

PERSONAL GROWTH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Part 1

Where Am I and Where Am I Going?

WHERE AM I IN MY NEED FOR PERSONAL GROWTH IN MINISTRY?



STATISTICS ON PASTORS: 2016 UPDATE, Dr. Richard Krejcir

- How much time do pastors spend in prayer daily? 50% more than an hour a day.
- Are you happy and fulfilled as a pastor? 57% yes; 43% stressed; 26% overly fatigued; 9% burnt-out
- Have you ever had an inappropriate liaison with a church member? Yes, less than 3%; Never or just tempted 81%
- Do pastors feel that Seminary or Bible College properly prepared them for ministry? 53%, No! 8.52%, Yes!
- How central is Christ's life, death & resurrection in the pastor's teachings? 85%, Yes it is central!

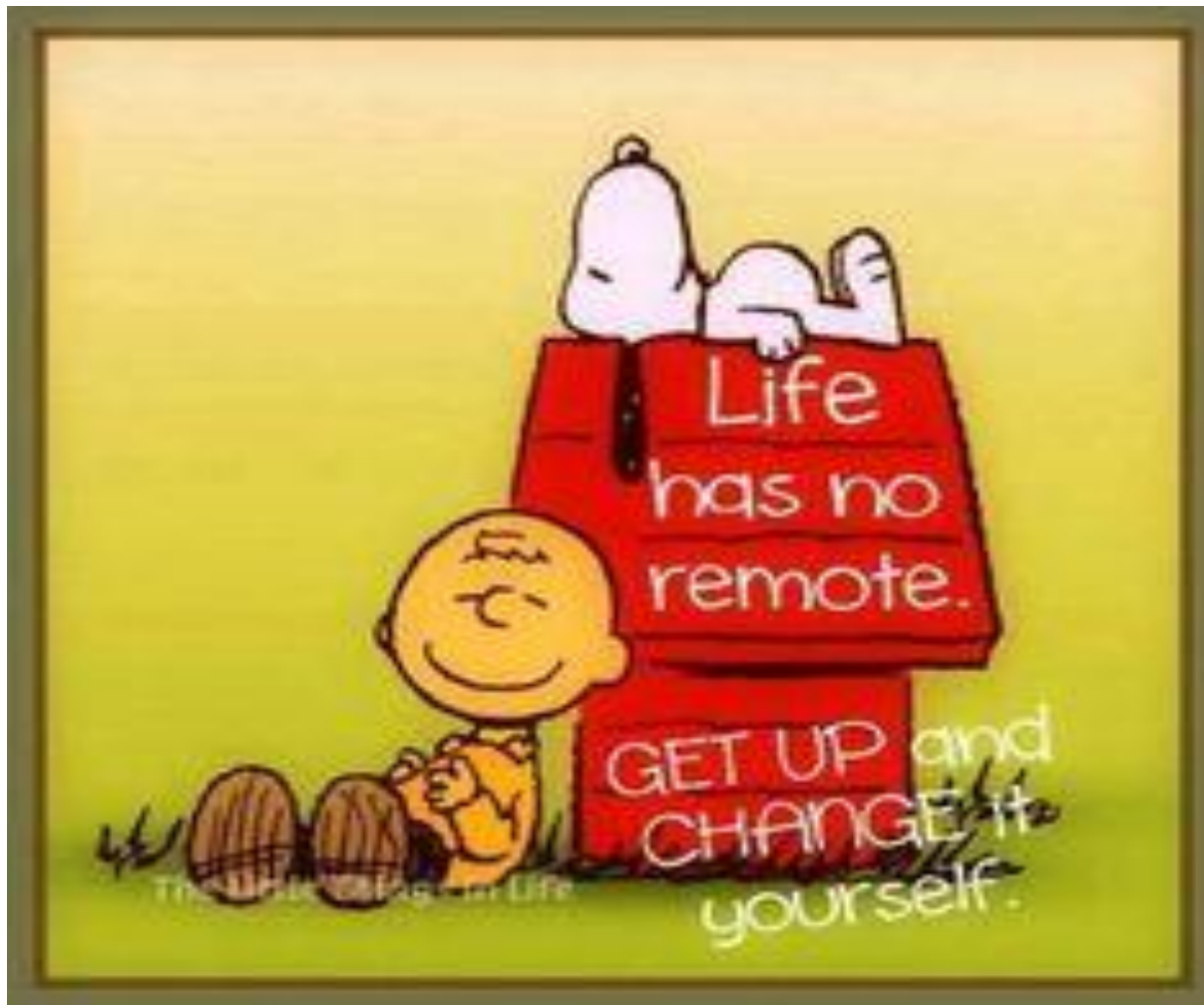
STATISTICS ON PASTORS, 2016

- How consistent has the church treated their pastor? 88% are treated well.
- How many hours a week do full-time pastors work? 54% more than 55 hours; 18% more than 70 hours per week.
- Have you ever considered leaving the ministry? 77% prefer to stay; only 5% say they are currently looking to leave.
- Do pastors receive a livable wage? 57%, No; 43% Yes, they can pay their bills and take care of their family.

STATISTICS ON PASTORS, 2016

- How much time a week do pastors spend in personal devotions and spiritual growth outside of sermon preparations? 72% Over an hour a day; 3% over 3 hours a day; 20% over 2 hours a day.
- What are the biggest challenges pastors face in their church?
Recruiting volunteers, 24%
Leading my people through change, 22%
Developing leaders, 20%
Handling congregational conflicts, 10%; criticism, 7%; Staff conflicts, 6%
- If you were given a “do over” would you choose a different career other than ministry? 79%, NO!

LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR NEEDS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH...



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PERSONAL GROWTH IN MINISTRY

Luke 2: 52 - “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.” (see also 1 Samuel 2:26)

NOTES

“increased” = proekopten, “to cut one’s way forward” or
“continue to advance” **not being “lame”**

“wisdom” = sophia, “art of using wisdom, affection for
using wisdom” James 3:13-18; Psalm 90:12

“stature” = helikia, “end state of a full life, maturity”

“favor” = chariti, “in the grace or favor with God and man;
para, “ with, along side of, intimate participation,
nearness, with both compassion and passion”

“Increasing” = “cutting one’s way forward”

1. Pursuing an attitude of humility

Philippians 2:1-2, “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

2. Pursuing a sense of obligation and dependence

2 Corinthians 3:5, “Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.”

3. Pursuing a focus on the proper priority

John 3:30, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

“Increasing” = “cutting one’s way forward”

4. Pursuing by speech and conduct, love, faith, purity.
1 Timothy 4:12
5. Pursuing by fleeing sexual immorality.
1 Corinthians 6:18-20, “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glory God in your body.”
6. Pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:2; Proverbs 15:9, “the Lord loves him who pursues righteousness.”
7. Pursuing victory for the good fight of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

WISDOM = “art of using and having a affection for wisdom”

- **James 1:5-8, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But, let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”**

INCREASING IN WISDOM

➤ James 3: 13-18, “Who is wise among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And, a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

INCREASING IN STATURE: “GROWTH AND MATURITY, END STATE OF LIFE”

John Maxwell: There are 4 levels of maturity for Christians:

1. I am going to do what I want, regardless of any thought for God. (Carnal Christian)
2. If God gives me what I want, then I will give him what He wants. (Conditional Christian)
3. I will give God what He wants, with faith that He will give me what I want. (Conditional faith)
4. I will give God what He wants, regardless of any thought for myself. (Galatians 2:20)
5. **Erwin Lutzer**, “God, today may you be glorified, even if it is at my expense.”

GROWTH & MATURITY

3 Arrows



Hitting the Target

1. **Discipline of the Body**
1 Corinthians 9:26,27
2. **Confidence in God's Strength** Phil. 4:13
3. **Focus on the finish line**
2Tim. 4:6-8; Phil. 1:21

Hitting the Target

- ✓ **Discipline of the body:** 1 Corinthians 9:26-27, “So I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
- ✓ **Confidence in God’s strength & provision:** Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”
- ✓ **Focus on the finish line:** 2 Timothy 4:6,8, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Phil. 1:21, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN

“Favor”= chariti, “in the grace or favor with God and man”

“with”= para, (1)with; (2)along side of; (3)intimate participation, involvement ; (4)nearness; (5)with both compassion and passion

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
- John 9: 4-5, “We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

POWERFUL WORDS OF CONFIDENCE AND COMFORT...

- **Philippians 1:6** “And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you, (Ephesians 1: 4-6, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.) will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”