



# **WHAT I WISH I WOULD HAVE KNOWN EARLY ON**

Ten Things I Didn't Fully Understand

**Pastor Mark Moder**

# Five Ministry Related Areas

## **1. Do life and ministry as a team.**

*Individual Sports:* Chess, tennis, golf and bodybuilding are typically played or competed alone.

*Team Sports:* Soccer, baseball, basketball, football, etc. are played as a team.

**Church and ministry are a team sport.** To be fully effective, we must be able to get along and work as a team. Teamwork makes the dream work!

## **Five Ministry Related Areas**

**2. Remember that your primary role as a ministry gift is to be an equipper.**

***Ephesians 4:11, 12 (ESV)*** “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church...”

A ***shepherd*** does all the work himself or herself.  
An ***equipper*** trains others and then, over time,  
oversees those who do the work.

## Five Ministry Related Areas

### **3. Make Biblical discipleship a priority.**

**Matthew 28:18-20** “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. go therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

In the Greek language, there is only one command in this passage ***make disciples.***

*“Run with the runners and let the sitters sit.”* Find those *who want to grow*. Look for those *who are self-motivated to serve the Lord*. **You cannot motive the unmotivated!**

## Five Ministry Related Areas

### **4. Follow the divine connections God brings into your life.**

Some people will be in your life *for a season*. And others will be in your life *forever*. **That is OK.**

Who has God connected you with supernaturally?



## Five Ministry Related Areas

### 5. “Dance with the one who brought you to the dance.”

There are several things **we will not compromise:**

1. a word of faith message and heritage
2. the expression/freedom of the Holy Spirit in our midst
3. a small group based ministry





# Five Areas Pertaining to Your Well-Being

## 6. Learn how to handle loss and disappointment.

Life's disappointments **don't nullify** God's goodness. One of the unchanging characteristics of God is that **He is good**. And He is **good TO ALL** (Psalm 145:9).

Don't throw away what you **DO** know because of what you **DON'T** know!

“One may argue, ‘I know people who were good Christians yet have fallen away.’ Yes, but in most cases you will find that prior to falling away they first fell into deep disappointment about a failed spiritual expectation. ...Deep disappointment actually can sever our hearts from faith. [Disappointment] can ‘dis-appoint’ us from our otherwise appointed destiny.”

If God has called you, He alone is your Source.  
**He will supply your needs and cause you to prosper no matter** what others may or may not do.

***Psalm 27:13 (NASB 1995)*** “I would have  
despaired unless I had believed that I would see  
the goodness of the Lord [NLT: ‘while I am  
HERE’] in the land of the living.”

# Five Areas Pertaining to Your Well-Being

## 7. Strive for work-life balance.

We chose to put **family first**. We made the kids activities and sporting events a priority. We didn't want them to resent our call to the ministry.

We tried to find a balance between two extremes: **legalism** on the one hand the **looseness** on the other.

# **Five Areas Pertaining to Your Well-Being**

## **8. Focus on self-care when necessary.**

***Isaiah 54:14 (Amp)*** “You will be firmly established in righteousness: You will be far from [even the thought of] oppression...”

**Mental and emotional oppression were dealt with at the cross.**  
Jesus came “to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (***Luke 4:18***  
***ESV***).

## **A Holistic Approach to Self-Care**

- 1. Spiritually:** I made sure to spend time in the Word, praised God in the midst of the heaviness and spoke the Word of God over my life.
- 2. Emotionally/Mentally:** I began taking some medication and it made a major difference in my life almost immediately. We should never feel condemned or ashamed to take some medications if they are needed. But take God's medicine as well.
- 3. Physically:** I made sure to eat right, exercise and take care of my body.

**Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor but He often works through those He has anointed in this area.** Allow someone to help you walk out of pain and into victory. If you could have done this on your own, you probably would have by now!



# Five Areas Pertaining to Your Well-Being

## 9. Beware of the comparison trap.

***Be careful of comparisons with other ministers.***

1. We can try to **pull others down** so we feel less intimidated or jealous.
2. Or we **build ourselves up** to show others how important we are. This is all rooted in insecurity and pride



**2 Corinthians 10:12, 13** “We dare not...compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.”

We all need to stay in **OUR** lane and run the **PARTICULAR** race God has set before us.

***Hebrews 12:1 (Living Bible)*** “...let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.”

Stay faithful to what God has called **YOU** to do.

# Five Areas Pertaining to Your Well-Being

## 9. Be careful of the “I’ll be happy when...” syndrome.

There is a difference between being **content** and being **satisfied**. We should never be fully satisfied in life, otherwise we stop reaching for more. But we can be content in the midst of reaching for God’s best in our life.



Contentment is **not automatic**. Contentment is something that **is learned**.

***Philippians 4:11 (BSB)*** “...I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances.” (See also 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5.)

## One Last Important Thought

We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of our faithfulness to God's call on our life. We should ever live with that sober reality.

We may never receive the applause of the world or the cheers of the church. But we should live to hear, “**Well done, good and faithful servant.**”

“One day I was sitting at my desk. Brother Hagin had been in [my office] talking to me like he often did. He turned around. He had his hand on the (door) knob and he said, ‘I live every moment of my life conscious of that moment when I will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for this ministry.’” - Billye Brim

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