

Testimonies

PASTOR JERRY SHARP

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1. What has the time working together meant to you?

The time that Bro. Todd has spent working with me has been a time of deep personal reflection and evaluation in every area of my life. In the past 18 months or so I have been challenged in areas like never before. The Lord's anointing is so very evident in the ministry of Bro. Todd Braschler. My entire approach to self, marriage, family, ministry and business has forever been changed. The belief and teaching that within each person exists the perfect creation of God's image has given way to an entirely new approach in relationships. The desire to 'excavate' the vision the Lord has for each person replaced the tendency to 'stack on' new teachings, methods, programs and etc.

2. What, if any, affect has the time had on your family? Your marriage?

I am a changed man! I am on the brink of celebrating 20yrs of marriage. My wife, Audrey, and I have five wonderful children that range in age from two to twelve. My wife and I own an automobile parts/repair business. I am a bi-vocational pastor of Sunnyside church. In each area of my life I see growth, change (for the good), deeper/stronger relationships (built on openness, honesty and trust) and a unity that has never before existed. My strategy on leading has taken a serious overhaul. This 'overhaul' began with a tear-down and has since been a process of rebuilding as the Lord has His way in my life. I am now convinced that unless a person sees the reality of where they are, where they are headed and the results thereof, there will be no significant changes taking place. This 'seeing' is the basis for becoming a visionary communicator. The visionary communicator excavates the original design by removing the effects that sin has had down through the years and generations. The result is evident in the change of approach in problem-solving, encouragement, relationship-building and leading.

3. Of what benefit or change has this experience had on your ministry?

There have been many changes in the ministry, some of which include my approach to people, strategy on leading, problem-solving and expectations. The preaching/teaching has changed significantly. I now labor to communicate on a deep-level, conceptual-style teaching that brings about a visual picture that one can easily relate to. A person's retention of teaching and information is dependent upon how well they can 'see it'. I strive to evaluate my

assumptions of people's understanding on each subject, principle, teaching or conversation in order to properly address the concept. The results have been incredible.

4. Any major changes or decisions in you personally as a result?

I asked my wife this question. Her answer: "You mean since you have begun helping me more around the house?" The changes in me are so profound that I honestly do not know where to start. I often find it difficult to properly express myself in writing short, pointed answers. I am working on this. I welcome anyone that would desire to discuss, via phone conversation or personal meeting, these changes. In Bro. Todd's anointed leading, the change in me has been extreme! I used to be a very judgmental, condescending, overbearing, high-pressure, emotion-driven leader of some sort. One had to really love me to be around me very long. My heart was for people, but my way of expressing and leading basically drove folks away. Coming to grips with this reality has been most beneficial in my leading/serving. I am a work in progress and feel blessed to have Bro. Todd as my personal excavator.

Feel free to contact me.

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1. What has the time working together meant to you?

My testimony of my time spent working with Todd might seem a bit contradictory. It has been contradictory in that what we have worked on together has been so totally brand new and fresh that in all my study, reading, and conference attendance I had never heard anything quite like it before. Yet, at the same time, it has been the cultivating and discovering and articulating of my heart and mind that I knew was there all along but was unsure or unconfident of how to express it. A fresh approach with the encouraging and prodding of Todd has helped me to cultivate the depths of my God given heart and desires in life and ministry. The results of the contradiction of sorts on my life have been transformative for me.

2. What, if any, affect has this time had on your family? Your marriage?

The affect on my family life has been profound. I have faced difficult days in my family with my teenage daughter and Todd has been a personal help to me far more than any licensed therapist I/we have ever visited. Todd has challenged and encouraged me in how to handle those difficult days with vision, forgiveness, and faith in God. The way I communicate in my marriage and with my young son is in the midst of a transitioning process – away from a boss or an authoritarian leader to a visionary leader, where I can help them become all that God has called them to be and who they desire to be in Christ. To see the changes, in my son in particular, responding to this new way of communication has been a blast and I cannot wait for

each new opportunity to interact with him in this visionary way. My wife will tell you that she feels more listened to and valued than she did prior to my time with Todd. I did my best to love them all well before, but now I feel my love for them is well directed. These changes in my family life are a direct result of the time I have spent with Todd.

3. Of what benefit or change has this experience had on your ministry?

I would say the major change has been in how I communicate. Of course as a senior pastor a significant part of my time and responsibility is communicating with others. Todd has helped me to understand the value of being a visionary communicator. And not only understanding the value, but equipping me to become one. Nearly every pastor I know is motivated by the desire to see lives changed, more specifically lives changed by an encounter with Christ. I was puzzled as to why these life changes weren't happening around me or as a result of my ministry. By becoming a visionary communicator, and then further developing a vision for people, has helped me to see why these life changes weren't happening, and I am happy to say I am beginning to see them happen. I had rarely communicated in such a way that people aspired to be something more or different as a result of my communication of the gospel. I see now the positive response to a change in communication mindset.

4. Any major changes or decisions in you personally as a result?

The major change in me has been my desire to invest in the lives of people. Ministry for me had been stating the obvious good news of the gospel, expecting people to latch on, then going home to the privacy of my own home until I was called upon to be the "proclaimer" again. I am now more interested than I have ever been in investing in the lives of people. Every interaction, communication, leadership meeting, and hospital call is different because of my renewed passion to invest in people. In the past I had always expected them to get it because it made so much sense to me – making ministry and life an intellectual exercise. Now my desire is to lead people to be all they can become in Christ by making a personal effort and investment in them. I believe I would still be floundering and frustrated if I had not begun my time and experience with Todd.