

INTENTIONALITY

CONNECTION TO SYSTEMATIC WORK

If you have followed the previous lesson, then you already understand the difference between organic and systematic work. One of the characteristics of organic workers is that they are not working strategically. They mostly respond to the challenges and opportunities they come across, or they have a strategy for short term goals.

Once a disciple has teamed up with others, and have a goal to reach as a group, a strategy is needed. They will need to seek God and develop a way of working together that facilitates the reaching of that goal. In that sense, being spontaneous and led by the day will not suffice. They will need to think ahead of time, pray and fast, and organize their efforts.

IS THIS A BIBLICAL CONCEPT?

It surely is. But as usual, the Bible does not tell the stories in the way we are used to in our western world. Nonetheless, it is not very hard to see it. Let me explain.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

One of the greatest examples in everything we experience as born-again disciples of Jesus is the the relationship between Israel and God.

When Israel left Egypt, that is a picture of repentance (abandoning the old lifestyle, placing faith in a savior), they went through the Red Sea (a picture of baptism, the old life can't get us back). Their time in the desert represents the infancy or babe level of spiritual life (for more on this, follow the lesson on [Spiritual Ages](#)). After 40 years walking through the desert, God finally allowed them to step into the land promised to Abraham, therefore called the Promised Land (a picture of ministry and servanthood). In there they were expected to conquer the evil cities and kingdoms there, and take the land for themselves.

What is the picture here? If you read through Exodus you will notice how God was constantly directing Israel in all sort of issues, and providing them for every need. They didn't even need to seek God's direction that often, since every day they had a column of cloud by day and of fire by night, whether they wanted it or not.

And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the right away, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light, to go by day and night.

Exodus 13:21 MKJV

Nevertheless, when they finally stepped into the Promised Land, the provision of mana and the column of cloud and fire were gone. Now they received the commandment to conquer the land, and God expected *them* to find the right way to do it. This time Israel had to seek God's direction, and God would not intervene unless they eagerly sought Him. Now God would perform the impossible only if He was *intentionally* and *purposefully* sought, and Israel had to find a way to carry out what was possible developing their own strategies to carry out their mission. This was a change from organic to systematic.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

An example of this in the New Testament is the sending of Paul and Barnabas on their first mission trip. Observe in the following texts how God's intervention changes:

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set Barnabas and

Saul apart for me to do the work for which I called them." Then they fasted and prayed, laid their hands on them, and let them go.

Acts 13:2-3 ISV

A few days later, Paul told Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit the brothers in every town where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they're doing."

Acts 15:36 ISV

In the first apostolic mission, God spoke through spiritual revelation, and the apostles and the elders of Antioch confirmed it, fasted, laid hands, and sent them out. On the second occasion, Paul decided on his own to go ahead knowing what the Lord's will is without the need of a new specific revelation.

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

The information shared here is only to be understood by and shared with brothers and sisters who are involved in the growth and multiplication of several Kingdom Families. This sort of information is not useful to spiritual babies or even youngsters.

When we speak here of apostolic ministry, we speak about those who have been sent either by God and/or their spiritual family to start or strengthen a community of disciples. When disciples are involved in one-on-one discipleship or leading a spiritual family, they don't need yet to study this sort of approaches.

So, if you are involved in apostolic ministry, then you will need to develop a strategy, a plan, an agenda. You cannot just improvise what you are going to do. Remember what Paul said:

You know that in a race all the runners run but only one wins the prize, don't you? You must run in such a way that you may be victorious. Everyone who enters an athletic contest practices self-control in everything. They do it to win a wreath that withers away, but we run to win a prize that never fades. That is the way I run, with a clear goal in mind. That is the way I fight, not like someone shadow boxing. No, I keep on disciplining my body, making it serve me so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ISV