

# The Pastoral Lifecycle

According to the Ministry of the Apostle Paul

# 1. Conversion

## The pastor as sinner saved by grace

Conversion | Acts 9:1-19 | Spiritually reborn | “He is the Son of God.” (Acts 9:20). | Need to obediently receive the risen Christ in all of your life. | The season moves into the next intentionally.

## 2. Preparing

### The pastor as apprentice

Preparing | Galatians 1:17 | Spiritually young | “I went away into Arabia... Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem...” (Galatians 1:17-18). | Need to humbly yield yourself to a prolonged season of vocational guidance in character and competency. | The season moves into the next by completion of necessary education.

# 3. Growing

## The pastor as husbandman

Growing | Spiritually growing | “Now Paul and his companions set sail...”  
(Acts 13:13). | Need to faithfully move to the fields of ministry. | Season  
transitions to the next by providential event (persecution).

## 4. Mentoring

### The pastor as the keeper of meaning

Mentoring | 2 Timothy 2:1-2 | Spiritually seasoned | “You then, My child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1) | Need to gracefully give away insights to others. | Season transitions into the next by providential events (Continued imprisonment).

The “Keeper of Meaning” is a phrase to describe a life phase coined by Dr. George Vaillant. See Stephen Soldz and George E. Vaillant, “The Big Five Personality Traits and the Life Course: A 45-Year Longitudinal Study,” *Journal of Research in Personality* 33, no. 2 (June 1, 1999): 208–232, accessed October 27, 2021, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092656699922432>.

## 5. Reflecting

Reflecting | 2 Timothy 4:7-8, 17-18 | Spiritually surveying | “But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed...” (2 Timothy 4:17) | Season concludes through death.