

# Stages of a Pastor's Ministry

**Foundation Stage** – Responding to God's call and becoming oriented to pastoral ministry

**Maturing Stage** – Developing the pastoral ministry skills to accomplish God's work

**Multiplying Stage** – Executing effective ministry and reproducing yourself through others

**Legacy Stage** – Leaving a spiritual legacy by finishing well and investing in others

Stages of a Pastor's Ministry	Approximate Age Range	Calling Issues	Source of Help	Educational Challenges	Major Concerns	Personal Issues	Dangers
<b>Foundation Stage</b>	15-40	Call to "the" ministry	An encourager like Barnabas	Completing formal education	Getting off to a good start	Laying a foundation for spiritual, marital, and family health	Career-ending mistakes or attacks
<b>Maturing Stage</b>	25-50	Call to "this" ministry	A mentor like Paul	Developing the study skills to be a life-long learner	Developing and enhancing skills for ministry	Strengthening spiritual, marital, and family health	Failing to grow, not developing strong people skills
<b>Multiplying Stage</b>	35-65	Reaffirm and refine "my" calling	A network like Paul's missionary friends	Participating in continuing education	Finding a good fit where my unique ministry blossoms and reproduces	Maintaining spiritual maturity, launching children, refocusing marriage	Growing weary and dropping out, failed marriage, estranged children
<b>Legacy Stage</b>	50 & beyond	Call to invest in a spiritual legacy	A protégé like Timothy	Training others who will impact future generations	Finishing strong with continued fruitfulness and joy	Walking close to God, celebrating marriage, enjoying grandchildren	Finishing tired, bitter, and alone