

Life Lessons

“Your Ministry Can Thrive!”

Solomon wrote: “*He that walks with the wise shall be wise*” (Prov. 13:20). **What would it take for your area of ministry to thrive?**

You can become a thriving success in ministry.
Remember Jesus said, “I WILL BE WITH YOU!”

Study Charles E. Jefferson (1860 – 1937) for just a few minutes and you will learn the essential lessons that bring life, fruitfulness, joy, and excitement to your area of service for the Lord.

Charles E. Jefferson poured his love and his life into the 34th Street Tabernacle of Manhattan, NY for forty years. During his long and fruitful tenure they become the Broadway Tabernacle Congregational Church. While many churches abandoned ministry in downtown Manhattan (New York), Jefferson’s church pulsed with vitality and was packed with people hungering to hear the message of God. **Why?**

HUMILITY. Jefferson wrote, “*A shepherd cannot shine. He cannot cut a figure. His work must be done in obscurity. His work calls for continuous self-effacement. Every good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*”
Application: Insist on all praise and honor being given only to Christ.

LOVE. Jefferson wrote, “*It is the weaklings and not the giants, who neglect their people.*” **Application: Make your ministry personal by growing in fellowship with at least one person to whom you minister every week.**

LISTEN. Jefferson wrote, “*A physician always looks at his patient before he goes to the medicine chest. A wise preacher begins, not with his books, but with his church.*” **Application: Begin by listening to the hurts and cries and the hopes and dreams of the ones to whom you minister. Then go to the Lord in prayer and to His Word to find your response.**

NURTURE: Jefferson wrote, “*The crowning and crucial work of a minister is not conversion but church building.*” By “*church building*” he meant the building up of individual members of the body of Christ.
Application: Live out this prayer each day: “LORD, give me at least one person I can build up each day, the discernment to see that person when he or she comes into my life, and the wisdom and grace to know how you would have me build him or her up at this particular moment.”

PERSEVERANCE. Jefferson wrote, “*Those who engage in the building of the church know that the work is never done.*” **Application: Regardless of yesterday’s successes or failures, put your faith in the Lord and your feet on the floor and go at it one more day!”**

CONCLUSION: *Any servant of God who will HUMBLY LOVE and LISTEN to those to whom he ministers with a heart to NURTURE them with PERSEVERANCE will thrive in whatever he does.*

THIS CAN BE YOU!