

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Topic: Wise Counsel For All
Ministry Workers

INTRODUCTION: Being involved in the _____ of God requires the giving of oneself in time and talent and _____, and one must take care of body, soul and spirit.

I. FEED & CARE FOR YOURSELF:

A. The Spiritual Life:

1. Being involved in any kind of _____ requires the giving of oneself to help others, which removes spiritual virtue from the giver, and that virtue has to be _____ or one becomes depleted. Lk. 8:46
2. The only way to replace spiritual virtue is by being _____ in the presence of God in the secret place of prayer and _____ upon God. Is. 40:31
3. Spending time _____ in the secret place with Jesus, with His Word and absorbing His sweet Spirit brings the reward of having the _____ and effectiveness while ministering. Mt. 6:6

B. Using Wisdom:

1. We all must learn the _____ of our capacity of involvement, so as not to overextend ourselves to the point of spiritual and _____ exhaustion which will lead to burnout. Mk. 6:31
2. The physical body has its limitations, and when those are ignored, it can lead to _____ physical harm and illness that may take _____ to recover from. 2 Tim. 2:5
3. Proper rest, exercise and healthy _____ will go a long way to keeping the temple of the Lord in a good physical condition so as to be able to carry out the _____ of God effectively. I Cor. 6:19

II. KEEP GOOD COMPANY:

A. Avoid Negative Naysayers:

1. It is a well-known fact that most people will _____ like the people that they fellowship with, so people who hang out with _____ people eventually become like them. Titus 3:9
2. When one becomes _____ and critical, and always talks about how _____ things are in the church and in the _____ of God, it eventually destroys any ministry effectiveness they have. Heb. 3:19

B. Find Encouragers & Uplifters:

1. When Jesus came to _____ to people, His ministry was effective and powerful because He moved in the dimension of the positive and in _____ which produced results. Mk. 1:22
2. In the _____ of the Apostle Paul, he had people who were his encouragers, people who uplifted him and encouraged him in his _____. 2 Tim. 1:16
3. Surround yourself with people who walk in the realm of _____, and who speak encouraging words to help _____ faith. I Th. 5:11
4. In the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah chose to ignore the _____ naysayers who were critical of the _____ and instead focused on the _____ of building the walls and saw the victory accomplished as he worked with the other _____ people who believed they could do it.

Neh. 6:2,3

III. REMAIN HUMBLE:

A. *Humble Beginnings:*

1. One of the virtues that Jesus continually _____ to His disciples was that of humility, reminding them that being involved in _____ in His kingdom meant being a _____. Mt. 23:12
2. Pride is one of the deceitful sins of the fallen _____ of man and it was the very thing that caused the fall of Lucifer from _____. Pr. 16:18
3. There are written accounts of people in the _____ of God who started out very well, with a humble spirit and attitude, but because they allowed _____ to creep in, they were destroyed. I Sam. 15:17

B. *Never Forget:*

1. Most people who become prideful are individuals who _____ where they came from, and lose sight of what the Lord brought them out of and then _____ them what they are today. Is. 51:1
2. We were nothing without the Lord and even now after knowing _____ and being changed by His great salvation, we can still do _____ without Him. Jn. 15:5
3. Many a great individual has unfortunately _____ simply because they felt like they became very strong and _____, and they forgot their dependence upon God. I Cor. 10:12

CONCLUSION: Following the basic principles of taking _____ care of body, soul and spirit, fellowshiping with _____ people and cultivating humility in our _____ hearts and minds will develop us into useful and effective workers in the Kingdom of God.