

## Philosophy of Ministry

Ministry in the name of Jesus is gospel-centered ministry. It is above all else “good news!” Christian ministry is empowered by the Holy Spirit and fueled by love. Ministry done without love is, in the end, worthless. God loves cheerful ministry, so we resist doing ministry begrudgingly.

Ministry itself belongs to God. We need to remind each other of that. It does not belong to us. The results of our ministry, therefore, belong to God. We plant and water, but God alone provides growth. This keeps us humble and hopeful in ministry.

I agree with the saying, “Prayer is the work; ministry is the reward for the work.” Prayer is not prelude. Prayer is foundational. We pray for God to open doors of opportunity, and then wait for the Lord’s timing. Abiding with Christ in prayer is one way to bear much fruit in ministry. Apart from him we can do nothing.

We also pray for Christ to send forth ministers, workers, laborers, volunteers, teachers, helpers, and servants into his harvest field. There is always more ministry to be done than people to do it. The needs are great, but the workers are few. We are always wondering, “Where can we go to find enough bread to feed all these spiritually starving people?” Christ turns to us and asks us to feed them. He invites us to minister to them in his name, for they are like sheep without a shepherd. We take the few small biscuits and handful of sardines at our disposal, and we ask God to bless them and multiply them to feed many more than we could ever imagine them feeding. This is the way of faith-centered, grace-oriented, gospel-focused ministry.