

# Piper on Ministry

(Outline notes prepared by Julie Cortens)

How do you keep on ministering year in and year out when you feel lacking in resources, when you have personal and church struggles? It takes so much energy to keep the ministry, your family, your marriage alive. How do you go on ministering when there is so much disappointment in your own body, family, life or ministry?

It is our natural tendency to move AWAY from stress.  
So how do you keep on going?

1. Do not expect too much from people – neither from yourself, wife, children, neighbors or co-workers. - Do not erect false criteria for joy that are unrealistic in a fallen world  
2 Tim 4:9, Phil 2:

2. We must look to God for the security, contentment, reassurance we hope for and not to people. This is a life long habit breaking process. We need to cultivate an absolute God dependence.

Luke 12 to 14 – invite the poor, lame, blind – you will be blessed because they have no means to repay you.

3. Be inspired by examples of those who go on giving and giving out of brokenness and pain.

4. Keep reminding yourself that the greener grass is greener but has no nutritional value. If you opt for ease, safety and comfort – it will be greener but you will not grow there.

5. Taking breaks is important and okay and needed if you are going to find the pace needed to finish the race.

6. Help each other with stories of faithfulness and words of encouragement.

7. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Afflictions, groaning, sickness, danger, stress and troubles are a normal part of life. Piper states his happiness is found in God

2 Cor 6:10 "...sorrowful yet always rejoicing"