# Four Stages of Ministry

# Roundtable 2023 Pastor Gerald Brooks

* **Stage 1: Faithfulness.**

*1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found* ***faithful****.*

*1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me because he counted me* ***faithful****, putting me into the ministry.*

* Everyone is judge by this metric. It is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ set by Jesus.

*Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been* ***faithful*** *over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the* ***joy*** *of your lord.’*

* Faithfulness is where spiritual formation occurs to create the habits that will carry you in life.
* We judge faithfulness by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; God judge’s faithfulness in years.
* Lasts longer than you want.
* Faithfulness is the stage everyone says they made it through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than they actually have.
* We are more interested in the clock than God is.
* God is not in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even if you are.

*Habakkuk 2:2-3 Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.*

* To God, faithfulness is more important than you think.
* Faith is when we trust God. Faithfulness is when God can trust \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* This stage isn’t a talent question. Talent can be perceived as a false positive.
* Faithfulness requires the ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ put.

*1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—****remain*** *in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine*

* To be faithful, you have to get beyond:
* I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do this.
* I don’t feel like I’m making a difference.
* I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I can keep doing this.
* Why would God have me do this?
* This isn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I want to do this.
* I’m no good at doing this.
* I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doing this.
* We need to get to: I’ll do this because God wants me to do this, and if he wants me to do this forever, I’ll \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doing this.
* We don’t say we’re unfaithful, we just redefine it.
* Faithfulness in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means:
* I’m faithful as long as it is financially rewarding.
* I’m faithful as long as it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I like it.
* I’m faithful as long as it is fulfilling.
* I’m faithful as long as I have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Biblical model

*Matthew 25:18-21 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19After a* ***long time*** *the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’*

* Realize God has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you something.
* Don’t compare what you’ve been given to others.
* Faithfulness requires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is tested over time.
* Ultimately we are judged according to it.
* **Stage 2: Focus**

*Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

* Ministry requires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You’re not going to fulfil the will of God without hard work.
* There is no calling you can possess which will allow you to skip work.
* The calling is according to what God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not what we choose. Somehow there’s a misconception that we choose what we like.
* God will ask you to strategically simplify. He’s going to ask you to do less more often.
* Narrow your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Less is how you do your best

*John 15:1-3 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

* Here, ministry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are highlighted.
* Focus is the ability to repeat what you do well. Most people can do good occasionally. Focus is the art of doing good repeatedly.
* Too many do good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus prioritized this skill.
* Say no to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

* Say no to opportunities
* Jesus demonstrated to us how a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no is required to stay focused.

*Luke 4:43 But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”*

* No to others
* No to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Biblical model: Paul

*Philippians 3:8,13 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 13Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead*

* Never fall in love with your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Philippians 3:8 …I have suffered the loss of all things, and* ***count them as rubbish****…*

* Yesterday can’t be your best.

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, …****forgetting those things*** *which are behind…*

* Maximize your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Philippians 3:13…and* ***reaching forward*** *to those things which are ahead…*

* Make it bigger than life

*Philippians 3:14 press toward the goal for the prize of the* ***upward call of God*** *in Christ Jesus.*

* **Stage 3: Fruitfulness**

*John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

* This is where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ notice you.
* This is when you see the payoff of time and skills.
* This is also the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zone.
* Success can sidetrack you.
* Success gives you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which can distract you.
* Success gives you attention, which can flatter you.
* Success draws \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who really do not really care for you.
* Success gives you a false positive about you
* Biblical model: Jabez
  + Handle the weight of life with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Chronicles 4:9a Now Jabez was more* ***honorable*** *than his brothers*

* Step out from the crowd

*1 Chronicles 4:9a Now Jabez was more honorable* ***than his brothers***

* Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than your problems.

*1 Chronicles 4:9b and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with* ***sorrow****.*

* Make prayer your lifestyle

*1 Chronicles 4:10a And Jabez* ***called*** *on the God of Israel*

* Don’t be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Chronicles 4:10b Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and* ***enlarge*** *my territory,*

* Love God’s presence

*1 Chronicles 4:10c that* ***Your hand*** *would be with me*

* **Stage 4: Finishing**

*Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may* ***finish*** *my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

*Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and* ***finisher*** *of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

* Finishing is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Don’t take:
* God for granted

*Judges 16:20 And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.*

* God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for granted

*Jeremiah 2:8 The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me*

* Your commitment to God for granted

*1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

* You can’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the finish line.
* Finishing is not an accident.
* You can’t \_\_\_\_\_\_ corners.
* Safety protocols must be in place.
* Accountability must be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Age isn’t enough. More years doesn’t equal more maturity.
* Find a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Power of purpose
* “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” gets you through the “what.”
* Learn so you last
* The challenge: What you already know is biggest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to what you need to know.
* Think bigger
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bigger
* Live bigger
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bigger
* It’s prominence, not power.
* Lead with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Samuel 12:2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.*

* Finishing is a lifetime
* Lead spiritually

*1 Samuel 12:3 Here I am. Witness against me* ***before the Lord*** *and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.*

* Lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Samuel 12:3 Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed:* ***Whose ox have I taken****, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.”*

* Never cut financial corners
* Lead with ministerial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Samuel 12:3 Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or* ***whom have I cheated****? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.”*

* Oppressed: Never manipulated
* Integrity: Is well known
* Lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Samuel 12:5 Then he* ***said*** *to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they answered, “He is witness.”*

* Lead biblically

*1 Samuel 12:6-7 Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the Lord who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. 7Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord which He did to you and your fathers:*

* Lead \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.*

* How you manage one season is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to success in the next.