

# MEN'S MINISTRY

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Proverbs 27:17

Action Required By: Jeff Searcy

**H**ello, all. As we jump into March, I hope that 2011 is moving along in the right direction and bringing you everything you hoped for. If not ... hang in there. Keep praying. Know that God has a plan for you, and He is in control. As we continue talking about life on the road, we've come to the part that is the hardest for many of us ... me included. We have thought about what we would like to do and, more importantly, what we need and are called to do. Now comes the hardest part ... doing it. Literally stepping out of the boat ... walking out of the door, getting in the car, starting it, putting it in reverse, actually backing out of the driveway, and then putting it into gear and hitting the road. It's the point of no return. You know, I think of it like being at the pool or the lake. You say to yourself, "Man that water looks good. I'm gettin' in." You dip a toe in and realize, "Hmmm, water's a bit chilly." Here it is ... the decision ... the point of no return. It's time to put up or shut up. You have got to decide whether you jump, or not, knowing that once your feet leave the ground and you're over the water there is no turning back. Let's say you jump. Splash! WOW! Man, that's really cold! Yes, it may be a bit uncomfortable at first, but after a while your body gets acclimated, and, it feels pretty good. In fact, you are glad you jumped in. It all starts with effort ... action.

Anything we do in life takes effort or action, of some sort, on our part. Even breathing requires an exertion of energy. Some things are easier than others, and some things we are more apt to exert more effort in doing. Let's see. Guys, how many of us would say that more effort is made to get to a race or the ball field at 6AM on Saturday morning than is made to get to church at 11AM on Sunday? Ouch. Told you we would be hitting some truths pretty hard. Hey, most of us, if we're honest, will admit we are guilty at some time or another. But I'm not here to throw holy bombs. I'm probably more guilty than most. Nevertheless, life requires effort and action.

God is always working on me and in my life, on all three facets—professional, personal, and private. Much of His work has come with little or no action required from me. However, there is quite a bit that requires me to do something. I pray daily that God will open and close doors as He sees fit. I pray that prayer with the full understanding that when He opens a door, He expects me to go through it. I'm really honest with you when I say there are times that I don't. Thank goodness for grace. How often do we pray for something, for God to open a door, and then sit back and wait ... and wait ... and wait? While all the time the door was wide open. He was waiting for us to go through. It's like praying day in and day out to win the lottery. Then one day we hear a voice say, "Buy a ticket." I have never had the Holy Spirit literally pick me up by my belt loop and

throw me through a door that God has opened. I have to go through it myself. The cool thing about going through a God opened door is that we may go through with one perspective or expectation and find that what God has planned is completely different. Of course, we don't realize how cool it is at the time. It sometimes takes a while to see it. But when you love the Lord, put your life in His hands, and allow Him to guide your steps, hindsight is pretty clear ... and awesome. All those situations and circumstances that you thought were bad, painful, or completely whacked—many of them I'm sure were flat out awful—actually brought you to the exact place you needed to be ... at the exact time ... fully prepared and equipped to receive the blessing of your life. Now that rocks!

Let's now take it a few steps further and from a different perspective. Up to now, all of the focus has been on us ... the blessings we get from acting on God's promptings and going through doors He opens. What about all those around us—our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc...? How does our responding to God's call impact them ... or others we may never even meet? What legacy do we leave? We might never know. But think about this: What, perhaps, would have happened if Abraham had not acted on God's calling to pack up all he had and to take his family, leave his people and his country, and set out to parts unknown (Genesis 12)? What about Noah, before that (Genesis 6)? If he had not taken action and built the ark (let us not forget that he built it in the middle of the desert) where would we be? Let me bring it a little closer to home. What if all of the pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and believers in Christ throughout history hadn't, at some point, acted on God's prompting and call? Would you, or I, or people around the world ever have come to know or be shown the incredible love of God? Would you and I be visiting here together today? Makes you think, doesn't it?

So, hit the road. Go through the doors that God opens. Regardless of whether it makes sense or not ... because oftentimes it won't. And, what we think we want ... or don't want ... may not necessarily be what God wants for us. His plan is perfect, and He knows exactly what He is doing. And what He is doing is the best for us ... regardless of how many times we throw a look of utter confusion heavenward. If you have any doubts, pick up His Word. He gives us countless passages of reassurance. One of my favorites, which is also our family verse, is Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What an awesome God we serve. Keep it real ... and between the lines. **PS**

*Jeff Searcy is a highly energized and radical husband, dad, executive, speaker, strategist, minister of opportunity, out-spoken and motivated servant of the Almighty, and an average golfer. For more go to [www.jeffsearcy.net](http://www.jeffsearcy.net).*

