



## Leading Second Podcast - Season 8 Episode 202

Leading with Staying Power ft. Brandon Catoe

Trusting God's timing isn't always easy, especially when our desire for security clashes with the call to obedience. But longevity in ministry is built on faithfulness over the long haul - choosing to stay the course even when the future feels uncertain. In this episode, Brandon sits down with Joseph Kelley (Discovery Church, Oklahoma City, OK) and Brandon Catoe (Christ Fellowship Church, West Palm Beach, FL) to talk about the tension between waiting and stepping out in faith. When we learn to pause, pray, and trust, we often find that what God has ahead is bigger and better than we imagined. Faithfulness today leads to an impact that lasts a lifetime.

### STEPPING OUT IN OBEDIENCE.

- Matthew 10
  - Jesus gave the disciples authority and walked them through an "orientation."
  - He uses language they had never heard before,
  - He gave them a calling.
  - Then reminded them that it comes with a high price tag.
  - Jesus wasn't shy that the cost of being in ministry is not easy.
- Sometimes God wants us to make the decision, and know that if this is all there is, then this is what we are signing up for.
  - God isn't removing us from things, He's shaping us by them.
  - Those seasons are very formational in our lives.

*God is often doing a deeper work than we realize.*

*- Brandon Stewart*

**WHAT DOES FAITHFULNESS MEAN TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO A PASTOR AND A CHURCH WHEN A LEADER HAS STAYING POWER AND LONGEVITY?**

- It means the world to a pastor.
  - We want our pastors to know we are with them.
  - We want to encourage them so much that they don't have to question it.
- To be found faithful:
  - I was counted on and I showed up.
  - I was loyal.
  - I never quit on anything.
  - I gave it my all.
  - I may fail and that's okay.

**HOW IS YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP IMPACTED BY YOUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PASTOR?**

- Brandon has found he is more protective of his pastor.
  - How can he save his pastor time?
  - How can he take some weight off of his pastor's shoulders?
  - It deepens the relationship when you are just in their presence and help to relieve a need.
- Because of their personal relationship, Brandon told his pastor from day one that this is not a lifetime appointment.
  - If it changes, he continually gives his pastor permission to send him to a different role if needed.
  - He never wants there to be a weight that his pastor has to keep him employed if he's not helping move the ministry forward.

*There is no shortcut to longevity. It takes time.*

*- Joseph Kelley*

### **WHY DO LEADERS TAKE THE EXIT RAMP TOO EARLY?**

- A lot of them will make a financial decision without considering the calling.
  - Have you prayed about it and has God released you from where He has you?
  - Or are you doing this because it makes financial sense?
  - If you do it based on finance, you will never be happy.
    - You will always be coming back and trying to figure out, "What happened?"
- People will get into tough spots and it's hard to get coached to walk through hard seasons.
  - Maybe they got hurt in the process.
    - That's not the intention of coaching.
      - The intention was to figure things out to move the ministry forward.
        - You gave up too soon.
        - You might be walking away from something before God does something incredible on the other side.

### **NAVIGATING THE DECISION TO BE/STAY IN MINISTRY.**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
  - He will show you which path to take.
- Mark 10:17-27 - The Rich Young Ruler
  - What went undone because of that man walking away because he was more in love with the world?
- Sometimes just raw obedience is what's going to keep us in the game.

## Dig Deeper

1. In what ways can we support and encourage our church leaders, demonstrating that we are 'with them' in their vision and mission?

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2. How do we navigate seasons of difficulty or tension in ministry without taking the 'exit ramp' prematurely?

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3. In what ways can sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness encourage others who are wrestling with tough choices in their spiritual journey?

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## Additional Resources

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