



Ministry Pivot with Bishop Walter Scott Thomas

Description: During this episode, Russell St. Bernard speaks with Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Senior Pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church. Bishop Thomas and New Psalmist have been back to in-person worship for four months at the time of the recording and Rev. Russ has Bishop share some of his thoughts and insights on leadership and Church during this season. Listen to the conversation, download the resources, subscribe plus comment, and discuss it with your team and staff.

Bishop Walter Scott Thomas' Website → <https://changescanhappen.com/>
Bishop's Latest Book -> <https://www.changescanhappen.com/hanging-on-by-a-thread>

Takeaways:

- Bishop Thomas has been Pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church for over four decades and celebrates 71 years of life. Bishop shares that while this current covid season is new and challenging, it joins a long list of “Never Seen Anything Like This”. Through it all, Bishop encourages us to know that God saw us through those seasons, and God will still see us through this season.
- “Ministry is about the unexpected” Bishop Thomas Shares. We have had enough experience with God to know that God will bring us through this.
- New Psalmist Baptist Church closed the doors to the Church because the doctors asked them to do it in order to keep the community safe. Bishop had the confidence to reopen the Church for the same reason he closed; the doctors said that they could open with precautions.
- The staff and leaders were nervous about reopening, but Bishop practiced engaging their questions as he could to allow people to feel more comfortable.
- “Every message you send in the moment you send to the future.” This quote from Bishop Thomas means that what you do now will impact the future for those who are watching, so we need to be careful not to rush now or we might negatively impact the future and those to come.
- You have to make your people a part of the process so that they are clear on what makes them feel comfortable to worship freely.
- Bishop encourages Pastors and leaders to focus on “Phygital” ministry and know that you are equally focused on those in-person and those online.

Resources

- Barna Study on the Black Church (**Click Here**)
- Pivot with Bishop Thomas, Pastor Watley and Dr. Martin (**Click Here**)
- Phygital Article (**Click Here**)
- Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors <https://www.kingdomassociation.org/>
- Riot Starter Book <https://www.riotstarterbook.com/book>
- Walter Brueggemann <https://www.walterbrueggemann.com/resources/books/>
- Simon Sinek <https://simonsinek.com/>
- Tod Bolsinger (**Click Here**)
- Leonard Sweet <https://leonardsweet.com/books/>
- Frank Viola <https://frankviola.org/books/>
- NT Wright <https://ntwrightpage.com/>
- General Stanley McChrystal (**Click Here**)
- 5 Minute Pivot and Other Podcast by Rev. Russell St. Bernard <https://ministrypivot.com/conversations/>
- Articles from Rev. Russell St. Bernard <https://ministrypivot.com/articles/>

Final Takeaway:

- What you do now will impact what you can do in the future “your current moment is sending a message to your future.”

Discussion Questions: (Ask yourself and a friend these questions and answer honestly)

- How is your plan for in-person worship evolving?
- Have you asked all of the right questions to your staff and members as it relates to making your in-person worship a better experience?
- How is your “Phygital” worship experience?

Podcast Resources

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