

Truth and Spirit Ministries

Failure To Launch?

By Terry and Denise Bostic

Each and every believer has a purpose and work given to him or her by God. At this hour many are hearing the voice and call of the Spirit and are awaking to the fact that they are being given a divine work to do as laborers in this great, end-time harvest. It is the Lord's will for His people to be launched into their particular area of gifting or calling for Kingdom purposes and to bring glory to the Lord in the earth today.

Although most are excited about serving the Lord in some capacity, many are in need of confirmation, encouragement, guidance and training to help make this possible. There are some in the Church who are blessed enough to have this help through effective leadership, but what about those who are not so fortunate to have this available to them? For them their ability to "launch" out into the depths of their calling may be greatly hindered by lack of having this confirmation, encouragement, guidance and training that they so desperately need and as a result this can lead them down the path of doubt, confusion, frustration and even disappointment concerning their gifting and callings.

In the 2006 comedy film "Failure To Launch", a thirty something slacker named Tripp (Matthew McConaughey) fails to launch out of his parents home and into the world of adult responsibility. Although this story is fictional, we can't help seeing the parallel to the title of the movie with those in the body of Christ that have also had a "failure to launch" out spiritually into their callings as well. Why is it that so many members in the body of Christ are having such great difficulties in launching into their divine purposes?

The New Testament scriptures give us the insight and answers that we so desperately need to help the saints fulfill God's purposes in their lives. From the very inception of the Church, the Lord has placed within His body ministry gifts and His intention was for *these ministry gifts* to aid the body of Christ through teaching and training so that each saint may enter into the particular ministry work that He has ordained him or her to do. In *Ephesians 4:11* we are told that Christ has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to His Body for an express purpose:

"His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering towards building up Christ's body (the Church)." (*Ephesians 4:12 Amplified Bible*)

Not only are these particular ministries to equip the saints to do the work of God but also to help bring them into spiritual maturity as well:

"[That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality of which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. [V 14] So then, we may no longer be children...(*Ephesians 4:13 Amplified Bible*)

The Lord has given these five ministries the command and responsibility then to help the saints mature spiritually through teaching the knowledge of the truth of Christ and His word but also to equip (or train) the saints in the work of the ministry. Thank God that some Churches have

received the knowledge of this truth and are fulfilling this intention and purpose but unfortunately there are many more that are not.

There are many leaders of the Church today that are not fulfilling the God-given purpose that they were called to do. In fact, their way of doing things may be the opposite of the Lord's intentions. Most pastors or leaders of congregations or denominations today teach the saints that they are to support their personal ministries (both financially and supportively by coming to their Church), but they are neglecting to aid and support the callings that God has placed upon the *Body*. So what are you to do if you are one of the saints that are not part of a Church where leadership may not be helping you launch out into your call?

When you are first saved and a babe in Christ, God may have you attend a Church to receive the most rudimentary teachings of God. This may have its purpose in the infancy of your Christian walk but as saints we are not to stay as babies on milk but are to progress on to the meat of the Word. As we grow in Christ, there may come a time when we "outgrow" our Church or particular ministry that we are sitting under. If you are looking to them to feed you spiritually, you will never go higher than the leadership that you are setting under. If they are elementary, you will be too.

If you always look to Christ however, you can continue to grow in maturity. As believers, we grow in levels. To give you another example; if you are in the first grade, that teacher will only take you to the first grade level, the second grade teacher will only take you to the second grade level and so on and so forth. As you grow in spiritual maturity, God may move you to another Church if it is necessary for your spiritual growth and/or calling.

You are the Lord's sheep, He speaks to you and you hear Him. He also watches over you, is concerned with your overall spiritual welfare and is the Author and Finisher of your faith. The Lord will place you in the body where it pleases Him. The universal Church is God's garden and He tends to it well. If you had a garden and the plants stayed small and never grew to maturity, you would never have a harvest. This is why God cultivates His garden, so He may have as an abundant harvest of mature saints that will serve Him as laborers in the earth today.

God wants us to be equipped to do the work that He has given us to do. In order to do this we must move out of the playpen, start walking and then proceed to running. We cannot run the race though, unless we enter into it. God has not called us to sit on the bench but to get in the game. It is not for believers to sit on the sidelines but to be involved in Kingdom activities.

You cannot launch from spiritual immaturity. If the Church that you go to is remedial (or basic, for beginners) you will not be able to launch into spiritual maturity or your divine calling. If you are going to a Church and you want to move forward and can't or feel as though you cannot stay where you are at, God may be calling you up higher.

So if you feel that God is speaking to you to come up higher in order to grow in maturity and you need to begin to be equipped for the call that He has on your life, what kind of leadership should you be looking for? Look for the kind of leadership that:

1. You are able to follow because they are following (exemplifying) Christ. (*I Corinthians 11:1*)
2. Are New Testament ministers of the spirit that are obeying the commands and are striving to fulfill the intentions of the Lord for the Church. (*II Corinthians 3:6*)
3. Will help you grow in spiritual maturity and help equip you for the ministry work that God has given you. (*Ephesians 4:11-15*)
4. Will teach you to depend on Christ and follow the Holy Spirit.
5. Teaches doctrine that lines up with Christ and the New Covenant. (*II John 9*)
6. Knows that God is your covering and not man. (*Isaiah 30:1, Psalm 91:4*)

It is God's will for you to launch out into your divine purpose and calling. God has so much in store for you! Learn to walk out the Kingdom of heaven on earth. The biblical example is for leaders and believers alike to walk in the supernatural, the miracles, signs and wonders. Don't be discouraged if you have previously had a failure to launch into God's purpose for your life. As you depend totally upon God, He can position you and provide you with everything that is needed to help you launch out into your divine destiny and so fulfill your call in Christ.