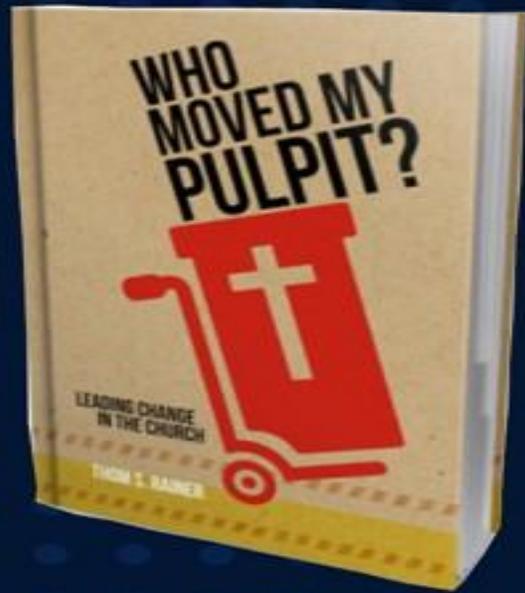


Virtual Bible Study Every Wed. @ 7:00 PM EST

# Who Moved my Pulpit:

Leading Change in the Church



*A New Online Book Study Series Starting September 9th*

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In the chapter 3, the author talks about an idea that he had to buy a second location due to church growth.

- He found the building; the church could afford it. And showed his leaders the location and shared his desire. Yet they outright rejected the concept because they could not see what he saw.
- He was hurt and annoyed. A member who was known as a prayer warrior asked him what was wrong, and after sharing with her the sequence of events.
- She busted his bubble by saying “I suppose that you haven’t talked to God about it.”

- Leading change in the church is impossible in our own power.
  - It's will be exhausting
  - We need God's strength, wisdom and courage.
- Often, we are such in a rush that we don't stop and pray
  - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)*
  - *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)*



**YOU + GOD**

- Taking time to pray means being available to just pray and be alone with God.
  - *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6)*
  - *“After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23)*
- In both scriptures Jesus shows the importance to solitary prayer time.
  - Removing outside voices and distractions allows you to clearly hear from God.

We all must continuously take the time to pray and fast. Fasting is the spiritual preparation that empowers our human preparation.

- *He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer. (Mark 9:29)*
- “Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.” **(Mark 6:7)**
  - Here the disciples were unable to deliver the demon in their own.
  - They had been able to exercise demons earlier in chapter 6. But this time in chapter 9 they tried to do it without Jesus and failed.
- Fasting enables us to tap into God’s power and enter his presence of God.



**YOU + GOD &  
SOMEONE ELSE**



Successful and sustaining change never takes place without prayer.

- And while prayer is often a personal act of devotional and connection *we are encouraged to pray for and with others.*
  - *Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. (Matthew 18:19-20)*
  - *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Acts 1:14)*

**Q: What qualities do you look for in a prayer partner?**

**■ 5 Qualities of a prayer partner**

- *Trustworthy*
- *Spiritually growing*
- *Promotes God's will over their own advice*
- *Attempts to live according to the word*
- *Holds you accountable*



# WHAT TO PRAY FOR



# Pray for Wisdom

- Leading change in the church means that something will look different in the future.
  - Yet no one can predict the future. We can envision the future and work towards that future. However to be the leader/member God wants we should prayer for wisdom.
- Praying for wisdom make sense. We are praying to the one who knows what the end will be.
  - Praying for wisdom means you are asking God to lead you through this unknown future. We are admitting that we don't have all the answers, yet our faith says God does.
    - *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)*

# Pray for Courage & Strength

## Pray for Courage

- We need courage because any sort of change brings the worst out of some members. Many times small insignificant changes can be blown out of proportion because it's not what someone was accustomed to.
- Therefore significant changes can be difficult to implement.
- Leaders are often criticized and hearing and enduring everything can be deflating and demoralizing. Which is why we must pray for courage!
  - *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*
  - *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)*

# Pray for Courage & Strength

- Leaders are often criticized (cont.)
  - *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)*
  - *Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. (Psalm 31:24)*

## Pray for strength

- Good leaders expend a tremendous amount of effort as oppose to coasting.
  - Coasting requires no effort
  - Coasting avoids conflict
  - Coasting is for leaders who have stopped leading

# Pray for Courage & Strength

- True leaders will face challenges and conflicts regularly.
  - ***These setbacks and struggles can cause you to grow weary and fatigued.***
    - Which is why leading **change in church cannot happen through human power, it only comes from God.**
      - *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*  
***(Isaiah 40:29-31)***



**WRAP UP**

## **Prayer is not an option in leading change: it's foundational.**

- You are not smart enough to lead change- pray for wisdom
- You are not brave enough to lead change - pray for courage
- You are not strong enough to lead change - pray for strength.