

THE TRELLIS AND THE VINE

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We have been reading this book for the pastoral staff starting this year and it has been an amazing time of learning for me, personally. The author talks about the trellis and how it supports the vine as he compares ministry work to these two examples. The author defines trellis work as any kind of ministry work that is supporting the vine work of the church. Now, vine work is when a believer brings the Word of God and the truths that we glean from it to people. We pray that these truths would bear fruit in the lives of those people through the working of the Spirit. Everything else that supports that is trellis work.

This definition of what ministry is helped me personally then to see how my ministry looks like. If most of the things that I do in the ministry then is not mostly vine work, then I need to reprioritize some of the things that I do. The reason being that, as a pastor, I know I am called to pastor, lead, and teach people. That is what vine work is mostly all about. This book helped me to see and assess what I do and see the need to adjust accordingly. I want to do this

because I want to be able to prioritize what the things I should truly do because I want to maximize the time and opportunity given to me to do God's work. It is a divine privilege that I do not want to take for granted.

A chapter in the book reminded me about how we are all partners in the ministry. It is not just the pastoral staff and leaders who are doing the work of the church, but all of us. It means that we, as pastors or leaders, are not in any way better than anyone else in church because of our position, but in the eyes of God, our work, no matter how big or small, is the same because it is all done for God! This is why it is so important for us as a church to know that we all are partners in the ministry work. When I remember that, it gives me tremendous encouragement because I know I am not alone and that we are all working together as one for the furtherance of God's kingdom. Wow! What an amazing truth to be comforted by every time I become discouraged by doing the work of God. When I know that I am not alone and I have family and friends with me on this journey, it truly

gives me immense comfort amidst the discouragements I encounter.

That is why I want to invite you and everyone you think would benefit from our Multiplying Disciple Seminar on Saturday, July 29, 2023, 9am to 3pm. It is entitled "Vineworks for the Glory of God". This seminar aims to help us understand more about what vine work truly is about and how we as God's people should train others for gospel growth. When we do that, we pray that all of us, including the people we train, would grow and mature in the love of Christ and that we would do God's work wherever we are in our spheres of influence. So, I hope that we would go and also invite those in our GG's and maybe someone you have in mind that would benefit from this seminar!

I look forward to seeing our church grow not just in number but in the depth of our relationship with God. And I pray that as we grow, we do it together as one church united to proclaim that Jesus Christ is our Lord and that He will come again because that is what He has promised! God bless everyone! Blessed Sunday! ✨