesn't mean that you would be involved in everything. As an apostle Paul could go to every place and still be an apostle but God specifically limits the call to a geographical area and that's very important in the second phase of his ministry.

We must understand that there is such a thing as an apostle to a nation, an apostle to a tribe, an apostle to the world. There is a different concept altogether. If God calls you to be an apostle to Africa you will completely have no success in Asia. If God calls you to be an evangelist to Africa you will find little success in any other place except Africa. If God calls you to be His servant, there are these two things that go together, there is the specific work but the other area is important; the specific geographical area.

People said, "I am called to be a pastor". The next question is not only 'what' but also 'where'. Of course the other question that has to be answered is 'when'. As for the 'where', not anywhere is good but only the 'where' God places you, the place God chose. You will note that Paul never went to China neither did he go to India. He only went to those areas where the Spirit of God directed him. In Paul's second phase, God limits his ministry primarily to two areas. The first was in Philippi and having that vision they cross over to Philippi the capital of Macedonia and there they preached the gospel. They were successful in some measure with a few incidences like the prison story. As Paul was there in Philippi, what God was establishing was the foundation and his financial support for the rest of his life. We must understand the background behind something. Whenever we look at the surface, we must look at the background.

It's easy to say, "Let's have a evangelistic campaign in such and such a place. The wind of God places you in and the wind of God takes you back." But when you are on the grassroots, the logistic problem comes about. How do you get to that place? Do you go to that place by ship or by air? How do you do the work there? Do you rent a place like Paul did in the school of Tyrannus? Do you buy the place? These are all logistic questions. It's easy to say 'live by faith' but there are intricate organizational works involved.

The second occasion of supernatural direction was that Paul was led into God's intend, that is the Philippians church was to be the primary church that enables Paul to live by faith. You see up to the time in Acts 15 Paul was fully self supporting and in the second phase he became partially self-supporting and then he began to move into full support for himself. In those days the church organization structure was not like what we have today after two thousand years of church history. So the apostle Paul was led to Philippi and set up a tremendous work there and in Acts 16 after the prison incident Paul went on in verse 40 *So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.* Then in chapter 17 they went on to Thessalonica. Amphipolis, Apollonia and they came to Thessalonica, which is about three days journey from Philippi. There they met some persecutions and ran away to Berea. And in Berea they also had some persecutions so Paul alone went to Athens while the rest of them stayed in Berea and Thessalonica to continue the work of God.

Behind the scene, not mentioned in Acts 17, is that Paul received an offering from the Philippians church that enabled him to do the work in Thessalonica. In the book of Philippians 4:15 *Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but your only. 'Only you shared with me'* and the Philippians church became an important partner in Paul's second phase. You want to talk about expansion of your business, in the end it comes down to dollars and cents. When you talk about evangelistic work and going to all the nations of the world, on the logistic side it comes right down to dollars and cents.

Col's Stringer did an analysis by interviewing many ministries who have ceased. Ten percent left because of the pressure, thirty percent left because of financial shortage and another sixty percent left because they fell. Thirty percent left because of financial pressure. I could assure you, you go to any church in town and you realize there could be many things discussed in the end but it comes down to dollars and cents. We were having our council meeting and we were looking into all these reports and through my years in the ministry both in the Baptist Ministry and among different churches, I always find this thing, when it comes to the Annual General Meeting many people do not ask about how many souls have been won. They do not ask about what has been done spiritually, but the majority of them ask about dollars and cents question.

Why is that so? Because there is where the rubber hit the road and that's why many people who are called are afraid to go. A lot of people will go if you tell them that bread is in the oven perpetually, honey is in the pot perpetually, and income is in the bank perpetually. God will have no lack of laborers but you tell them bread is not in the oven, you have to live by the word of God. Honey is not in the pot and you have to believe for honey from the rock. Money is not in the natural bank but it's in the spiritual bank and you've got to somehow transfer it out. The amount of people who sign up for ministry has dropped to almost zero. See the main thing that is preventing people from serving God comes down to the thing with the dollar [\$] sign. Thirty percent leave the ministry because they could not afford it financially in the end.

And here Paul's ministry is expanding and he would need more time with God and less time as a tentmaker, making tents. God wanted Paul to be established financially. If you do the right thing your finances will be assured but if you do the wrong thing, be prepared to go broke. IWhat would happen if Paul did not hear the Spirit that said, "Don't go to Bithynia. Do not go over to that Northern Region. I want you to go to Macedonia". What would have happened to Paul? He would have a lot of sudden needs come upon him because God wanted to bless him here but he was over there in the wrong place. If you are doing the right thing in the right time but in the wrong place, you are not going to have your supply met. So God was intentional to bring Paul to the Philippians area to establish the church with the purpose of supporting him. Paul has no idea that God has so chosen that church to be a key support in Paul's ministry for the rest of his life. In the book of Philippians it tells us they sent Paul support even when he was in prison.

Paul's second missionary journey took him to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and in Acts 18 to Corinth, and through out his second missionary journey there was one church that supported him. That period was between A.D. 53 to A.D. 58. Acts 18:11 tell us that Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and six months and at the end of that period it was A.D. 58. So we know his second phase took about five years. Early in those five years Paul set up his 'support base' or rather God led him to set up his support base. Without that Paul would never be able to continue the rest of his time. I want you to notice what he told the Corinthians in 2Cor.11:8, *"I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you. And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lack the brethren who come from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept*

*myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself. As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia."*

Referring back to Acts 17 with this background, we understand that throughout Acts 17 and Acts 18, right up to the time he went back in verse 23, the Philippi church was only church that supported him all those time. What happen to the other churches? God knows for God has His ways of working. It's interesting to note that God has all these things in mind for Paul. No wonder in Acts 16 God spoke to the apostle Paul and said, "I want you to go straight to Macedonia. There is a great need of a harvest there at the same time. But I have certain plans to work through the church for the rest of your second phase". If Paul just missed that one move, that one vision of the night that possibly was just a dream! (a vision of the night in the Bible is equivalent to a dream). Just that one dream, that one vision in the night, if he had missed that; his entire ministry would be struggling and you and I know what's is like to struggle. You know what it's like to struggle in the business, barely making your house rent payment, barely getting enough for your food, and barely making all your payments for your bills. You know what is like. I want you to know the ministry is no different. It's painful to go on an empty stomach but one thing we must understand that when we said 'I live by faith', when we said 'I trust in God', we must realize that part of the trusting is to listen to His voice, to be at the right place at the right time doing the right thing, then God will supply all your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

The first thing that happened in his second phase is his discipleship. The second thing was God established Paul's financial base. He still worked to a certain measure perhaps to get extra income. Some of you know what it's like working two or three jobs. The extra money makes a small difference to the grocery. It was the same with the apostle Paul trusting in God. God established his financial base for his second missionary journey and his third missionary journey and the rest of his life. There was a partnership between him and the Philippian church.

The third thing that took place again is related in Acts 16:23 *And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.* Before Paul's imprisonment, he and Silas had a severe whipping and their backs were sore and bleeding for the Romans had bones and metal pieces attached to the whip. There are two types of

whips; one is a long one with stones or metals or bones and the other with many lines. They were whipped until their skin were torn and exposed. When God did a mighty deliverance through worship and prayer in verse 37 *But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."* And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. That made a very deep impression on the apostle Paul. Before that, Paul had never known the value of his Roman citizenship. Now he discovered something in his second phase as he was growing in the ministry. A lot of people are called to be apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers but they lack this development of the second phase and they always remain in the first phase, always trying to be established and can never expand themselves and go further. Not unless they began to practice this principle of the second phase.

In this second phase Paul began to understand the value of his Roman citizenship that he had all his life. He had that in his first missionary journey. Can you imagine the impact when Paul said, "I am a Roman citizen." He realized how much he could have been protected from the scourges if only he had made use of that. Such a simple organizational procedure! According to Roman law, a Roman citizen cannot be judged and sentenced until after the trial. It was a simple Roman organizational procedure and Paul for the first time made use of it. That was quite a ceremony. The top people in town, the magistrate came and escorted them all the way out and Paul must have appreciated his Roman citizenship even more, "Why didn't I think of that before?"

Like many times people want to do something but they have a limit and the limit could easily be broken if there was just some simple organizational procedure adhered to. Just that simple! For example the church that we were setting up, I was talking to them about some organizational structure. I said, "Put this cloth here, put this there and that will make the difference between an organization running smoothly or not running." Just a simple organizational structure could set a person free. Later on in Paul's life in Acts 22:24 *the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?"* He saw the same thing took effect on the centurion. The centurion face turned white and told the commander, "Better take care! This guy is a Roman. He may report to Caesar and

we may lose our jobs". Paul learned this in his second phase.

So what was the third thing he learned? Paul learned that no ministry could prosper unless you manage to tie up the physical laws and the spiritual laws. The natural laws, social laws and the spiritual laws! Let me assure you that though a church may be full of fire and zeal but if its denominational structure stifles the Spirit, it will all be in vain. No matter how much fasting and praying some members do, unless there is a structural change, it is all in vain. It is like having new wine in an old wine skin. In the same way lets say in a meeting, the Holy Spirit suddenly moves and angels appear and pick all of you two by two to the front and sending out two by two with commands. After the meeting you go back telling the other, "The angel called me to go here and there." What are you going to do? The next thing that we will have to do is not to just let all of you go out on your own. No, we will have to say, "Alright, let us have a special meeting for all those who are called to go out for missions. We have to organize and plan the logistics for the missionary teams." Proper organization and management have to come in.

We are creatures who live in the spirit and in the natural and unless we can bring both laws together we cannot move. This is why ministry is not a matter of purely going by spiritual laws, it has to be aided and protected by observing civil and governmental laws too. I would assure you if you have somebody who is not called to the ministry to organize the church, he would organize it differently, probably along a business model. His priority would not be saving souls but earning money. But at the same time if somebody who is called to the ministry were to organize the church, he would also organize it improperly if he were not familiar with the civil laws. The result can also be bad. So that is why we need to meet both laws: the spiritual and the natural laws in order to expand and have the new wine skin to contain the new wine that is coming forth.

For Paul's second phase in his missionary, the third thing he learned is to harmonize the natural and the spiritual. I have many friends in the early days started together in the same time in the ministry but the only difference that set us apart was that I was more organized than them. They have the same call; some of them operate in the word of knowledge, some of them are very good evangelists and they preached until their dying breath. They never go beyond the local city. And they are struggling firstly with finances, secondly struggling to be accepted. They were always going round in the wilderness of the first phase. The

only simple thing they lacked is to get organized.

William Bramham was a powerful man of God. Later on he came to Gordon Lindsay almost at the end of his life and ministry and he said, "I got a problem. The Income Tax Department is after me". William Bramham was just a country preacher. He operated the word of knowledge so powerfully like no other preacher before that but they were after him not because of the word of knowledge. They were after him because they wanted to find out where all the money went. He was a very generous person. He took into one pocket and the other pocket he gave out. In the long run after many years of ministry there were no records, no accounting and Gordon Lindsay had to help him out. Gordon Lindsay was a different person for he knew how to organize but William Bramham almost had problems because of that organizational weakness.

I knew of a church that repeatedly made the same mistakes and had split four times because of organizational structure. Organizational structure is vitally important to growth expansion and certain principles must be adhered to. When this church was first started, God spoke to me, "The day will come when you will have to travel much. It will cost lots of money to travel. If you ever go on a salary you will always have difficulty paying your bills, I want you to be free to travel when I call you to". If I ever go on a salary, I will have to come to the board for approval for my traveling and the expenses. It would tie me down and I cannot go where the Spirit of God wants me to go. God told me earlier of the difference in the organizational structure and I know many who are tied down by their organizations. No preacher who really loves God is interested in the money and gets tied down by it or the moral obligation that accompanied it. God spoke to my heart and said, "Go off salary!" In those days it was not easy when we started this church and learning to trust the Lord. We realized that living by faith needs accountability and we set up a ministry and every offering we received was accounted for with proper records. We have no interest in finances but there needs to be a freedom, a freedom to move where God wants you to go.

Lets suppose that God said, "Son I want you to go over to this country and evangelize." I will have to personally fly to that country and get down to organize because the people of that country don't know me. When I travel, sometimes I tell our hosts, "Let me take care of these meetings. Let me finance the whole event. Our support ministries will organize from A to Z. All you have to do is just send the invitation out to all the churches and invite people to come

for the event." When the people attended those meetings and the Holy Ghost touched them, it was fruitful and satisfying because these meetings were well organized by our helps ministry. Without proper organization, nothing would have moved. I want you to know that in many moves of God in this country and all over the world, one of the main struggles is 'liberty with accountability'. That's why it's important for us to realize that to move into the second phase we need to marry the natural with spiritual in some way. It's not an easy but we need to bring them together to harmonize.

For example if God begins to call you to the ministry and you own a business, one very important consideration is how you pass your business to someone trustworthy so that you still have an income in order to do the ministry. There are several natural methods, you could sell the whole business and then invest your money in such a way that it could finance the rest of your life. Second choice is to entrust to a trustworthy right-hand person. You still own the whole company and have a share from the profit with this other person whom you pay well. The third possibility this person becomes a shareholder and has some interest in the business now. See there are so many details that need to examine and attend to. Some of you may be sitting and thinking these are very boring things but let me tell it's these dull things that can destroy a person's ministry. Perhaps you have chosen the third option and the terms are not negotiated and documented and there are a lot of loopholes here and there and because these things are not taken care, one day when you are out serving as a missionary to Africa, you received an urgent telegram to come back quickly because your right-hand man has taken over everything. What are you going to do? You are midway praying for the sick and all these things trouble your mind. Therefore we realize it's important to get things organized on a sure footing before you launch your ministry on a higher phase.

I thank God that by encouraging many ministries to get organized, today they can take off into their second phase of ministry. So Paul made use of natural laws to his advantage. He had learned to make use of his Roman citizenship. What great advantage! It saved Paul a lot of beatings. You may say 'by His stripes I am healed' but it's better not to be beaten and get healed. They were about to strike with the whip but one word from Paul's mouth, 'I am a Roman citizen' and immediately there were no more whipping. If Paul had made use of that earlier he may not have the scars on his back. That's a world of a difference. So that is the third thing that Paul developed in his second phase. He became quite adapted to the work of organization.

The fourth thing that began in Paul's life was his writing ministry. In Acts 18:5 *When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.* During the time when Silas and Timothy came to him, Paul wrote First Thessalonians. Then in Acts 18:11 when he was one year and six months in Corinth, Paul wrote Second Thessalonians. Also in Acts 18:11 he wrote two other epistles, namely Romans and Galatians. Paul began his final phase of his ministry, that is, his writing ministry. His writings are preserved to this day and they tell us and record for us what Paul did, how he did it, how he shared to the people.

So we conclude these four points in Paul's second phase. The first thing Paul began to look for is a successor or a disciple to continue his work. Paul began to 'reproduce' disciples. Your work may be as small as a home fellowship but you must prepare for people to take over your home fellowship because one day supposing you are not there, who is to look after it? Either you ask somebody to take over or to close it down.

Second point is to finance your work in a ministry and unless you are doing the right thing at the right time in the right place your finances won't be there. It's just like in the business world. You could have the right product but you are somewhere in the North Pole where you are never able to sell because no one needs the product. So we have to be in the right place at the right time in the right fellowship. Paul got into fellowship with the Philippians. Never go by the outward appearances and don't think just because someone is rich and by fellowship closely with them that they will supply all your needs. That's covetousness. Let me tell you once again in my fifteen years of ministry, I know the majority who really give are not the very rich. The secular world thinks that the big fish means big meat but since I started in the ministry, the first thousand dollars I received was about ten years ago and it came from a poor little housewife who wrapped it up in a handkerchief and brought all the way to Alleluia Christian Mission. And she testified that it was what God has told her to give. I nearly fainted when I opened it for I've never seen anything more than a thousand dollars during those days. I wept and cried, "God, of all the people you chose in the world, some of them have millions of dollars in the bank, yet you choose this poor little housewife to give that much." Thank God for those who are rich but I can assure you that the more prosperous a person is, the more careful they are even with five cents. I know those whom we consider lower-middle class or middle class who have tons of dollar notes in the bank and when

they give one thousand dollars, they think it's a big deal. Of course one thousand is a big deal but in their heart and mind it's a very big sacrifice, like asking for one of their hands or legs. Therefore don't go by outward appearances. Don't think that because you have been called to the down and out, the addicts, that there is nobody going to support you. If you move right with God, God will move the 'Philippians' for you and it doesn't come from the high and the mighty but it comes from the lowly and the humble.

Pat Roberson who started the famous Christian Broadcasting Network (C.B.N) has a book called "Sheriff from the house stock". There was a time in his life when this peculiar lady came and claimed to be part of the Rockefeller family. She kept saying of these million dollars she wanted to give away and asked Pat if he will fly here and there? So he started for six months trying to pursue that promised offering until finally it all didn't work out. In the end they contacted the son of Mr. Rockefeller who said he knows nothing about this lady. As Pat went back to his old run down station, as he opened those envelopes, he saw those one dollar bills and the ten dollars bills and the Lord said, "It is through these that you will build the work of God." Through the widow's mite that he will build the work of God. So remember my friends don't judge by outward appearances. Just walk right with God. Don't choose your friends according to the money. Choose your friends according to the Holy Spirit and according to the Word of God. Just walk right with God, love God with all your heart and mind and God will establish the Philippians for you.

The third area is that if you want to do what God wants you to do, no matter how spiritual you are, you have to get down to natural organization. You can go about praying sixteen hours a day, seeing vision but your ministry cannot reach the level that God wants you to reach unless you sit down and ask God for the wisdom to organize and to bring the vision or call into reality. A ministry is not just built by having a vision. That's what some people thought! By having a vision, by seeing Jesus and telling people about the appearance of Jesus doesn't get you anywhere. A ministry is built through faithfulness and proper organization. I know a lot of people who see visions, fasted for forty days and forty nights many times over and yet after five years asked the question, "Lord why is the ministry not picking up?" Reason is a lack of organization! You could have a tremendous move of God but if you don't organize it's going to have problems.

I know some friends who many years ago experienced a powerful move of God in Sabah, East Malaysia. After the move of God they did not know how to organize the fruits of that move of God. They got into a disorganized phase and letting the phrase 'led by the Spirit' to be an excuse with resultant laziness in organization.

We have a guest room in our church for guests that come by. Once in a while we have some friends who just show up and they stand in the gates and said, "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has no where to lay his head." They just show up and say, "Brother I am just led by the Spirit here" and they expect to have the keys to the guest room. I have to tell them that we appreciate they checking with us earlier of the availability of the room before coming, otherwise we got no place to house them. I told them, "You got to book in advance for the hotel before going to a place. If you show up right on the spot and if there is room, good for you, but if there is no room you can sleep in the stable. You know what the brother told me and he is a minister! He said, "The Holy Spirit told me to come." So I replied, "If you want to sound 'spiritual' then I will sound 'spiritual' too. If the Holy Spirit spoke to you to come, why couldn't you hear from the Holy Spirit two weeks ago and tell us in advance? The Holy Spirit will tell you in advance things to come. So if you are so deep in the Spirit, you will hear the Spirit and He will even tell you one year in advance when you are going to go there". It comes down to the same thing: an excuse for a lack of organization.

In the same way when we are talking about the ministry of God, a lack of organization in your sphere of involvement will in the end destroy the entire zeal, fire and work of God. I don't care how anointed you may be, unless somebody takes the trouble to be meticulous and organize your ministry properly and to ensure things done according to the right procedures and in the right way, the whole thing will be chaotic. Let me tell you of our experience. When we started the ministry, the office was in the house. I licked all the stamps and gummed all the mail. We answered all the phone calls and did all the counseling. Soon more and more phone calls came and they came at all times in the night. What do we do? If I keep counseling I would have to become a full time counselor and resign from preaching. We got to get organized and so we tell people we will have this time slot for counselling and have this time slot to spend time with God. What happen if we don't get organized? We will suffer burnout and our family will be brokenhearted too. The blame will always go to the pastor, "If God is with him, why did God allow this to happen?" I know if I ever got sick it's because I over worked. Very few people will say, "Poor pastor, he is

over worked." Most people will say, "I wonder why he got sick? How can a man of God get sick? Most probably he has some sin in his life." In the end you have to trust the Lord and know what is your priority and get organized, otherwise you will be finished.

Just like when one pastor came back and shared many times of how when he reached a place, they work him like a dog. He preached in this place and that place without a moment's pause. That's why he asked our sister to preach for him. I went through that phase. Then I struck on the idea on how to organize my traveling engagements. So before I fly off on an invitation, I would ask the organizers to please send me the schedule and I will tick off speaking engagements that are not acceptable. Sometimes people draw up the itinerant preacher's schedule in a wrong way.

In his biography, Billy Graham disclosed there was only one time in his life when he felt he should have cancelled a later meeting and continue the earlier meeting. A revival was going on in one of his campaigns and he was scheduled to minister in another town. At that time he felt that he should continue where he was but the schedule was pulling on him. And in his biography he mentioned that was the only time in his life he felt he made the wrong move, by going on with the schedule which was done wrongly, which didn't give enough space for the moving of the Spirit. We could schedule to get enough room for the move of the Holy Spirit.

So it's important for us to understand that the third area you cannot get away with is organization. Don't get so highly spiritualized with visions and revelations, hearing the voice of God and exclude organization. I can assure you, David's success is based on his organization. Joseph's success was based on his organization. Moses' success was based on his organization. At one time for lack of organization he needed all these leaders of Israel to be anointed too. Joshua's success was based on organization.

You can never run away from organization because where masses gather, you need order. The Bible tells us God is a God of order. If each of us has the gift of the Holy Spirit, there has to be a certain way that we organize where everybody has a chance to exercise the gift. We cannot all suddenly come to church and prophesy. There must be a means and a system. If you have been in the Spirit long enough

you find it quite difficult to come down to that level, sit down and pray to God for the right set-up. You need as much anointing to get the right set-up. It's not just a matter of having "any old organization will do." You need as much order and organization. If it's done properly there will be an anointing that flows through the new wine skin.