

Pastor Eugene Carvalho's / Philosophy of Ministry for the Local Church

UPWARD - Teach and train the congregation to grow upward in worship to Christ.

Allow me at this time to give you two sets of Scriptures. They are, "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers" (Jn. 4:23).¹ Along with, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship" (Ro. 12:1). As you can tell by examining these aforementioned verses worship is a key element of the believers' life and ministry. Through a good understanding of Christian stewardship which, has to do with the proper management of time, talents, and money for the glory of God, one is able to maintain a proper handle concerning appropriate worship to Christ.

INWARD - Teach and train the congregation to grow inward (spiritual formation through faith and spiritual disciples) to commitment to Christ and the church.

(Examples: tithing, serving, and ministry). In order for Christians to have abundant life in every area of their lives in Christ Jesus, faith and spiritual disciplines are the only avenues in which to accomplish this abundance. We know the devil is merciless and his sole aim is: "to deceive, to entice, and to ensnare his victims." As far as I am concerned, Jesus informed me of Satan's mission statement when He said: "The devil came to steal, kill and destroy" (Jn. 10:10). If we don't walk in the Spirit, we will be destroyed by the

¹All scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the *New American Standard Bible*.

enemy. This is why faith and spiritual disciplines are the most important part of our Christian life. They make up who we are and who we will become: our Christian character. It takes daily devotion and diligence to submit to the Holy Spirit and let Him have His way in every area of our life. This is why, last month, I wrote a book titled, *"The Spiritual Disciplines."* It gives revelation knowledge to a thirsty reader and provides spiritual formation. In these last days, the body of Christ will need to be very strong. That only comes through strong preaching and teaching.

OUTWARD - Teach and train the congregation to grow outward in missions (overseas) and evangelism (local community). Missions and evangelism has to do with serving and winning the lost. The Bible informs us that, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matt. 20:28) along with, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). It is vital that the church is taught wisdom regarding the aforementioned areas especially when ministering in nations that are considered dangerous. For many years my wife and I have preached in the streets of Mexico and have experience in this area. Understanding the customs and cultures are extremely important even when ministering in the local community.