



RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

"A DEEP DEPENDENCE ON GOD"

As we grow and mature as individuals, it is expected that our dependence on our earthly parents will decrease. No more will we hold hands to cross the street, have our curfew decided for us, or expect our expenses to be covered on our behalf.

Conversely, as we grow and mature in faith, we are to *increase* our dependence on Christ. As our understanding of God and scripture grows, we come to understand that we can rely on Him for all things, and are blessed when we do so.

For men, especially, it is difficult to allow this process to unfold. Men are designed to be leaders, in family, in church, and within the community. Our tendency is to take control, not relinquish it.

Jamaal Williams' keynote address at Iron Sharpen's Iron 2018 in Springfield, Illinois, addresses this. "Our call to deep dependence is a topic that has always inspired me," Williams says.

Williams is lead pastor of Sojourn Midtown in Louisville, KY., Williams is pursuing a Doctorate of Educational Ministry in Black Church Leadership from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Amber, have five children.

"We'll be talking about what it means to live as a man with a deep dependence on God, Williams says. "What are the benefits of that, what are some of the hindrances, and how does Christ empower us to do that?"



"We're talking about something that helps give our life meaning, and our soul rest. It fosters fruitful relationships with God and with others."

Jamaal takes time from his busy family, ministry, and educational life to speak at ISI because he sees men as the last line of defense in the church. "Satan knows if he can discourage a man, he can discourage a family, a church, a whole community. That's why events like ISI are so important. These conferences remind us how the Gospel speaks to our brokenness, that there is no condemnation in Christ. He empowers us to live good lives with faith, obedience, and confidence.

CALENDAR

IRON SHARPENS IRON SPRINGFIELD!

March 17, 2018

First United Methodist Church,
Springfield, Illinois

Speakers: JP Jones
Jamaal Williams

IRON SHARPENS IRON CHAMPAIGN!

APRIL 21, 2018

New Horizon United Methodist
Church, Champaign, Illinois

Speakers: Kenny Luck
Leonce Crump

July 13-15:

Fathering Adventures
Little Galilee Christian Camp
Clinton, IL



GENSLER'S CORNER

Ah, spring! How sweet it is.

Last month neither Tom C. or I provided an article to this newsletter. This month it is myself, only. During what we call our "Iron Sharpens Iron season," our schedules are so dominated by duties related to organizing and presenting those events that it's hard to squeeze in much else.

Why do we devote such a large portion of our ministry to ISI? Because the impact ISI has on men is huge!

I asked a man I'm discipling, "When did you draw a line in the sand and say, 'I want to follow the Lord'?" He said that day took place three years ago, when he joined a group of men from his church at an ISI event. 'That's when I decided I was done playing at being a man; that I was ready to follow Christ seriously.'

Superficially, ISI is a one-day, annual event. But we see it as part of a strategy to help men grow spiritually and relationally over the course of time.

It's significant, the drive to the event and back in conversation with your brothers in Christ. The experience of worshiping in a group of many hundreds of men; listening to grounded, experienced pastors giving informative seminars and talks. This is carried back to the individual church, which then is poised to have a greater impact in the community.

I talked to a man recently who pastors in a small town. "I just want to confirm the 15 guys we're bringing to ISI this year," he said. "Our church is busting at seams, and God is on the move!"

Praise God, we know He is!

Tom Gensler

IGNITE

PATHWAY

***FATHERING
ADVENTURES***

*Watch our calendar for additional
training and activities to be
scheduled after the ISI season!*

Your support of RPM actively encourages and assists local church pastors. Your prayers and financial contributions make this ministry possible. Together, we are RPM!



**RELEVANT PRACTICAL
MINISTRY FOR MEN**

PO BOX 8171, SPRINGFIELD IL 62791
Tom Cheshire. 217.622.4069 tom@rpmfm.org
Tom Gensler. 217.685.1726 tgensler@rpmfm.org
Mike Sheeley. 812.236.7053 msheeley@rpmfm.org

WWW.RPMFM.ORG