

# PastorCare

West Michigan  
Helping Pastors Soar

April 2013

## Older Pastor to Younger Pastor; Part 2 By Pastor JR Pittman of Ignite Fellowship Church

*In my last article I stated, “The way John was pouring into me was unorthodox, unpopular and rare in church culture today”. Discipleship in the context that Christ mandated for the church and personally modeled with His disciples is the missing element of this present generation.*

*If our present generation is going to be effective in a culture of decaying morals, ethics, and doctrinal truths, especially amongst pastors — I believe we must change the methodology of discipleship from institutional programs to relevant relationships. We need to radically return to a proper way of discipleship for investing time and giving accountability.*

*When you are looking to be discipled, I believe you must go on the chase. Chase as the disciples chased Christ when looking for wisdom. My chase led me to three men to be the authoritative men of God in my life as Pastor of Ignite Fellowship Church. John Smith happens to be one of those men.*



Pastor John Smith, Bishop James Pittman, Pastor JR Pittman, Pastor Nathaniel Moody

*I knew if I was going to prosper as a pastor in the plan of God, I needed some key men in my life that would hold me accountable, but would not question my calling. The three men are Bishop James Pittman, Pastor Nathaniel Moody, and Pastor John Smith. The Holy Spirit constantly confirmed that these men were called to nurture, encourage, and hold me accountable to my church ministry duties.*

*When I planted Ignite Fellowship Church I did not go with a denomination due to personal reasons. However, I knew it was imperative to have proper mentorship and accountability for integrity sake. I knew if Ignite Fellowship Church ever had an unresolved issue with me or otherwise, these three men of God with all their experience and wisdom would be able to care, steer, and hold the church accountable to its bi-laws, vision, and mission. If I was the problem, they would be able to reproof and correct me.*



*There are many young independent pastors such as myself, who are gifted and talented and have planted churches or birthed other ministries. However, many of them do not have healthy accountability from a denomination or sound institution. So I would like to encourage pastors and ministers to be wise and find a few experienced brothers like John Smith.*

*In closing, allow me to encourage you to consider the following attributes when choosing a Bishop, Overseer, or Mentor:*

- 1. The mentor submits and surrenders to the Holy Spirit's leading*
- 2. The mentor is a good listener to hear your frustrations*
- 3. The mentor is transparent and understands pastoral hardships*
- 4. The mentor respects your calling and appreciates your heart*
- 5. The mentor speaks truth to you — no matter what*
- 6. The mentor collaborates well with other church leaders and mentors in your life*
- 7. The mentor respects and listens to your spouse*

*These are just a handful of items I have experienced since John has invested in me. I am so grateful that the Lord has brought me the men you see in the picture on page one.*

*God is graciously good!*

*JR Pittman  
Pastor of Ignite Fellowship Church  
Grand Rapids, MI*



Sue and I invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with us. We need your prayer support and your financial support. Checks can be made payable to PastorCare West Michigan. All contributions are mailed to: **1632 Waterbury Dr. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508.**

PastorCare West Michigan is a 501(c)(3) organization approved by the IRS. Sue and I are forever grateful for your partnership with us!

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