

## FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

### Part 2 of 3

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Apostolic church planters find that the work of planting a church requires many of the characteristics present in an entrepreneur seeking to start a new enterprise. In the previous Mission Moments, I described 8 of 31 factors that make a good entrepreneur, as shared by Suzanne Mulvell in the article “Fear Factor” in the April 2005 issue of *Entrepreneur* magazine. We will now study 9 more factors she suggests as helpful in making a good entrepreneur, and see how they apply to us as we step out to meet the challenge of God’s mission.

9. **Acknowledge your gifts:** In 1 Cor. 12:3-7, Paul reminds us: “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” You have special gifts that God has given you for the building of His Kingdom. Discover those gifts, acknowledge those gifts, and use those gifts. They are the strengths God has given you. When you lack a gift needed in your work find some one who has that gift and add them to your team. Use the diversity of gifts in your core group to complete the Body of Christ in your mission.
10. **Give up excuses:** If you hear yourself making excuses, write them down and become consciously aware of them. Remember, you have been called by God to serve Him in this place. There will always be hardships, difficulties and disappointments. The Lord has promised to turn our weakness into strength if we depend on Him (2 Cor. 12:9). With Christ there are no excuses, only stepping stones to accomplishing His Kingdom’s work.
11. **Eliminate “I can’t’s:”** Become aware of when and why you say “I can’t” and change it to an open-ended question like “How can I?” If you are relying on your own strength, wisdom, and expertise, then your “I can’t’s” are valid. If you are relying on Christ, then you can say with Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.” (Phil. 4:13)
12. **Accept confusion:** Confusion is a part of the process of starting anything new. There are so many people saying so many different things. What is right? What will be most beneficial for this church? This is the time to talk with people who have gone through this experience. Find a mentor with whom you can talk about your confusion. The author of this article states that confusion passes most quickly when we accept it, and I would add, when we talk about it and get good advice from others who have traveled this road. Barnabas mentored Paul during his first missionary journey.
13. **Know there is no “right” time:** One of our first reactions to the challenges we face may be, “This is not the right time.” Humanly speaking, it may look like the wrong time but we are working in God’s “kairos” (His appointed time). “God’s time” is not always “our time.” Paul reminds us in Gal. 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
14. **Say “no” when you mean “no” and “yes” when you mean “yes:”** The task of a missionary is not to do everything. The nature of people is to let you do everything you will do. When it is not your gift, or you know someone else can do the task better, respond with “no” and stick to your decision. When you feel that this is a task for your gifts, say “yes” and do the best job you are able. Being honest and sharing tasks with others will help you discover your strengths and give others an opportunity to use their gifts and discover their strengths for ministry.

15. **Resist self-judgment:** Don't belittle yourself by muttering, "That was a stupid idea" or "I should have known that wouldn't work." Remember you are a part of the Body of Christ, You have been redeemed by Him, and you have been chosen by Him to carry out His mission in this place. Grow your self confidence in Christ and what you can do through Him. You are important to this mission. The Lord called you because He knew you were the right person. Step up to the challenge and use your God-given gifts to make it happen.
16. **Stay out of overwhelmed:** Whenever you feel overwhelmed, write down what situation, thought, or feeling prompted you to feel overwhelmed. Do this every time you are overwhelmed until you see patterns develop. Take these to the Lord in prayer, talk with your mentor, and begin to take steps that help you stay out of "overwhelmed." The old question, "How do you eat an elephant?" has the simple answer, "One bite at a time." Determine to look at what is overwhelming you and conquer it one bite at a time.
17. **Answer your "What if's":** What if this congregation doesn't grow fast enough to be able to pay me so that I can provide for my family? What if I can't find a place to worship? What if no one shows up for my first service? Write down your "what if's" and answer them. For example: If I can't get enough money, I will become a worker priest and get a part time job. If I can't find a place large enough for worship, we will meet in a number of small groups in people's homes until we can find a larger facility.