

FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church

Coaching Guide #2

Spiritual Formation

As a church planter I am first called to be a follower of Christ. Everything flows out of that relationship. When I entered the ministry of church planting, a seasoned missionary and fellow church planter gave me a book that changed my life, it was called "Power through Prayer" by E.M. Bounds. In the first chapter Bounds wrote these words:

"We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, and new organizations to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or organization. God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men."

He continues, "What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use--men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men--men of prayer."

Biblical Insights

- John 15:1-17
- I Timothy 4:7
- Revelation 3:20
- Romans 1:16-17

Checklist

- Daily Bible reading plan chosen.
- Prayer pattern determined.
- Prayer closet chosen.
- Spiritual growth plan written for you, your family and key leaders.
- Scheduled times set for spiritual renewal...daily, monthly, and annually.

Reflective Questions

- What part of Scripture are you focusing on at this time?
- What pattern of prayer do you unusually practice?
- Where and when do you meet with God on a regular basis?
- How is your growing dependence on the gospel transforming your character?
- What hindrances distract you from seeking God's power and presence?
- Who are your spiritual mentors?

Conclusion:

"I think God is crying out and shouting to us, 'Don't just do something. Stand there! Enter into a love relationship with Me. Get to know Me. Adjust your life to Me. Let Me love you and reveal Myself to you as I work through you.'" Henry Blackaby