

Psalm 84:7 KJVS

They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

We all have a role to play in the body. God placed something in you for service to His is body. One thing that makes a church relevant is their connection and knowledge of the mind of the Lord. Last week we said there is visibility and divine relevance. Our emphasis, however, was on divine relevance. The topic of focus narrows down to the fact that God is interested in His sheep - the salvation and transformation of his sheep. Whenever a church becomes so busy that they are not interested in the sheep, that church has lost focus. This message will be addressed to you as a group of ministers. It is not just the harvest that matters, but what happens after the harvest. For the child of God, God is interested in first saving and then bringing you under a ministry till you can join those in the field. You are a shepherd and evangelist under Christ. You are equipped to serve his purposes. To nurture, protect and be a haven for his sheep.

The Davidic Spirit; The Shepherdic Ministry

Ezekiel 34:23 KJVS

And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

David was a shepherd and a King maker. In this scripture, what is captured is that the Shepherd feeds. If you were to get someone saved right now, what would be your next steps? You can follow up, establish his identity in Christ and possibly cast out any devils troubling the person. This is what the shepherdic ministry entails.

Qualities of a Shepherd

1. A Shepherd Takes Oversight.

1 Peter 5:2-3 KJVS

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; [3] Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

The scripture first says feed the flock. Next it says, "Take oversight". This means watch over them in prayer and checking in on their progress. Some require more prayers, like your siblings who saw you in your worst. Sometimes prayers and your lifestyle is needed.

Galatians 4:19 KJVS, My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

2. Relationship Building.

Another aspect of shepherd ministry is building a relationship and trust with people. Can someone consider you a safe place even though they are not yet where you want them to be? A shepherd is a safe place. David was a safe haven, even symbolically, when he was a little shepherd boy guarding his father sheep from the lion and the bear, to when he was a king, guarding the Father's chosen people. As a result, the sheep would be more confident the next time it sees a bear. Shepherds are the glue of the church. How do you build relationships? Can you stay among them? Can you chill with them?

3. Being an example.

1 Peter 5:3 KJVS Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

One of the things that we see in shepherdic roles often, is that people use it as an excuse to lord over people. We can see this in the example of David and Saul. David saw Saul as a father. This was why even when Saul tried to kill him, he cried out "My father". David however, never forced anyone to follow him. Yet, many were loyal to him. How do you treat people in your care? God is interested in His Sheep. He could even use a person who is not necessarily righteous to do his bidding, because he is the only one available. It is the Elisha principle - even his bones raised the dead. Yet, God will move people from places that they are dying to where He can trust the shepherd. It is not about numbers, but it is also about numbers. We are not

going to evangelize because we want tithes or numbers filled. The New Testament template is that the church goes from strength to strength, increasing in numbers from 3000 to 5000 and more. The burden is harvest and shepherding the flock. Say, “I will be a vessel in the hand of the Lord, to do His bidding, regardless of my short comings, because it is the burden of the Lord”.

Ezekiel 34:3-4 KJVS

Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. [4] The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

This verse is painting a picture of what you are seeing out there. In a sheep fold, there are those who are strong and healthy. There are those who are injured and are being nursed back to health. Here, a category of sheep is being mentioned - the weak and diseased. Many of our brethren are weak. Yet, the testimony of all in Zion is that they go from strength to strength. There are many places that people are being drained. This is because they are not designed to function independently. Sometimes even life brings challenges. The verse says, “neither have ye healed that which was sick”. There is a difference between a fault and a lifestyle. There is wisdom in dealing with both. A pastor was talking about a particular brother who was causing problem in his local church and all the elders decided to cast him out. That pastor had a vision that as the guy stood up and walked out, Jesus also stood up and walked out. God’s emphasis is his sheep. You do not throw people out. The above verse also speaks of those who are crippled. Genesis says that the serpent bruises the heel of the seed. These are people who have difficulty walking uprightly. There is an emphasis in the Spirit to reach out. The issue is the beast of the field. This is what every sheep has to be saved from. Some come out of Christian homes and became prey to the beast of the fields. Some were believers but are now harlots, gang members, etc. This is caused often by neglect from Shepherd. What is God’s commitment then? God will not do anything outside of man. This means He will bring people

your way. People who are nursing church wounds. The emphasis is on good pasture. The believer does not grow by anything else than truth. Good pasture is the emphasis. Your ability to give quality will be increased and multiplied.

Ezekiel 34:5-6 ;7-8;9-11;12-16;22-26KJVS

And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. [6] My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

[7]Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; [8] As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

[9]Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; [10] Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. [11] For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

[12] As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

[13] And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. [14] I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

[15] I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. [16] I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

[22] Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

[23] And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. [24] And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. [25] And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. [26]

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

How do we cultivate the Shepherd Anointing?

- **Following up with people and feed them.** God will expand our capacity and character, your patience with people. God will use that opportunity to train you. He uses it to teach you more about yourself and other people. Matthew 28:19.
- **Watching over people in prayers.** Colossians 4:12. Someone may just be living their lives and thinking they are in control, but your prayers gives God the ability to realign them. There is an aspect of prayer which has to do with waring for people. David was instructed to take the sheep out of the mouth of the bears and the lion. Some people you will meet will be like that.
- **Building relationships based on trust.** Provers 11:13. The strength of the Shepherdic ministry is on trust. If people cannot trust you, they cannot follow you. A shepherd is a safe place. David was a safe place. Strange people came to him, people in debt, in distress, and discontent.
- **Be a good example.** 1 Corinthians 11:1. The Lord is interested in winning people to a place where they can be safe.

God is translocating his sheep and He is going to do that through you and I in this season. Say I am a faithful shepherd under the great shepherd and I function in His House. It is regardless of my ability for it is written, my strength is made perfect in your weakness. It is also written, not by power nor by might but by my Spirit, says the Lord. I will save my sheep to the uttermost. Amen.

Pray: Lord, make me a sharp sickle in your hands.